

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Resource Sector Supplier Advocates

REFERENCE: Question on Notice – (Hansard, 29 May 2012, page 18)

QUESTION No.: BI-56

Senator BOSWELL: Potential is not signing the contract. Thank you for that. There are the four resource sector supplier advocates. Who are they?

Ms Anton: At this stage we are still seeking to appoint those additional four advocates. We do have one in the steel industry, which is Dennis O'Neill. There are five in total working within that sphere. So there are four additional appointments that are yet to be made.

Senator BOSWELL: There is Dennis O'Neill and Peter Beattie and you have three others?

Ms Anton: No, there are four others.

Senator BOSWELL: What is Dennis O'Neill? What experience does he have in the resource sector?

Ms Anton: Dennis O'Neill is working specifically as the steel supplier advocate. We grouped that under the resources sector in terms of the work that we are progressing. He was chosen due to his strong background in the steel sector, which included periods as the CEO for United Group and Evans Deakin.

Senator BOSWELL: How much money has been spent in total on payments and salary to the resources sector supplier advocates?

Ms Anton: I would have to take that on notice, Senator. It would really go to the costs for Mr O'Neill. I can tell you the number of days he has worked at this stage, but I would have to take the rest on notice.

ANSWER

As at 31 May 2012, no money has been spent on the resources sector supplier advocates.

Reference was made to Mr Dennis O'Neill and his costs in relation to expenditure on the resources sector supplier advocates. Mr O'Neill, who was appointed to the role of Steel Supplier Advocate on 24 August 2011, was tasked with focussing on resource sector projects and will work closely with the resources sector supplier advocates when appointed. As at 31 May 2012, money spent on the Steel Supplier Advocate includes fees to Mr O'Neill for work associated with his role and travel and incidental expenses. All fees and travel expenses are GST exclusive.

Fees – 24 August 2011 – 31 May 2012	\$54,000
Travel and associated travel expenses and other reasonable expenses – 24 August 2011 – 31 May 2012	\$40,372