

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

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

**Outcome 4 – Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0045\_13**

**Senator Abetz provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Building Industry Improvement Bill**

In relation to the Government's amendments to the Building Industry Improvement Bill: 1. What individuals or organisations lobbied for the changes to the bill? 2. Why were the amendments necessary? 3. Did the Minister discuss the amendments with any stakeholders prior to the amendments being passed? a. Which stakeholders? 4. Does the Minister have any views on the Law Council of Australia's view on the amendments?

**Answers**

1. The Department is not aware which individuals or organisations lobbied for the changes to the Bill.
2. The amendments will ensure that the resources of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate are appropriately targeted to matters which remain unresolved.
3. The Department is not aware which stakeholders the Minister discussed the amendments with prior to the amendments being passed.
- 3a. Not applicable.
4. The Minister's Chief of Staff wrote to the President of the Law Council of Australia in response to a letter to the Minister outlining the Law Council's views on the amendments. In his response, the Minister's Chief of Staff advised, amongst other things:

“While I note the Law Council's concerns, it is the Government's view that the amendments ensure the resources of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate are appropriately targeted to matters that remain unresolved. Further, there are strong protections against industrial parties being subjected to pressure to discontinue proceedings, including prohibitions against coercion in the *Fair Work Act 2009*. Federal and state laws also provide important safeguards against interference with the administration of justice in matters before the courts”.