

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

DEEWR Question No. EW0615_13

Senator Abetz asked on 17 October 2012 , Hansard page 39

Question

FWO - Review of unpaid internships in Australian workplaces

Senator ABETZ: All the best with that. Lifting the tone from there, we go to universities. There was an article on 10 September 2012 in the Australian Financial Review saying that we have law professors investigating the use of unpaid internships in Australian workplaces. How is that going? I understand Professors Stewart and Owens are examining unpaid work arrangements. Mr O'Shea: That is correct. The project is ongoing. Senator ABETZ: It is still ongoing? Mr O'Shea: It is. We are expecting a report from the professors to be with us at either the end of this month or early in November. That is the time frame. Senator ABETZ: It is that which I was referring to. How long has this review been going on for? Mr O'Shea: I would need to take that on notice. My understanding is that it was begun probably around June this year.

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman has provided the following response:

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) can confirm that the contract was executed in relation to the project on 2 April 2012. The project was announced publicly via a media release on the FWO's website on 10 April 2012.