

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

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

Agency - Fair Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW0024_13

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

FWO PayCheck calculator

What steps have been taken to verify the PayCheck calculator? a. How many complaints have been received about conflicting advice from the Fair Work Ombudsman? b. How many errors since 1 January 2012 have been found in the PayCheck calculator?

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman has provided the following response.

All pay tools, including PayCheck Plus, rely on one source of data to produce wages and conditions information. This data is stored in the Pay and Classification System (PCS) database.

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) has undertaken a number of measures to verify data contained in the PCS database. In December 2011, FWO engaged Ernst and Young (E&Y) to conduct a review focused on the accuracy of a sample of rates of pay provided in the pay tools, and the processes and controls in place relating to the data integrity of the PCS database.

The E&Y report did not identify any errors in the data. It does however provide recommendations to improve the controls for creating and amending data. Work has commenced on implementing changes to address the recommendations in the report, specifically around system access and change request processes.

PayCheck Amendments

From 1 January 2012 until 30 April 2012, the FWO received 15 queries from external clients that resulted in changes to PCS data.