

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0956_13

Senator Abetz asked on 13 February 2013, Hansard page 129

Question

Discrimination Bill and Implications for Workplace Relations Law

Senator ABETZ: On the discrimination bill that Ms Roxon was championing, was this department consulted at all as to its implications for workplace relations law? Mr Kovacic: As part of the normal government processes as a result of government consideration of these issues, we would have had an opportunity to— Senator ABETZ: Would have? Mr Kovacic: Yes. Senator ABETZ: Did you? Mr Kovacic: Yes. Senator ABETZ: Through what process exactly? Mr Kovacic: It would normally be through an opportunity to provide coordination comments and— Senator ABETZ: No, not normally. What happened on this particular occasion? Mr Kovacic: I would need to take the specifics on notice, but my sense is that that is the vehicle that would have been—

Answer

Yes. The Department was consulted throughout the development of the *Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012* on matters involving workplace relations.

The Department provided a submission to the Attorney General's Department in January 2012 in response to the release of a public discussion paper on the Consolidation of Commonwealth Anti-Discrimination laws. The Department's submission addressed the questions raised in the paper, a number of which touched on how the laws should deal with discrimination in the workplace.

The Department also provided relevant legal advice about workplace relations laws at an officer level to the Attorney General's Department.