

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

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

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

DEEWR Question No.EW0275_11

Senator Abetz asked on 1/06/2010, Hansard page 85.

Question

PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

Senator ABETZ—Also, on notice, could you please advise us of your ‘expanded’ role, as I understand it, with paid parental leave? You will now have a role in investigating complaints in relation to that area; is that correct? Mr Wilson—Obviously, that is dependent upon the passage of the legislation and the things that go with it. Senator ABETZ—Please take that on notice— Mr Wilson—Sure. We will ask for the appropriate— Senator ABETZ—because the government, at taxpayers’ expense, has already prepared a document telling us, at page 23, that the role of the Fair Work Ombudsman is to ‘work with employees’ et cetera and then ‘will have a role under the paid parental leave legislation to investigate complaints’. I am just wondering whether you have received extra funding in this budget to deal with that. Mr Wilson—We will take that on notice.

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman has provided the following response.

The Fair Work Ombudsman will have a compliance role under the *Paid Parental Leave Act 2010*. The Fair Work Ombudsman’s compliance role will commence on 1 January 2011.

Where an employer has failed to pass on a paid parental leave funding amount to an eligible employee, the Family Assistance Office will attempt to obtain voluntary compliance. Where this does not occur, the matter will be referred to the Fair Work Ombudsman for investigation and, where appropriate, enforcement.

The Fair Work Ombudsman was allocated funding in the following amounts in the 2010-11 Federal Budget to carry out its compliance role under the Paid Parental Leave Scheme:

Financial Year	Funding (\$m)
2010 – 2011	0.202
2011 – 2012	1.775
2012 – 2013	1.438
2014 – 2015	0.982
Total	4.397