

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**Program:** Administrative Appeals Tribunal

**Question No. SBE16/063**

**Senator Macdonald asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2016:**

CHAIR: I wish the Attorney were here, because I am quite sure he would know all of the very great number of Labor-affiliated persons who have been appointed to the AAT currently—some, I believe, by Senator Brandis. I am just curious to follow this line of questioning to see what this is all about. Ms Leathem, you mentioned a list of people who, as I recall, were appointed earlier this year—I think it was February. The particular part that comes to my mind is that they were all doctors. Is that right?

Ms Leathem: There were a number of doctors. There was also a professor. Can I say that, of those, five were reappointments, so in most instances those doctors had already been part-time members of the tribunal.

CHAIR: Okay. And they are doctors of?

Ms Leathem: It varies, but we do have medical doctors who are involved in workers compensation matters from time to time, as well as some of the other types of matters we deal with that involve medical evidence.

CHAIR: Okay. Was the professor I think you mentioned a new appointment or a continuing one?

Ms Leathem: He was a reappointment.

CHAIR: Do you know what area his professorial competence was in?

Ms Leathem: I would have to take that on notice, I am afraid. I am not familiar with Professor David Ben-Tovim's background.

CHAIR: All right.

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

Professor Ben-Tovim is a psychiatrist and clinical epidemiologist.