

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations & Economic Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW1155_12

Senator Abetz asked on 15 February 2012 , Hansard page 127

Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW0784_12

Question

FWA Appointments

Senator ABETZ: But I will not ask about that. In supplementary budget estimates QON 0784_12 I asked about Fair Work Australia appointments and I asked about a shortlist that was submitted to the minister's office. From memory, there were 10 applicants. Mr Kovacic: That is correct. Senator ABETZ: I then asked about the background of the 10. Was Mr Lee selected from this group of 10? Mr Kovacic: That is correct. Senator ABETZ: How was he classified? Was he one of those employed in government or was he one who was a former trade union official? Mr Kovacic: Senator, could you just repeat the number of the question? Senator ABETZ: It was 0784. Mr Kovacic: He would have been one of those classified as 'in government'. It is based on the most recent employment experience of the shortlisted applicants. Senator ABETZ: What about the other person that was employed in government? Did he or she also have former trade union experience? Mr Kovacic: I would have to take that on notice just to refresh my memory as to who it was.

Answer

Two shortlisted applicants were classified as having a government background, including Mr Lee. The other applicant did not have any former trade union experience.