



Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Minister for Employment
Minister for Women
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service

Reference: MC16-000847

The Hon Brendan O'Connor MP
Shadow Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr O'Connor

Resignation of Mr Michael Lawler as Vice President of the Fair Work Commission

Thank you for your letter of 16 March 2016 concerning the former Vice President of the Fair Work Commission, Mr Michael Lawler, and the report of inquiry by the Hon Peter Heerey AM QC into matters relating to Mr Lawler.

You asked about any entitlements Mr Lawler may receive as a result of his resignation rather than removal from office. Any pension entitlements Mr Lawler may have are governed by the *Judges' Pensions Act 1968*. If you require further information about any other entitlements Mr Lawler had as a result of his resignation from office, I would suggest that you contact Ms Bernadette O'Neill, General Manager of the Fair Work Commission.

You have also asked me about observations in Mr Heerey's report concerning leave arrangements for Fair Work Commission members and about the application of the *Judicial Misbehaviour and Incapacity (Parliamentary Commissions) Act 2012* to proceedings for termination of their appointments. I am of course giving Mr Heerey's report careful consideration, but at this point I do not propose to comment further on it.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michaelia Cash'.

Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash

6/4/2016