

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

Topic: Appointment of Ms Robyn Kruk

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question reference number: 44

Type of Question: F&PA, p 96, 17 October

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Mr Eccles: No, Senator. Ms Kruk was appointed in a manner consistent with the merit processes of the Australian Public Service.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Perhaps you would like to detail what that process was.

Mr Eccles: Of course.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Could you also tell me when the position was offered to her. I am conscious of time, so I will put the rest of my questions on notice.

Answer:

At the time of her appointment Ms Kruk was a departmental secretary and a highly experienced agency head at both the Commonwealth and state levels.

On that basis, she was considered to be eminently suitable for the position and she was appointed in accordance with the government's policy relating to the selection of agency heads (Australian Public Service Commission publication - *Merit and transparency: Merit-based selection of APS agency heads and APS statutory office holders*).

Ms Kruk was consulted about her potential appointment to the position of CEO, National Mental Health Commission, subject to final approval by Government, on 26 August 2011.