

**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. EW0292_13

Senator Abetz asked on 29 May 2012 , Hansard page 80

Question

Has the department drafted any letters to the ATO

Senator ABETZ: Can they advise us as to whether or not they drafted any letters to the ATO for any other agency or authority drawing their attention to the Fair Work Australia report into the Health Services Union. Ms Paul: We will add that to the question on notice, if you like, Senator. Senator ABETZ: Oh, please, Secretary! Ms Paul: That is our answer. We have answered your question. Senator ABETZ: Secretary, are you telling this committee that you do not know the answer to that question? Ms Paul: I am saying I am taking it on— Senator Jacinta Collins: We are surprised that you did. Ms Paul: Yes, I am taking it on notice and I am finding out the question we have just taken on notice. We have answered the question several times, Senator. Senator ABETZ: No. I did not asked you before, Secretary, as to whether or not the department had drafted any letters referring the report to various agencies. That has not been asked before. Ms Paul: Correct. That has not been asked before. Senator ABETZ: You have now taken the question on notice. Ms Paul: Yes, I have. Senator ABETZ: If you honestly cannot recall—and we have to accept that at face value—can I ask you what departmental involvement was there in the answer to parliamentary question 1728 that we have just been discussing? Ms Paul: I am not sure of that either. That goes back to April, so I cannot answer that off the top of my head either.'

Answer

The Department did not draft letters to this effect in relation to the report of the Delegate of the General Manager of Fair Work Australia into the Victoria No 1 Branch of the Health Services Union.

In the case of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), the ATO advised Minister Shorten's office on 19 March that they were aware of the report into the Victorian No. 1 Branch of the Health Services Union and, as such, formal referral to the ATO was not necessary.

The Department drafted the answer to parliamentary question 1728.