

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

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

Outcome 4 – Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW00028_13

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Fair Work Act Review

1) When engaging Professor Ron McCallum to conduct the review of the Fair Work Act, was Professor McCallum ever asked to restrict media or public appearances while conducting the review? 2) Is the Department aware of comments by Professor Ron McCallum on 13 April 2012? 3) Does the Government believe that the comments could prejudice the review of the Fair Work Act? a) If not, why not?"

Answer

- 1) Following the appointment of the Fair Work Act Review Panel, members (including Professor McCallum) were asked to limit media comment on issues relating to the Review for the duration of the Review.
- 2) The Department has seen reporting of comments made by Professor McCallum at the Union Lawyers and Industrial Officers NSW Annual Labour Law Conference on 24 February 2012 (reported in Workplace Express on 13 April 2012).
- 3) Given that Professor McCallum's reported comments did not relate to matters directly captured by the terms of reference for the Review or disclose detail of the Review process, it is not considered that they could prejudice the Review.