

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Agency - Fair Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW1083_12

Senator Fisher asked on 15 February 2012 , Hansard page 40

Question

FWA - Farewell functions for president

Senator FISHER: In view of the president's retirement from the position, are there functions planned, ceremonies planned or gatherings planned to farewell him? Ms O'Neill: Yes, there are. Senator FISHER: What are those? Ms O'Neill: I might take the detail on notice. There is a ceremonial sitting and some informal internal functions. Senator FISHER: What is the detail around the ceremonial sitting? Ms O'Neill: I will take that on notice, unless you have got a particular— Senator FISHER: Who is invited to it and who do you expect to attend? Ms O'Neill: I am not close enough to it. I would need to take that on notice. Senator FISHER: You are not arranging it. Ms O'Neill: No, I am not. Senator FISHER: I would like to know the number of attendees and whether they are commissioners or external parties as well. Ms O'Neill: I will take that on notice. Senator FISHER: Thank you.

Answer

FWA has provided the following response.

A number of events were planned by FWA for the former President's retirement. They included:

- (a) Informal functions to farewell staff in Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne; and
- (b) A public ceremonial sitting of FWA in Melbourne was held on Friday 24 February 2012. Approximately 150 people attended in person and by video link. The majority of FWA members attended the sitting. Invitees included the Prime Minister, the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, family members, former members, judicial officers, lawyers, barristers, and registered organisations. Representatives from peak organisations were also invited to speak, with Stephen Smith (AIG), Jeff Lawrence (ACTU), Steve Knott (AMMA), Minister Shorten and Melanie Sloss SC each giving an address.

Transcript of the ceremonial sitting is available on the FWA website.