

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

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

**Outcome 4 – Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0035\_13

**Senator Abetz provided in writing.**

**Question**

*News Story on Network Seven on 11 April 2012*

"1) Is the Government aware of the news story on Network Seven on 11 April 2012 where Mr Howes is said to have made claims in the manufacturing sector of 6% per annum wage increases and paid shower time? a) Are these claims in the spirit of the Fair Work Act? b) Are these claims examples of the Fair Work Act being implemented as intended? "

**Answer**

The Department is aware of the news story referred to in the Senator's question.

Claims made by bargaining representatives during enterprise agreement negotiations are a matter for the parties involved.

The good faith bargaining requirements of the *Fair Work Act 2009* do not require parties to agree to all claims presented during bargaining as terms to be included in an enterprise agreement.