

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2012-2013

Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0933_13

Senator Abetz asked on 13 February 2013, Hansard page 91

Question

Number of Workplace Relations Ministerial Council Meetings

Senator ABETZ: How many ministerial council meetings would there be per year?

Mr Kovacic: The COAG requirement

Senator ABETZ: In this portfolio.

Mr Kovacic: In terms of the workplace relations area, it clearly depends on the business of the council. For instance, in the second half of last year they had two meetings of the select council.

Senator ABETZ: In that case, can you give me on notice the notice given for each of the ministerial council meetings for the last two years.

.....Senator ABETZ: If it is a telephone conference or whatever, that is still a technical meeting of the ministerial council, is it not?

Ms Paul: Yes, it is. A teleconference does represent—

Mr Kovacic: Yes.

Ms Paul: In COAG terms, yes.

Senator ABETZ: So I will be given the advice as to the notice

Mr Kovacic: Yes, certainly.

Answer

The Select Council on Workplace Relations (SCWR) was launched in September 2011 as part of a new Council System aimed at progressing nationally significant reforms. All obligations of the former Workplace Relations Ministers' Council (WRMC) are now pursued through SCWR.

Since February 2011, there has been one meeting of WRMC and two meetings of SCWR. The last meeting of WRMC was held on 10 August 2011. Members were notified of this meeting on 14 June 2011.

The first SCWR meeting was held on 6 July 2012. Members were notified of this meeting on 30 May 2012. At the 6 July meeting, members were given notice that the next meeting would be in early August 2012.

The second SCWR meeting was held on 17 August 2012. Members were formally notified of the date for the meeting on 6 August 2012.

The next meeting of SCWR was held on 3 April 2013. Members were notified on 6 March 2013.