

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2011-12
19 October 2011

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

TOPIC: STEEL SUPPLIER ADVOCATE

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 19 October 2011, page 56)

QUESTION No.: SI-35

Senator COLBECK: Minister, can you tell us who offered the appointment of Steel Supplier Advocate to Mr Dennis O'Neill and on what date?

Mr Lawson: While my colleague is looking at her notes, I took on notice a question about the amount of money we paid to Ethical Clothing Australia for a particular project. The amount is, GST inclusive, \$89,056.

Senator COLBECK: Thank you, for that.

Ms Anton: To your other question, Mr Dennis O'Neill was appointed by the minister on 24 August for a period until 31 December 2012.

Senator COLBECK: On what date did you first speak to Mr O'Neill about the possibility of him filling the role?

Senator Carr: I would have to check my book on that.

Ms Anton: We would have dates of the conversations we had with him. We'll take that on notice.

ANSWER

As part of the process of identifying potential candidates for the Steel Supplier Advocate, the Department contacted Mr O'Neill in late February 2011. The Department subsequently met with Mr O'Neill on 25 March 2011 to discuss his interest and availability. Following consultation with the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, officers from the Department spoke with Mr O'Neill on 1 August 2011 and 9 August 2011 to confirm his availability and capability to undertake the role of Steel Supplier Advocate prior to being offered the position.