

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australia Council**

**Question No: 64**

**Australia Council**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 28/10/2016**

**Topic: Appointments**

**Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:**

1. In relation to the recent appointments to the Australia Council, what advice did the Department provide to the Minister on the nominees for appointment? How many potential candidates were considered for these appointments? What advice was provided on the backgrounds of nominees for those appointments?
2. One recent appointment to the Australia Council is a previous staff member for Liberal members of Parliament. While this does not mean that the person is not suitable and in many cases these previous roles can add to their skill sets, why was that background not mentioned in the announcement of the appointment?

**Answer:**

1. Appointment deliberations are Cabinet in confidence. The Minister consulted with the Chair of the Australia Council Board on the range of required skill sets.
2. The relevant skills and experience of the appointees were referenced in the announcement of the appointments on 11 October 2016.