

**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. EW0957_13

Senator Back asked on 14 February 2013, Hansard page 11

Question

Positions in the Fair Work Commission

Senator BACK: Thanks, Chair, and Senator Mason. Mr Manthorpe, I have some questions from last evening, which we passed over because you were not here. We understand that you are dealing with the appointment process for the two additional senior positions in the Fair Work Commission? Mr Manthorpe: That is right.

Senator BACK: Could you give us an update on where we are with those two positions, please? Mr Manthorpe: Sure. The panel that has provided advice to the Minister on that has undertaken its work of short listing and providing advice to the minister on a range of possible appointments. That is now to be considered by government.

Senator BACK: Can you tell us how many people expressed interest in the positions? Mr Manthorpe: For the vice-presidential positions, I think there were 24.

Ms Paul: I think I said that last night. That is on the record already. I said about 25, so you have said 24.

Senator BACK: Sorry, I missed that.

Mr Manthorpe: I will obviously check the record, but it is around 24.

Senator BACK: Can we be told how many of that 24 were short-listed? Ms Paul: I did not go there, and in the case of the vice-presidents—I think I have answered most of this last night, really—these things are still under way, coming to closure. I would rather take it on notice, given that it is at a kind of sensitive point.

Senator BACK: Excellent. When you respond on notice, could you also give us a background, not by name but by designation of their backgrounds, former employer, former lawyer, former union.

Ms Paul: Yes, and I said to Senator Abetz last night that we would do what we normally do, which is exactly that. We break down the number of applicants by whether they came from employer or employee organisations or whatever, government or legal.

Answer

Please refer to DEEWR Question No. EW0930_13.