

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations

DEEWR Question No.EW1059_10

Senator Abetz asked on 10/02/2010, Hansard page 146.

Question

**NUMBER OF SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS FOR FAIR WORK AUSTRALIA
COMMISSIONERS**

Senator ABETZ—In relation to the six, there was a selection process; a shortlist was provided to the minister of 25 potential applicants. Mr Kovacic—In the order of 25, yes. Senator ABETZ—Are you able to confirm that number on notice for us? Mr Kovacic—Yes. Senator ABETZ—I do not want to know the names of course of those that were being considered, but on that shortlist of 25—I am sure it was purely based on merit, like Mike Kaiser; we just happen to have five out of the six with a trade union background—how many of them had a background in the trade union movement? Mr Kovacic—I will take that on notice, but— Senator ABETZ—Yes, thank you.

Answer

Consistent with Government policy, the appointments to Fair Work Australia (FWA) were the result of a merit selection process undertaken by an independent selection committee comprised of the Deputy Secretary, Workplace Relations from the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations and a representative of the Australian Public Service Commissioner. Expressions of interest in being appointed to FWA were sought through advertisements in the national press in August 2009.

The number of applicants shortlisted by the independent selection committee was twenty-five. The number of applicants on the shortlist provided to the Minister was twenty-four. A shortlisted applicant withdrew from the process prior to the list being provided to the Minister.

The background of the shortlisted applicants considered by the Minister is as follows:

- Nine currently employed in the trade union movement.
- Ten employed in the legal field of which seven have some previous trade union background and two some previous employer background.
- One employed in the academic field with some previous background in the trade union movement.

- Three with government backgrounds including one with some previous employer background.
- One with a business and employer background.