

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations

DEEWR Question No.EW0190_10

Senator Fisher asked on 31/05/2010, Hansard page 69.

Question

MULTILATERAL IGA

Senator FISHER—The multilateral IGA has provisions in it about consultations with the states in the event of amendment to the Fair Work Act, does it not? Mr Kovacic—That is correct. Senator FISHER—Can you update the committee as to whether there has been any activity in that regard? Ms Shelley—Yes, I can in relation to two instances. One of them relates to the regulations in relation to take-home pay orders. Those regulations have now been made. The other one that I can mention is the Paid Parental Leave Bill. The Deputy Prime Minister wrote referring the states and the territory ministers in April to commence the consultation in relation to proposed amendments to the Fair Work legislation. I can take on notice whether there has been anything further from that, but I am aware of those two.

Answer

As indicated at the Budget Estimates hearing, the Department has to date undertaken consultation with the state and territory governments, in accordance with the IGA, on proposals and amendments to Fair Work legislation as follows:

- regulations under the *Fair Work (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Act 2009* in relation to take-home pay orders and in relation to the ability of Fair Work Australia to vary the coverage of State reference public sector transitional awards; and
- consequential amendments to the Fair Work legislation following the introduction of the Paid Parental Leave Bill 2010.