

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations & Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EM0125_14

Senator McKenzie asked on 21 November 2013, Hansard page 98

Question

Shortlist for Fair Work Commission appointments

CHAIR: Five other appointments to the Commission were announced in March. Why was there a further last minute appointment to the commission announced in July? I think that goes to the timing. Mr Kovacic was the Deputy Secretary, Workplace Relations, prior to his appointment. Who in the department made the recommendation to the Minister to make the appointment?

Mr O'Sullivan: Under the previous government, they had a process in their policy where there would be a merit based selection process that would put forward, if you like, a short list, for consideration to the previous Minister.

Senator Abetz: Not to be confused with the 'Shorten' list.

CHAIR: Well, maybe they are one and the same.

Mr O'Sullivan: There was not a recommendation per se; it was just a short list of persons suitable for appointment.

CHAIR: How short was the short list?

Mr O'Sullivan: I would need to take that on notice. I think in previous estimates we might have had that information to hand, and I can quickly check if there is someone still up—

CHAIR: It is early days.

Senator Abetz: Up at the House, he means.

Mr O'Sullivan: Otherwise, I might just have to take that on notice.

Answer

Out of the last selection process, 15 candidates were shortlisted as suitable for appointment as a Deputy President, including Mr Kovacic, and 25 candidates as suitable for appointment as a Commissioner.