

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

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

**Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0193\_13**

**Senator Fisher asked on 28 May 2012 , Hansard page 68**

**Question**

**FWO - Matters referred from Centrelink regarding paid parental leave**

Mr O'Shea: The process in place is that, when a complaint is made to Centrelink that paid parental leave has not been provided adequately, Centrelink refers the matter to the Fair Work Ombudsman. Centrelink have referred two matters. One is in relation to the keeping in touch day, which I understand at this point is not a financial—  
Senator FISHER: So what was the issue? Mr O'Shea: I would need to take that on notice. I only have it in a list. I do not have it broken down.

**Answer**

*The Fair Work Ombudsman has provided the following response.*

The Fair Work Ombudsman received a referral from Centrelink on 18 July 2011 regarding an alleged underpayment for a 'keeping in touch day' (KIT day).

A KIT day is a day that falls within a period of parental leave, where the person performs paid work for the employer. It intends to assist an employee in returning to the workforce following their paid and/or unpaid parental leave. Employees can access up to 10 KIT days under the paid parental leave scheme.

The referral to the Fair Work Ombudsman concerned an employee receiving paid parental leave and her understanding of the wages she expected to receive during KIT days.

The Fair Work Ombudsman's investigation determined that the employee received her minimum statutory entitlements and no further action was taken.