

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No.EW0195_11

Senator Abetz asked on 31/05/2010, Hansard page 81.

Question

JAPANESE WHALING

Senator ABETZ—Earlier in the year, the Deputy Prime Minister was in Tasmania launching her much vaunted Fair Work Week. During the course of that, she was interviewed—Minister, this is a question for you—in relation to a supposed flight into the Southern Ocean supporting Japanese whaling activities. Ms Gillard said that she would bring the ‘full force of the law’ to bear regarding this flight; as I understand it, it was one flight. Could you take on notice exactly what follow-up Ms Gillard took after making that announcement? Senator ABETZ—.....It was the AAP who on 6 January described her as ‘Deputy Prime Minister’ and not ‘Acting Prime Minister’. Either way, whether she was acting or deputy, perhaps you could let me— Ms Paul—It is probably our first question ever on whaling. Senator ABETZ—.....But, Minister, if you could find that out for us, it would be very helpful.

Answer

On 6 January 2010, the former Minister for Education, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, was Acting Prime Minister when she was questioned at a press conference in Hobart. During the press conference Ms Gillard was questioned about a range of issues including about Japanese whaling activity. Ms Gillard’s response at the time was that “We are currently pursuing this matter hard diplomatically, but should it become necessary to have an international court action we have the evidence available to us”.

Any follow up action in relation to these statements is not a matter for this Department.