

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Australian Electoral Commission**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Supplementary Estimates Hearing – October 2010**

**Outcome 1, Program 1.2**

**Topic: CVs of Board members of an “entity”**

**Question reference number: F87**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010**

**Number of Pages: 1**

**Senator Abetz asked:**

In examining whether or not an organisation is an associated entity, can the AEC take into consideration matter such as the relevant biographies of the founders of that organisation?

In that case, could the AEC look at published CVs for Amanda Tattersall - one of the founding board members of GetUp! and a Deputy Assistant Secretary at Unions NSW – who’s biography says her Ph.D. dissertation looked at *“community unionism— which occurs when trade unions campaign with community organisations and social movements on issues beyond wages and condition.”*?

<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/international/profiles/AmandaTattersall.html>

**Answer:**

No, the antecedents of members of the Board of an “entity” are not relevant to whether or not the “entity” is an “associated entity” within the scope of subsection 287(1) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. The Board is legally separate from an “entity” and it is the actions of the “entity” that must be assessed.