

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into the DEEWR Tender Process to award employment service contracts

EEWR_SIH_W28

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Can you explain why the tender selection panel contained no external members (employer, past service provider, past jobseeker or user of the service)?

Answer

The Tender Review Committee (TRC) contained senior officers of the Department with extensive and in depth experience in, and knowledge of, employment services and the objectives to be achieved by the new integrated model.

Job seekers, providers, industry representatives, employers and other stakeholders were extensively consulted on the future direction of employment services. Their input figured significantly in the design of Job Services Australia and the associated purchasing process.

The independent external Probity Advisor from Clayton Utz attended all meetings of the TRC as well as observing and monitoring the tender evaluation process. The Probity Advisor from Clayton Utz gave an unqualified sign off at all stages of the process.