

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

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

**Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0932\_13

**Senator Abetz asked on 13 February 2013 , Hansard page 91**

**Question**

**Correspondence from Ms O'Neill (Fair Work Australia) to Minister Shorten  
regarding Financial Issues**

SENATOR ABETZ: ...Let me move onto another issue from this morning. Ms O'Neill wrote to the minister about financial issues that she was facing. At that time it would still have been Fair Work Australia, just before the last budget. Is it correct, Parliamentary Secretary, that the minister did not formally respond by way of correspondence to that letter? Senator Jacinta Collins: I do not know the answer to that. I have no briefing to that effect. I will take it on notice. Senator ABETZ: All right, if you could take it on notice. It would be an interesting observation that the minister who seeks to preach to and harangue other people about good workplace relations practices does not formally respond to a letter of that nature. We will see—we will give him the benefit of the doubt. He may have responded. If the answer is that he did respond, let me know the date.

**Answer**

The letter from Ms O'Neill was to update the Minister on actions proposed by Fair Work Australia to achieve the savings necessary to operate within budget for the 2012-13 year.

Ms O'Neill's letter did not ask any questions or seek the Minister's advice or approval on any of the proposed actions. On that basis, the Minister did not respond by way of correspondence to the letter from Ms O'Neill.