

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2008-09 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome Agency – **Workplace Ombudsman**

DEEWR Question No. EW890_09

Senator Abetz asked on 23 October 2008, EEWHR Hansard page 26.

Question

Workplace Ombudsman advertisements in the Unions Tasmania 2008 Directory

“...it is a bit embarrassing that the Office of Workplace Services has a full-page advertisement ... and the Workplace Ombudsman also has a full-page ad. We might like to find out whether the government or the taxpayer paid for both of those advertisements in the one and the same directory...The chances are that it is indicative of how long this directory was in the making that they had not caught up with that change, nor with the change of Workplace Services being morphed into the Ombudsman. I would be interested in how those two ads came into being, how they were funded and how much they cost. We will put those two on notice ... It is titled Unions Work. There is a little logo in the top right-hand corner, Unions Tasmania Directory 2008.”

Answer

The Workplace Ombudsman has provided the following response:

Workplace Ombudsman advertisements in the Unions Tasmania 2008 Directory

The Workplace Ombudsman paid \$2744.50 for the advertisement placed in the Unions Tasmania 2008 Directory.

The appearance of the advertisement for the Office of Workplace Services in the Unions Tasmania 2008 Directory appears to be an error on the part of the publisher, Dowd Publications Pty Ltd. The advertisement was not requested or paid for by the Workplace Ombudsman.

The (then) Office of Workplace Services did pay \$2744.50 for the advertisement to appear in the 2007 directory. However, Dowd Publications has explained that the copy was not provided by the Office of Workplace Services before the cut off date for publication, resulting in the advertisement not appearing in the 2007 directory.

Due to the Office of Workplace Services advertisement having already been paid for by the Office of Workplace Services, Dowd Publishing decided to publish the advertisement in the 2008 directory without consultation and seemingly without being aware that the Workplace Ombudsman had replaced the Office of Workplace Services.

In advertising in union guides, the Workplace Ombudsman feels that it is able to provide both employees and union officials with relevant information relating to services and contact details.