

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations**

**DEEWR Question No.EW1021\_11**

**Senator Abetz asked on 23/02/2011, Hansard page 126.**

*Refers to previous DEEWR Question No [EW0601\\_11](#)*

**Question**

**FWA EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

Senator ABETZ—Yes, please. Thank you very much. Can I turn to EW0601\_11, dealing with expressions of interest for Fair Work Australia. Are you currently in the process of appointing new ones? Mr Kovacic—Yes. Some vacancies in New South Wales and Victoria were advertised in late October last year. That process is still underway. The panel has convened and considered the expressions of interest that were received. There are 75 of those. At this stage, the panel is yet to provide a short list of candidates to the minister for his consideration. Senator ABETZ—I trust that unionists are appropriately represented in the expressions of interest. Can you please provide to us an analysis of the list of expressions of interest as you have previously done? Ms Paul—As we have done in the past? Certainly. Senator ABETZ—That would be helpful now.

**Answer**

An Expression of Interest for Fair Work Australia Commissioner positions in NSW and Victoria was advertised on Friday 29 October 2010 in the *Australian Financial Review* and 30 October 2010 in the *Weekend Australian*.

Seventy five applications were received. The most recent employment experience and the state or territory where these applicants reside was as follows:

- 9 with trade union experience.
- 24 with an employer/industry background.
- 21 with a legal background.
- 12 from the public sector.
- 9 with a background categorised as 'other' which includes persons working as consultants and in universities.