

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
COMMONWEALTH DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

**Question No. 57**

**Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2011:**

**Senator BRANDIS:** Have you had any reference from either the Australian Electoral Commission or Fair Work Australia or, indeed, from any other Commonwealth entity concerning the conduct of the Health Services Union's east branch and alleged non-compliance with its disclosure obligations?

**Mr Craigie:** I am in the same situation. I cannot assist you.

**Senator BRANDIS:** When you say you cannot assist me, are you telling me that the answer to my question is no, or are you telling me that you do not feel at liberty to answer my question?

**Mr Craigie:** I think that is a question I should take on notice.

**Senator BRANDIS:** If your position is that you know the answer but you feel you are not at liberty to provide it, then that is what you should say.

**Mr Craigie:** I do not know the answer. I would be acting on a hunch if I were to give you one, and I do not think that would be helpful.

**Senator BRANDIS:** You do not know the answer to that so you will take that question on notice and you will obviously reserve your right to decline to answer it on consideration when you have made your inquiries.

**Mr Craigie:** Indeed.

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

On 27 May 2010, the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecution (CDPP) received correspondence from the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) concerning the lodgement of returns by the National Office of the Health Services Union in relation to the candidacy of Mr Craig Thomson in the 2007 federal election. The CDPP provided preliminary advice to the AEC on 1 June 2010.