

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0622_11

Senator Mason asked on 21/10/2010, Hansard page 6.

Question

APPOINTMENT OF DR LOMAX SMITH TO HEAD COMMITTEE

Senator MASON—..... I understand that Dr Lomax-Smith, who recently lost her state seat of Adelaide, is now employed by the department. How did she come to be employed in the department? Was she headhunted? What was the process?

Ms Paul—She is not employed by the department.

Senator MASON—Is she any relation to the department at all?

Ms Paul—The former minister appointed her to head some sort of inquiry. She is certainly not connected to the department. I will take that on notice for you.

Senator Chris Evans—I think she would be formally appointed by the full committee but not formally announced. That is with me now and will be answered in the next couple of days. She will be doing a role for us chairing a committee. She is not employed by the department but she will be on a committee. That appointment was made by the former minister but it was not announced.

Senator MASON—By Ms Gillard?

Ms Paul—No, Mr Crean.

Senator Chris Evans—No, Mr Crean, I think. I will take it on notice. I think it was Mr Crean. Then the election and the caretaker period occurred. It has come to me. I have sent the brief back to the department on other matters, but it will be announced in the next little while.

Ms Paul—Certainly she is not employed by us.

Senator Chris Evans—She is not employed by the department.

Senator MASON—But she will shortly be heading an inquiry?

Ms Paul—We will take that on notice, at any rate.

Senator MASON—I assume the appointment processes are as normal, Minister. Is that right?

Ms Paul—Exactly. You have just asked for us to take on notice all those

appointments and so on. We are happy to do so. But she is certainly not employed by my department.

Senator MASON—So hers would be a ministerial appointment?

Ms Paul—It would be a committee arrangement. That is right.

Senator MASON—Not a departmental appointment but a ministerial appointment.

Ms Paul—That is correct. If there is any remuneration—I do not even know if there will be remuneration—it would be based on Remuneration Tribunal rates, I should imagine, on a per diem basis.

Senator MASON—Will you be able to tell me about the remuneration, if any?

Ms Paul—Yes. If there is to be any, I will let you know.

Answer

The Hon Dr Jane Lomax-Smith has been appointed as Chair of the Panel that is conducting the Higher Education Base Funding Review. The appointment was made by the Hon Simon Crean MP, then Minister for Education. On 26 October 2010, the Minister for Tertiary Education, Chris Evans, announced the panel and terms of reference for the Higher Education Base Funding Review. This announcement marks the formal commencement of the review

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Evans/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_101026_143855.aspx

Remuneration for Dr Lomax-Smith is based on the latest Remuneration Tribunal determinations of amounts payable to the part-time holder of a public office. The rates applied are the Category 3 fees.