

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

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

**Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0387\_13

**Senator Mason asked on 31 May 2012, Hansard page 24**

**Question**

**Complaints about conflicts of interest**

Senator MASON: Of a similar nature, potentially a conflict of interest? Ms Chin: Yes.  
Senator MASON: In circumstances that are similar to this? Ms Smith: They all vary.  
Ms Chin: They would vary. I am a but (sic) reluctant to say yes or no. I think they are,  
in essence, if there is a complaint about conflicts of interest. Every so often we do  
receive them and I can think of some that we have received during the time that I  
have been the person responsible. Senator Kim Carr: We will take that on notice.

**Answer**

In 2011 and 2012, DEEWR received a number of complaints from individuals in  
relation to the governance of Malek Fahd Islamic School. The Department's  
investigation of these complaints is ongoing.

Other than the Malek Fahd Islamic School, the Department has not received and  
investigated any other complaints in relation to a conflict of interest of a  
non-government school's board.