

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

**Agency - Fair Work Commission**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0881\_13

**Senator Abetz asked on 13 February 2013, Hansard page 10**

**Question**

**Fair Work Commission - name change and signage costs**

Ms O'Neill: Some of the costs have not been realised yet in relation to stationery and signage. Leaving that to one side, in addition to the \$2,100 that I have mentioned, we did some estimates of the internal costs of staff involved in all of the changes and updating, and our estimate is that that is in the order of \$97,500.

Senator ABETZ: When did you come up with that estimate?

Ms O'Neill: Mr Furlong might be able to assist with that.

Mr Furlong: My branch was responsible for doing the modelling of the estimation. We came up with that figure late last year.

Senator ABETZ: Late last year.

Mr Furlong: Yes. I do not have the date with me.

Senator ABETZ: Could you take that on notice. We were seeking those costs late last year during the parliamentary debate on this and the question was taken on notice by you, Parliamentary Secretary, but no answer has been provided to date. That is why we have Senate estimates, where some people might answer those questions that our ministry does not. Where did those funds come from? Was it just from your internal funding; there was no extra supplementation was there, Ms O'Neill?

Ms O'Neill: No.

Senator ABETZ: If you could take on notice the full cost of the name change as of today's date, and then we can follow up at a later time.

**Answer**

The Fair Work Commission has provided the following response.

The estimated costs for the name change of \$97 500, was calculated on 10 December 2013. This estimate was based on costs of estimated staffing hours necessary to undertake the changes, together with estimates of external costs based on previous experience. The estimated internal staffing costs were approximately \$23 000. The estimated external costs included the costs of signage, stationery, templates, case management system changes, Federal Register of Legislative Instrument costs and printing costs.

The actual costs as at 31 March 2013 consists of \$2100 on an updated logo and colour palette together with internal staff costs. The actual internal costs (the salary of staff involved in implementing the name change) are likely to be higher than the original estimate. However, a record of actual hours spent by staff was not collected, and so the cost of internal staffing hours cannot be accurately identified.

Most of the other external costs are yet to be realised as this work has not yet been undertaken.