

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 169  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Corporate  
**Program:** Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)  
**Topic:** Gender Equity Network  
**Hansard Page:** -  
**Question Date:** 2 March 2017  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Abetz asked:**

Have any Gender Equity Network events been held since its inception open to staff?

If so, please advise how many, where and when, with a description of each such event;

If so, i) Is staff attendance voluntary?

ii) Is staff attendance recorded?

iii) Can staff attend during working hours without any impact on their wages or remuneration?

**Answer:**

To date, two events have been held:

— 8 December 2016, Canberra, attended by 97 people, National Portrait Gallery

Rowena Allen, Victorian Commissioner for Gender and Sexuality presented on '*Why Gender Equity Matters*'.

The presenter spoke about how variable the gender space is, and the value of and need for inclusivity and education about issues faced by all people.

— 13 February 2017, Canberra, attended by 110 people, National Portrait Gallery.

Virginia Haussegger, Director 50/50 by 2030 Foundation, University of Canberra, presented on the topic '*Gender Equality – Are we there yet?*'

Issues presented ranged from global gender politics to the state of gender equality at a more local level. Discussion included the importance of using language that is inclusive, emphasising that everyone has a role in creating a more equitable workplace.

- i) Yes, staff attendance is voluntary.
- ii) The number of staff indicating attendance is monitored to ensure venue capacity is not exceeded, however individual attendance is not recorded.
- iii) Yes, staff can attend during work hours without any impact on their wage/remuneration.