

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

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

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

DEEWR Question No. EW0734_12

Senator Thistlewaite asked on 19 October 2011, Hansard page 32

Question

FWO - investigations into outworkers

Senator THISTLETHWAITE: Have there ever been any investigations since the Fair Work Ombudsman has been in existence in this area? Mr Wilson: I would have to take that on notice. I could not definitively say that there have not been. If there have, there would only be a handful of them but we will check our records.

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman provided the following response.

The Fair Work Ombudsman is currently undertaking a clothing manufacturer's audit program in Queensland. This program is ongoing and, as such, there are no results to report at this time.

The Fair Work Ombudsman's reporting system does not identify investigations in relation to 'outworkers' in isolation. The Fair Work Ombudsman's reporting system is able to provide data into complaints investigated under the relevant *Textile, Clothing, Footwear & Associated Industries Award 2010*.

During the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 financial years, the Fair Work Ombudsman finalised eight complaints in relation to the *Textile, Clothing, Footwear & Associated Industries Award 2010*.