

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

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

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

DEEWR Question No. EW0036_13

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Oil-rig sparkies

"1) Is the Government aware of an article in The Australian on 8 February 2012 titled Oil-rig sparkies to earn \$260,000 where electricians on Bass Strait oil and gas platforms have won a 15% pay rise making them among the nation's best-paid tradesmen. 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 article 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.