

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Agency - Fair Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW0727_12

Senator Ronaldson asked on 19 October 2011 , Hansard page 19

Question

Investigative staff involved in inquiry

Senator RONALDSON: Can you either give me the details or take on notice how many staff have been involved in the inquiry, the names of the staff members who worked on the inquiry and the dates on which each staff member worked on the inquiry? If you have not got the information now, can you take the question on notice? Can you advise me whether anyone from the Prime Minister's office or from any minister's offices have contacted Fair Work Australia inquiring into the investigation of Mr Thomson and the HSU? In the Prime Minister's case, since she became Prime Minister, has there been any contact? Ms O'Neill: I will take the first question you asked about the resources on notice. CHAIR: I am sure Senator Ronaldson is not seeking the names of clerical staff that have been involved. He is looking primarily for investigative staff. Senator RONALDSON: Investigative staff, yes.

Answer

Fair Work Australia has provided the following response:

1. The employees of FWA who have undertaken investigative tasks in relation to the inquiry and investigation into the Health Services Union (National Office) since its commencement in April 2009 are Mr Terry Nassios (SES) and Ms Ailsa Carruthers (EL2).
2. In relation to the question whether anyone from the Prime Minister's office or from any minister's office has contacted Fair Work Australia inquiring into the investigation of the HSUA, there has been the following contact:
 - (a) FWA understands that on 8 April 2009 the then Industrial Registrar communicated with the Deputy Prime Minister's office advising that inquiries under section 330 of Schedule 1 of the Workplace Relations Act 1996 had been commenced in relation to the Health Services Union National Office and Victorian No. 1 Branch and that investigation(s) under section 331 may ensue.
 - (b) The only other communication FWA is aware of is email contact between the FWA Manager of Media and Communications and Minister Evans' press office on 18 and 22 August 2011 concerning a report on Channel 7 that FWA was conducting a new inquiry into the HSU and a subsequent public statement by the General Manager correcting those claims.