

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

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

Agency - Fair Work Australia

DEEWR Question No.EW0737_11

Senator Abetz asked on 23/02/2011, Hansard page 68.

Question

FWA - NUMBER OF DAYS ALLOCATED TO CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Senator ABETZ—How many sitting days are allocated to confidential matters? Could you possibly take that on notice for us.

Answer

Fair Work Australia has provided the following response.

As a result of confidentiality provisions in Part 13 of the Workplace Relations Act 1996, as continued under Schedule 19 of the Fair Work (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Act 2009, hearings and conferences conducted in relation to matters under Part 13 of the Workplace Relations Act 1996 do not appear on the hearing lists found on the Fair Work Australia website. For the period between 1 July 2010 and 28 February 2011, there were 271 hearings conducted in relation to matters under Part 13 of the Workplace Relations Act 1996.

Additionally, from time to time a member in a particular matter may decide that proceedings remain confidential. Also, unfair dismissal matters can be dealt with privately.