

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

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

Outcome 4 – Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0651_13

Senator Abetz asked on 17 October 2012 , Hansard page 90

Question

Consultation for Fair Work Australia change of name

Senator ABETZ: ... Parliamentary Secretary, can you shed some light on why the minister is of the view that the Fair Work Act panel review's recommendation of a change of name should not be adopted?

Senator Jacinta Collins: I will need to take that question on notice. The minister himself has conducted the consultations in respect of the review, so I will take that on notice.

Senator ABETZ: If you could, that would be very helpful. I will now move to the other matters relating to this. Can we be told how these five issues arose? For ease of reference, I am referring to the minister's media release of 15 October 2012 in which there is a table of the recommendation numbers and then underneath that there are other matters relating to FWA. Where were these things thought of? Was it the President of Fair Work Australia seeing the minister? Did the minister think of them himself? Was it a departmental recommendation? Where did these things initiate from?

Mr Kovacic: My understanding is that they arose from discussions between the president and the minister and that they were proposals raised by the president.

Senator ABETZ: All five of them?

Mr Kovacic: I will take it on notice, just to confirm, but my sense is that it was all of them.

Answer

Name of Fair Work Australia

The Government has responded to the Review Panel's recommendation by changing the name of Fair Work Australia (FWA) to the Fair Work Commission (FWC) through the *Fair Work Amendment Act 2012*. The Government considers the word 'Commission' more accurately reflects the functions of this body. The words 'Fair Work' are consistent with the establishment and role of the tribunal within the Fair Work system, in particular because the tribunal takes its powers and functions from the provisions of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (FW Act).

Additional measures relating to FWA

The five additional measures relating to FWA all arose from consultations with FWA President, Justice Iain Ross AO.