

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Agency - Australian Building and Construction Commission

DEEWR Question No. EW1103_12

Senator Abetz asked on 15 February 2012 , Hansard page 66

Question

ABCC engaging a consulting firm

Senator ABETZ: To follow up, why did we spend \$65,615 on this task through engaging a consulting firm—that is, if I am reading the annual report of 2010-11, page 80, correctly. Mr Johns: Can I take that on notice exactly the scope of that work? I will do that. Senator ABETZ: Yes, the scope of the work and then why it was deemed necessary. Mr Johns: Yes. Senator ABETZ: What services or value-add were provided by Sabine Muller-Glissman? Mr Johns: I will take on notice the scope of that work. Senator ABETZ: I am reliability informed that a Google search turns up an address for the company of Sabine Muller-Glissman at 42 Nangor Street in Waramanga—an ACT resident. This is a house in a suburban street. Could you possibly take all of that on notice and provide us with an explanation as to how that firm was chosen— Mr Johns: Yes. Senator ABETZ: and whether it had undertaken similar work for other agencies or businesses.

Answer

The Office of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner has provided the following response:

The scope of work included:

- Development of a public affairs strategy
- Contribution to the new whole of agency strategic business planning, management and reporting framework
- Define strategic objectives, key performance indicators and priorities

The work was deemed necessary because the ABCC did not have a functioning strategic business planning framework when ABC Commissioner Johns took up his appointment.

The consultant was chosen by direct sourcing, on the basis of demonstrated relevant capability to perform the required work. The reasons for the engagement of this provider were endorsed by the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with the *ABCC Finance Direction 10 – Procurement*.

The consultant has undertaken similar work for:

- Department of Infrastructure;
- Australian Taxation Office;
- Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees;
- Centre for Australian Ethical Research;
- American Express International;
- NSW Department of Fair Trading;
- Sydney Symphony Orchestra;
- Public Sector & Commonwealth Superannuation Schemes;
- The Smith Family;
- The Body Shop;
- United Parcel Service;
- Optus; and
- National Film & Sound Archive.