

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

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

Agency - Fair Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW0730_12

Senator Abetz asked on 19 October 2011 , Hansard page 26

Question

The investigation into the national office

Senator ABETZ: I have two quick questions arising from this. How long has the investigation been going on; when did it start? When was the legal advice to which you refer obtained—before or after the last estimates? Ms O'Neill: The investigation into the national office commenced on 6 April, 2009. Senator ABETZ: I was wrong, it is more than two years—it is more like 2½ years. Senator RONALDSON: At least, because this matter was being investigated before 30 June, 2009, and he provided a report. CHAIR: Senator Abetz was actually asking the officers, not you, Senator Ronaldson. Ms O'Neill: I will take the detail on notice, but it was prior to the May estimates hearing.

Answer

Fair Work Australia has provided the following response:

The legal advice referred to by Bernadette O'Neill, Acting General Manager, Fair Work Australia, was obtained on 23 March 2011.