

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

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

Agency *Fair Work Ombudsman*

DEEWR Question No. **EW633_10**

Senator Abetz asked on 21 October 2009, EEW Hansard page 71.

Question

Interest earned on funds deposited into the Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue Fund

Senator ABETZ—.....I ask you, Minister, in relation to 0043, whether you would inquire of your colleague—I assume the Minister for Finance and Deregulation—as to how much interest is earned on the funds that the workplace ombudsman collects and that are then deposited into the Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue Fund.....

Senator Arbib—I certainly take your comments on board, Senator. If you are happy to pass up a copy of the relevant question, I am happy to take a look at it for you.

Senator ABETZ—It is EW0043_10. I have asked about this before. I just think it is an important policy issue, especially when we are told in EW0246 that this \$875,961—and that was since 27 March 2006—

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman has provided the following response:

All unpaid wages received by the Fair Work Ombudsman and its predecessors, the Workplace Ombudsman and Office of Workplace Services are deposited into the Commonwealth's Consolidated Revenue Fund. Any interest earned on the Consolidated Revenue Fund is not credited to the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The Department of Finance and Deregulation manage these funds and have informed the Fair Work Ombudsman that they are unable to advise on the interest earned relevant to the portion of funds deposited by the Fair Work Ombudsman, in light of the fact that these earnings are put into a consolidated pool of funds upon which interest is calculated on a consolidated basis.

Further questions regarding this issue should be directed to the Department of Finance and Deregulation.