

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

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

**DEEWR Question No. EW0726\_12**

**Senator Ronaldson asked on 19 October 2011, Hansard page 18.**

**Question**

***FWA - appointment process***

Senator Chris Evans: Senator, just to be clear, this is not run by the Minister's office. It is run by the department. We are happy to answer questions about it. The sign-off on the appointment—the formal approval—comes to me as Minister, but, as I say, Ms O'Neill can answer questions in her capacity for Fair Work Australia but the appointments processes are run by the department. We are going to have questions about that, which is perfectly appropriate, but we have to deal with it when the department are at the table. Senator RONALDSON: Were you provided with a shortlist, Minister? Senator Chris Evans: My recollection is that I was presented with a recommendation, but I will check that.

**Answer**

The Department recommended to the Minister that Ms Bernadette O'Neill was a suitable candidate for appointment as Acting General Manager of Fair Work Australia by virtue of her qualifications and broad range of experience in industrial relations. The recommendation was made following discussions with the President of Fair Work Australia and potential appointees.