

**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. EW0312_13

Senator Abetz asked on 29 May 2012 , Hansard page 118

Question

Departmental consultation regarding appointments

Senator ABETZ: But that is clearly the issue that is being gone to. We have been told that Ms Anna Booth and Mr Gregory expressed interest after they were approached by the minister. They were assessed as suitable for appointment by the selection panel and, surprisingly, were subsequently appointed. Now, as to the other three that were approached by the minister, did they simply decline? I do not want to name names, I stress that. Did they simply decline or were they found to be inappropriate?

Mr Kovacic: They chose not to submit an expression of interest. Senator ABETZ: Yes. Because it would be highly embarrassing, wouldn't it, if the Minister had approached someone and then the department were to find that they were inappropriate? So I am asking, before the minister approached these five people, was the department consulted as to the advisability of approaching them? Was any due diligence done by the department on the five individuals approached before they were approached by the minister? Mr Kovacic: My recollection is not, but I will take that on notice just to confirm.

Answer

The Minister informed the Department that he had or was about to approach the five people. However, the Department was not asked for, nor did it undertake, any due diligence on any of those individuals. In such appointment processes, due diligence is only undertaken in respect of those individuals being proposed for appointment, with their written permission.