

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Agency **Workplace Ombudsman**

DEEWR Question No. EW0246_10

Senator Collins asked on 2 June 2009, EEWDR Hansard page 19.

Question

Senator ABETZ—... Can we be told— and if you need to take it on notice I understand—how much money has been collected by way of unpaid wages, if I can use that term, to date but not paid out to claimants?

Mr Johns—We will have to take that on notice. There are times when employers pay the underpaid moneys directly to us and we hold them on trust under current arrangements and then we seek to find the relevant employees and provide them with the money.

Answer

The Workplace Ombudsman has provided the following response:

Since commencement on 27 March 2006 as the Office of Workplace Services, \$875,961 in unclaimed wages has been collected and not yet been paid out to complainants. The Fair Work Ombudsman has a number of initiatives in place to identify those complainants that have an outstanding entitlement.