

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

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

**Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations & Economic Strategy**

**DEEWR Question No. EW1151\_12**

**Senator Abetz asked on 15 February 2012 , Hansard page 124**

**Question**

**Qantas informaion**

Senator ABETZ: Let us be polite and simply indicate that there is not a meeting of our minds on that issue. Parliamentary Secretary, In an article on the 14 February 2012 in the Australian Financial Review, it is stated: Mr Shorten told the Fairfax radio network yesterday that an internal Qantas review aimed at reducing in-house maintenance would be announced "within days" ... How did Mr Shorten know that?  
Senator Jacinta Collins: I will take that on notice. Senator ABETZ: Did he obtain that information by a leak out of Qantas or by a private briefing from Qantas? If it was a private briefing from Qantas, was he authorised to make that statement public? Potentially that could have an impact on share prices and other issues. It is appropriate that a minister be pre-briefed, but, of course, that confidentially needs to be maintained. When you are a cabinet minister, in particular, that is vitally important. That sort of information getting out to the market place can have some very serious consequences. If we can be advised how he got that information and why he—  
Senator Jacinta Collins: Indeed, if that is appropriate. Senator ABETZ: Sorry?  
Senator Jacinta Collins: I will take the question on notice, and, if it is appropriate that you be advised how the minister was advised, taking into account the very points you have just made, we will respond. Senator ABETZ: It could only have come from one quarter. It would not have come from the department; it would have come from Qantas.

**Answer**

The Minister meets with a wide range of stakeholders and does not disclose the contents of private conversations.