

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

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

Agency - Fair Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW0177_13

Senator Fisher asked on 28 May 2012 , Hansard page 45

Question

FWA - Costs of ceremonial sitting

Senator FISHER: I would have thought so. If you don't ask, you don't know, do you! What would the disbursement costs have been of the majority of those 51 attending the ceremonial sitting? Ms O'Neill: Do you mean travel costs? Senator FISHER: Yes—and any accommodation costs. Ms O'Neill: Again, I will take it on notice, but, as I recall, this immediately followed the annual members conference, so there was minimal additional cost involved. Essentially, members stayed an extra day or so to attend. Senator FISHER: Okay. Can you confirm that, please. Ms O'Neill: Yes. Senator FISHER: And also confirm whether people did stay over an extra day; and, if so, how many? Ms O'Neill: Yes.

Answer

Fair Work Australia has provided the following response:

The Ceremonial Sitting to farewell Justice Giudice was held in Melbourne on Friday, 24 February 2012. Thirty one members attended including 15 interstate-based members.

There were no particular disbursement costs (including travel or accommodation) incurred by the Melbourne-based members attendance at the ceremonial sitting.

Fifteen interstate members also attended the ceremonial sitting, each of whom also attended the Members' Conference in Victoria on Sunday 26 February 2012. The additional costs associated with the attendance of the interstate members at the ceremonial sitting totalled \$14,909.29 excluding GST.