

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Agency - Fair Work Commission

DEEWR Question No. EW0108_14

Senator Abetz asked on 3 June 2013, Hansard page 88

Question

FWC - Annual Member Conference Terrigal

Senator ABETZ: I understand the commission had a bit of a get-together at Terrigal in February or early March. Is that correct? Ms O'Neill: There was the annual members conference in Terrigal, in February, yes. Senator ABETZ: What sort of cost does that usually attract? Ms O'Neill: I will take that on notice, if I may. I do not have that information in front of me. Senator ABETZ: One would assume the travel, accommodation and a travel allowance would be paid. Ms O'Neill: Generally not travel allowance because the meals and things are provided. Senator ABETZ: Right. Ms O'Neill: The venues are generally in either Victoria or Melbourne, to minimise the travel costs, where the bulk of members are and it is an annual gathering to share information and provide updates. Sorry, I meant to say Victoria or New South Wales where the preponderance of our members are, to minimise travel. Senator ABETZ: That makes sense. I think you said Melbourne or Victoria. Understood. If you could take that on notice. But this time I was right.

Answer

The Fair Work Commission has provided the following response.

Date of Members Conference:	Sunday 24 to Tuesday 26 February
Venue:	Crowne Plaza, Terrigal - New South Wales
Participants:	FWC Members, FWC former Members and FWC General Manager

Total Travel Costs	<u>\$ 32,978.97</u>
Venue/ Accommodation / Meals/ Presenters	<u>\$ 43,755.71</u>
Total Cost	<u><u>\$ 76,734.68</u></u>

All costs above exclude GST.

Please note: In most cases cost of travel was from home state to Terrigal and return. In some cases travel was not exclusively for the purpose of attending the Members' Conference but also for the purpose of hearings.