

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications

Question No: 4

Program No. 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 9, 20 November 2014

Topic: Mr Peter Lewis and the ABC Board

Senator SINGH asked:

Senator SINGH: Was Mr Lewis proposed to the recruiters by the executive search firm or by someone else? Or did he just respond to the advertisement?

Ms O'Loughlin: I do not believe so, but I would have to take that level of detail on notice.

Senator SINGH: You do not know which way he came through the process?

Ms O'Loughlin: I have a recollection, but I would like to check that.

Senator SINGH: What is your recollection?

Ms O'Loughlin: I would like to check that before I gave it to you. I would not want to mislead you.

Answer:

The Merit and transparency in appointments to the ABC and SBS boards - Guidelines and information for potential applicants for non-executive director positions on the ABC and SBS boards provides that all applicants must submit an expression of interest cover sheet which is accompanied by a current curriculum vitae and a statement that addresses their suitability for appointment to the Board with reference to the selection criteria for the position and any relevant experience, knowledge, skills and attributes. This information must be provided by the applicant and there is no provision for third parties to independently submit applications on a person's behalf.

In the most recent process, all applicants were required to provide this information to Amanda O'Rourke Executive Search (AOES) which had been engaged by the Department to assist the Nomination Panel with the various stages of the merit-based selection process. The Department can confirm that Mr Lewis submitted an application to AOES.

While the Department cannot comment on what prompts individuals to submit an application, it is important to note that all applications received are assessed on merit by the Nomination Panel against the relevant selection criteria.