

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Agency *Fair Work Ombudsman*

DEEWR Question No. **EW430_10**

Senator Humphries provided in writing.

Question

How many investigations has the Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman commenced since 1 July 2009? How many of these have been resolved? (EW429_10)

What were the outcomes of these resolutions?

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman has provided the following response:

The Fair Work Ombudsman commenced 5941 investigations between 1 July 2009 and 30 September 2009 and finalised 6293 complaints during the same period.

37% of complaints finalised during this period were resolved though the FWO securing voluntary compliance with a further 26% of investigations either not revealing a contravention of Commonwealth workplace relations laws or where there was insufficient evidence to support the employee's claims.

In the course of its activities between 1 July 2009 and 30 September 2009, the FWO recovered \$7,038,040 on behalf of 4,486 employees. In excess of 56% of contraventions recorded against employers by the FWO during this period related to the underpayment of wages, penalties and loadings and allowances.