

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

Program: 1.9

Question No. SBE15/072

Senator Bilyk asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2015:

1. Can a copy of the job advertisement and selection criteria for the Director of Media and Communications please be provided?
2. Where was the position advertised?
3. Can a copy of the position description for the Director of Media and Communications please be provided?
4. Who was responsible for hiring the Director of Media and Communications?
5. Can an explanation of the recruitment process relied upon to hire the Director of Media and Communications please be provided?
6. Has the Attorney-General or his office ever been briefed on the recruitment of the Director of Media and Communications or his/her role at the Trade Union Royal Commission?
7. Has the Director of Media and Communications met with the Attorney-General or his office?
If so-
 - a. On what date(s)?
 - b. Can a copy of any diary entries please be provided?
 - c. Which member(s) of the Attorney-General's staff did the Director meet with?
8. Can a copy of any correspondence between the Director of Media and Communications and the Attorney-General or his office please be provided?
9. Have the Attorney-General or his office been briefed on the Trade Union Royal Commission's media, public relations or political strategy?
If so-
 - a. On what date(s) was this advice provided?
 - b. In what form was it provided?
 - c. Can a copy of any written advice please be provided?
10. Who does the Director of Media and Communications report to?
11. What is the working relationship between the Director of Media and Communications and Counsel Assisting?
 - a. How regularly do they meet?
 - b. What is the purpose of their interactions?
12. What is the working relationship between the Director of Media and Communications and Solicitors Assisting?
 - a. How regularly do they meet?
 - b. What is the purpose of their interactions?
13. What is the working relationship between the Director of Media and Communications and Dyson Heydon?
 - a. How regularly do they meet?
 - b. What is the purpose of their interactions?

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

1. Copies of the emails to the relevant recruitment agencies detailing the requirements for the position are **attached** as Attachment A (with personal details redacted). The relevant Vacancy Information Kit which advertises for a number of positions including the Communications position is also **attached**.
2. Through two recruitment agencies – Hudson and Hays – and via a general advertisement on the APSJobs website submitted by the Attorney-General's Department on behalf of the Royal Commission.
3. Refer to the answer to question 1 (above) and the documents provided therein.
4. The former Chief Executive Officer, Ms Jane Fitzgerald. The Director, Media & Communications was initially engaged on a non-ongoing contract until 31 December 2014. Following the extension of the Commission and to meet the commencement of the 2015 hearings, the Director was re-engaged for another non-ongoing contract from 23 March 2015 to 31 December 2015.
5. As the role was identified as one of the priority positions to fill, as an interim measure the Royal Commission temporarily engaged another person who had previously been working with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (CARC).

The Commission then considered persons on the Australian Public Service Commission redeployment register, those who had applied in the previous selection exercise for CARC, and persons who had contacted the Royal Commission through various channels having heard that the Royal Commission had been established.

Ultimately, on 2 April 2014 the Royal Commission lodged a request for assistance with two recruitment agencies approved to provide recruitment services to government - Hudson and Hays. The Attorney General's Department also advertised a wide range of positions on behalf of the Royal Commission.

After considering a number of CVs, suitable applicants were interviewed and the current Director, Media and Communications, was the preferred candidate.

6. No.
7. No. The Attorney-General's media staff receive media releases as part of the Royal Commission's media distribution list.
8. Separately providing a copy of all media releases issued during the life of the Royal Commission would be an unreasonable diversion of resources. Media releases are available at <http://www.tradeunionroyalcommission.gov.au/Media/Pages/default.aspx>
9. No.
10. The Chief Executive Officer, Susan Innes-Brown.
11. The Director, Media & Communications, responds to media enquiries concerning the Commission's work.
 - a) As required from time to time.

- b) From time to time the Director, Media & Communications, seeks clarification regarding matters such as Practice Directions and details of current case studies that are the subject of hearings or submissions.

12. The Director, Media & Communications, responds to media enquiries concerning the Commission's work.

- a) As required from time to time. The Director, Media & Communications, also attends the pre-hearing briefing held on most hearing days. A representative of the Solicitors Assisting team also attends those meetings.

- b) Refer to answer 11b above.

13. The Director, Media & Communications, responds to media enquiries concerning the Commission's work.

- a) Occasional meetings, on an irregular basis, and only to address specific queries generated from the media. Regular scheduled meetings between the two do not occur. The Director does not report directly to the Commissioner.

- b) Refer to answer 11b. above.