

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

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

**Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0271\_11**

**Senator Fisher asked on 1/06/2010, Hansard page 75.**

**Question**

**PROPOSED SELF AUDIT**

Senator FISHER—Are you aware of allegations that the press found out about the proposed self-audit before the business was advised of it? Also, what is your comment on such allegations? Mr Ronson—I have no knowledge of it; the information in front of me does not disclose that particular sequence. Senator FISHER—Can you take it on notice to comment on that and to see whether you have any further information that might shed some light on that? Mr Ronson—Certainly.

**Answer**

*The Fair Work Ombudsman has provided the following response.*

*Are you aware of allegations that the press found out about the proposed self-audit before the business was advised of it?*

No.

*What is your comment on such allegations?*

The Fair Work Ombudsman first contacted Mr Charlie Duynhoven, General Manager of the Terang and District Co-operative, the entity operating Terang Home Timber and Hardware, on 5 February 2010.

On 19 February 2010, the Acting Victorian Director – Regional Services and Targeting at the Fair Work Ombudsman contacted Mr Duynhoven in the early afternoon, inviting him to conduct a self-audit to ensure that his workplace arrangements had fully complied with the relevant award and legislation. The employer took up this invitation.

Also on 19 February 2010, the Fair Work Ombudsman was contacted late afternoon by telephone by The Australian newspaper. In this telephone call, the journalist asked the Fair Work Ombudsman to confirm that it had requested that Terang Home Timber and Hardware conduct a self audit. The Fair Work Ombudsman confirmed that the information received by the journalist was accurate and subsequently, on 20 February 2010, the Australian newspaper published the article titled 'Boss may owe youths back pay'.