

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group: 2

Program: 1.3

Question: BE14/085

Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:

1. The Government has recently appointed His Honour Justice Beach to the Federal Court. What process was undertaken in making this appointment?
2. Has the Government followed the process outlined by former Attorney-General Robert McClelland?
3. Was the position on the Federal Court advertised?
4. Were nominations for the position sought from the profession?
5. If so, were nominations provided by the Court considered by an expert and independent Advisory Panel of the kind established by Labor?
6. Who was on the Advisory Panel?
7. How many recommendations were made by the Advisory Panel?
8. If the process established by the former Government has been abandoned, please outline the reason for this change of policy. How will your new process further the goals of transparency, accountability and diversity in judicial appointments?
9. What process will the Government take to future appointments?

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

1. The Attorney-General recommended the appointment to the Cabinet. On receiving the Cabinet's approval, the Attorney-General recommended Mr Beach's appointment to the Governor-General.
2. No.
3. No.
4. No.
5. Not applicable.
6. Not applicable.
7. Not applicable.
8. The Government will recommend to the Governor-General the appointment of the most suitable person for the position, having regard to all relevant considerations.
9. See above.