

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

#### **Agency - Fair Work Commission**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000331**

**Senator Cameron asked on 22 October 2015 on proof Hansard page 56**

#### **Question**

##### **FWC - Appointment of Vice President Lawler**

Senator CAMERON: ..... When was Mr Lawler appointed?

Justice Ross: I do not have that—

Senator CAMERON: I am just wondering how long he has been there.

Justice Ross: Just give me one moment, Senator, I am not—

Senator CAMERON: I think he was appointed by Mr Abbott—is that correct?

Justice Ross: I am told it is—

Ms O'Neill: If I am wrong I will correct it, but we believe he was appointed in around 2002 by the minister at the time.

Senator CAMERON: It was Mr Abbott?

Ms O'Neill: I would have to check that.

Senator Cash: I can confirm that it is an appointment of the Governor-General, not of the minister themselves.

Senator CAMERON: On a recommendation?

Senator Cash: Correct. I just want to ensure that the process is understood to be correct.

Senator CAMERON: Minister, can you also confirm that the recommendation came from Mr Abbott?

Senator Cash: Based on reports I have seen in the press, my understanding is that the recommendation came from cabinet.

Senator CAMERON: A recommendation to cabinet by Mr Abbott. I think it is clear where that came from.

Ms O'Neill: I do have that date. He was appointed on 3 October 2002.

#### **Answer**

Vice President Lawler was appointed to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (as the Fair Work Commission was then known) on 3 October 2002 and commenced duties on 28 October 2002.