

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

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

#### **Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0943\_13**

**Senator Abetz asked on 13 February 2013 , Hansard page 116**

#### **Question**

##### **Flexible Work Arrangements Announcement**

Senator ABETZ: Parliamentary Secretary, you might be able to assist here. What notice did the minister's office have of the Prime Minister's announcement that she made in New Zealand? Senator Jacinta Collins: I cannot tell you at the moment the answer to that, so I will take it on notice. Senator ABETZ: A number of journalists have advised that, when they rang Minister Shorten's office after the announcement in New Zealand, Mr Shorten's office was allegedly unable to assist. Senator Jacinta Collins: Assist with? Senator ABETZ: The details of the announcement made from New Zealand and that they should direct their questions to the Prime Minister's office, who then directed them to Mr Shorten's office. That is why there was not any more detail available for a matter of some days. Senator Jacinta Collins: I will take that on notice. Senator ABETZ: Can I ask whether Minister Shorten was consulted prior to the announcement? Senator Jacinta Collins: We get to a difficulty similar to some of the discussions earlier which came out with respect to the issue of Safe Work Australia's consultation around bullying. Consultation can occur in a range of forms. It can be consultation about making reforms in a broad sense; it can be consultation about whether an announcement is going to occur tomorrow. Senator ABETZ: When was the minister told that the Prime Minister was going to make this specific statement in New Zealand? Senator Jacinta Collins: That is what I have taken on notice already.

#### **Answer**

Minister Shorten was consulted prior to the Prime Minister's announcement on 10 February 2013.