

**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. EW0685_13

Senator Abetz asked on 17 October 2012 , Hansard page 120

Question

Date of request from Minister

Senator ABETZ: Parliamentary Secretary can I ask you about whether the minister or his office had prior consultation with the trade union movement or elements of it? And I ask the department: is this an orphan as well? Where did this idea emanate from? Was it from the minister's office asking the department to undertake work in this area? When was the first you heard about this proposition? Mr Kovacic: I would have to take the precise date on notice but it certainly would have preceded to the correspondence, Senator. Senator ABETZ: By? Mr Kovacic: By the minister to his counterpart. Senator ABETZ: By how many days or minutes? Mr Kovacic: I really could not give you a sense of that. I would prefer to take that on notice, to be precise. Senator ABETZ: Not even a sense of whether it is minutes or days? Mr Kovacic: I would be hazarding a guess. I think it would be more than days but I do not know how long. Senator ABETZ: If you could take that on notice for us.

Answer

The Department was first asked by the Minister's Office for advice on this proposal on 3 September 2012.