

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into the DEEWR Tender Process to award employment services contracts

EEWR_SIH_W35

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Did the panel interview, contact or speak to referees of “external” providers as a part of the tender process?

Answer

Tenderers which had not previously provided employment services to the Department were required to provide referee reports and these were taken into account.

A comprehensive process for the evaluation of tenders was undertaken. Responses and claims were assessed in accordance with approved guidelines and against the published selection criteria. There were many levels of assessment and review as well as credential and financial viability checks.

The Department checked and verified claims made by tenderers through:

- testing against any relevant information held by department including its extensive databases
 - checking through relevant external sources available to the department as appropriate such as
 - other Australian Government departments and agencies,
 - State Government departments and agencies,
 - Local government
- as well as through international contacts.

The tender process was overseen by the independent Probitry Adviser, Clayton Utz at all stages, who has been satisfied that the assessment process followed by the Department met all the requirements.