

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09  
2-3 June 2008

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

**TOPIC:** Automotive Industry Review

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 3 June 2008, Page E4)

**QUESTION No. BI-91**

**Senator ABETZ:** Can I ask, in relation to the appointments of the chair, Mr Bracks, Nixon Apple and one other, whether they were handpicked by the Government as opposed to being selected from a panel?

**Senator Carr**—I am sorry, Senator. By definition the Government selects people. The Government has made a deliberative decision.

**Senator ABETZ**—Let us go straight to the point.

**Senator Carr**—That would be good.

**Senator ABETZ**—In relation to the microeconomist Dr Elizabeth Webster, the Government was provided with a list to choose from, was it not?

**Senator Carr**—I would have to take that on notice. When you say ‘the Government’, it may be another department is involved in a question of that type.

**ANSWER**

The Department of the Treasury provided the Government with a list of suitable economists to sit on the expert panel for the Review of Australia's Automotive Industry. Dr Webster's name was on that list.