

**Senator Abetz asked questions about a number of individuals, including the PM Gillard's Chiefs of Staff in this exact session 6 years ago:
Thursday, 26 May 2011**

Senator ABETZ: Help me as much as you can. Is that person still employed under the Member of Parliament (Staff) Act?

Ms Clarke: Yes, that person still is.

Senator ABETZ: Can you advise in which office?

Ms Clarke: In the same office.

Senator ABETZ: At what level?

Ms Clarke: The position is principal adviser.

Senator ABETZ: Does that have an entitlement such as a car attached to it?

Ms Clarke: As a senior position, yes, it does.

Senator ABETZ: When was this person stopped from being classified as the chief of staff?

Ms Clarke: We answered a question last time on notice about when the new chief of staff was employed, which was February this year. So, I am assuming it would be roughly the same time.

Senator ABETZ: One would assume so. Could you take that on notice? That would be most helpful. If I can then move to the next topic, and if I were to refer to the person as a deputy mayor of Marrickville council we would understand who I was talking about. Is this person still employed in the member for Grayndler's office?

Ms Clarke: I do not know that person by that title.

Senator ABETZ: But do we know who we are talking about?

Ms Clarke: I have that name that you sent to us this morning.

Senator ABETZ: That name that I sent to you this morning—is the person who has that name still employed in the member for Grayndler's office?

Ms Clarke: No, they are not.

Senator ABETZ: Do we know when that employment ceased?

Ms Clarke: It ceased on the 3rd of the 5th.

Senator ABETZ: Of?

Ms Clarke: 2011.

Senator ABETZ: So very recently?

Ms Clarke: That is correct.

Senator ABETZ: Do we know on what date that person commenced?

Ms Clarke: That person has had a series of employment contracts and they have been a casual person on a short-term basis. There was an original period of employment back in—

Senator ABETZ: Which started when?

Ms Clarke: The 23rd of February 2009 to the 20th of the 3rd 2009. I guess we would call it episodic.

Senator ABETZ: For the period when the person finished on 3 May, when was the appointment for that period that ended on 3 May 2011?

Ms Clarke: The 25th of the 4th 2011.

Senator ABETZ: Would it be fair to characterise it as very episodic, as in there were a lot of these short-term contracts?

Ms Clarke: There are certainly short-term contracts.

Senator ABETZ: How many? Do you have it in front of you so we do not have to decide on a descriptor but an actual number?

Ms Clarke: I have that here—five contracts.

Senator ABETZ: Five contracts between 23 February 2009 and 3 May 2011; is that right?

Ms Clarke: Yes, that is right.

Senator ABETZ: During that period did he only ever work for the member for Grayndler?

Ms Clarke: I am not sure. I will need to confirm that.

Senator ABETZ: Thank you.

Ms Clarke: I can confirm that for those contracts and those periods he was employed for the member for Grayndler.

Senator ABETZ: Given the number of contracts that he has had—without delaying the committee any further—can you please take on notice the period of each of those contracts and the classification as to whether it was a full-time or part-time position during that time?

Ms Clarke: Certainly.

Senator ABETZ: Was that person employed in May 2010?