

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Agency - Fair Work Commission

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-001946

Senator Abetz asked on 30 March 2017 on proof Hansard page 10

Question

FWC - Most Junior Member of the Fair Work Commission bench

Senator ABETZ: Can you please take it on notice and tell us whether, at the time Commissioner Jones was appointed, she was the most junior member of the Fair Work Commission bench? That is all I am seeking to get to.

Answer

Former Commissioner Jones was appointed head of the Fair Work Commission's (Commission's) Termination of Employment panel with effect from 19 March 2012.

The *Fair Work Act 2009* does not provide for seniority as between Commissioners of the Commission.

If "most junior" was understood to mean most recently commencing as a Commissioner of the Commission, then on 19 March 2012 former Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Booth were equally junior (both having been appointed by instrument dated 1 September 2011 with effect from 3 October 2011).

Further Commissioner appointments were made by instrument dated 24 February 2012, with Commissioner Riordan commencing on 26 March 2012 and Commissioners Bull and Gregory commencing on 10 April 2012.