

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 3 – Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0282_13

Senator Abetz asked on 29 May 2012 , Hansard page 70

Question

Government's decision to make registered organisations more accountable

Senator ABETZ: Thank you. Regarding the government's decision to make registered organisations somewhat more accountable, how did this start? Was it like the interaction of the court proceedings where the minister approached the department and said, 'This would be a good idea; let's get things moving'? Or did the department send a brief to the minister suggesting this might a good idea? Mr Kovacic: My recollection is that the minister sought advice from the department on possible options. Senator ABETZ: On what date? Mr Kovacic: In terms of the precise date, I will take that on notice, but my recollection was that it was probably late March, possibly early April—that sort of time frame.

Answer

The Department's earliest record of being approached by the Minister's office for possible options for amendments to the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* was on 20 March 2012.