

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman
Outcome/Program: 1
Topic: Independence of the Ombudsman

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: 34

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- (1) Did the CV or tender for this [work] actually declare the previous activities of person?
- (2) Will the Ombudsman consider asking people who tender for work or inquiring a little further, if you are dealing with a particularly sensitive area, whether there is information like this that could jeopardise the perception of independence of the Ombudsman or the work they undertake?

Answer:

- (1) The tender did not declare the previous activities of the person. However, the Office was aware of this person's previous employment history and experience. Prior to entering into the contract these factors were taken into account by the decision-maker.
- (2) Yes. These are matters that are relevant to our decision-making in relation to the employment of third parties to assist in our investigative activities, and are considered during our decision-making processes.