

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

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

**Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0193\_11**

**Senator Fisher asked on 31/05/2010, Hansard page 78.**

***PAID PARENTAL LEAVE***

**Question**

**FAIR WORK ACT - AMENDMENTS**

Senator FISHER—All right. The Deputy Prime Minister, as I understand it, has ruled out any further amendments to the Fair Work Act this side of the election, in any event, hasn't she? Mr Kovacic—I am aware of some general comments that the Deputy Prime Minister may have made to that effect; in terms of the precise terms of those comments I cannot say because I have not got them with me. Ms Paul—That is a matter for her, obviously. .... Senator Arbib—I am happy to check that for you.

**Answer**

As a result of the passage of the Paid Parental Leave legislation, consequential amendments to the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Fair Work Act) are proposed.

The proposed amendments are:

- Inclusion of a 'keeping in touch' provision in the National Employment Standards. Under this provision, employees accessing 12 months' unpaid parental leave under the National Employment Standards could work up to 10 days for the purposes of keeping in touch with their employer without that work breaking the employee's single continuous period of leave. The provisions will be comparable to those included in the Paid Parental Leave legislation.
- Inclusion of a note in Section 536 of the Fair Work Act entitled 'Employer obligations in relation to pay slips'. This note will refer employers to their obligations to provide written notice of parental leave pay under the Paid Parental Leave legislation.

The Government has not advised of any other proposed amendments to the Fair Work Act.