

**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. EW0154\_13**

**Senator Abetz asked on 28 May 2012 , Hansard page 22**

**Question**

**Release of FWA report**

Senator ABETZ: Right. Was it just serendipity that, at the same time as Labor lawyers were writing to the committee, saying, 'Don't release the report,' the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations was out there saying the report should not be released? Senator Ludwig: Are you asking me whether or not it was a coincidence? I have no knowledge of those circumstances, but I can take it on notice and check—but only to the extent of what information was provided by Minister Shorten. Senator ABETZ: Sorry? Senator Ludwig: I can take it on notice, but I do not have personal knowledge. Your question really goes to whether or not it was a coincidence. I am not sure even Mr Shorten can advance that.

**Answer**

The Minister received oral advice from his Department, including advice received on 26 April 2012, not to call for publication of the report by Fair Work Australia on the investigation into the National Office of the Health Services Union, before an assessment could be made as to the potential for publication to prejudice possible legal proceedings.