

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

#### Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000145

Senator Lines asked on 01 June 2015 on proof Hansard page 133

#### Question

##### Fair Work Commission expert panel

Senator LINES: I want to talk about the Fair Work Commission expert panel. We have talked about this before. It was established to make the assessment of funds to receive default super contributions. Has the minister been provided a brief by the department nominating candidates to sit on the Fair Work Commission expert panel?

Mr O'Sullivan: Sorry, Senator. I missed the first part of that question.

Senator LINES: Has the minister—I am talking about the expert panel—been provided a brief by the department nominating candidates to sit on the Fair Work Commission expert panel?

Mr O'Sullivan: We provided briefings to the minister. I will have to take it on notice and reflect on whether the briefings actually nominated candidates as opposed to provided short lists.

Senator LINES: So you think you might have provided either short lists or nominated candidates, but you are going to take that on notice.

Mr O'Sullivan: I will take it on notice.

Senator LINES: There is no-one in the room who can assist?

Mr O'Sullivan: I think we really have to take it on notice and look at exactly what was in the brief.

Senator LINES: If you provided a brief, when was it provided?

Mr O'Sullivan: Again, I have to take that on notice.

Senator LINES: You did say 'briefings'. Would you let us know the number of briefings you provided?

Mr O'Sullivan: Yes. I am just not that familiar with how many briefings we might have provided.

#### Answer

Expert panel appointments are approved by Cabinet or the Prime Minister in accordance with the Cabinet Handbook and such appointments are made by the Governor-General in Executive Council.

The Department does not detail the advice it provides to Government.