

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 190

Topic: Women's Forums

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Cash asked:

A role of the Office of Women is stated to be to provide the principal focus on consultation between the women's sector and Government and represent Government at national and international forums on women's issues such as the UN. Please advise:

- a. What national and international women's forums representatives from the Office of Women have attended since November 2007?
- b. In relation to each Forum:
 - a. Provide the names of those who attended;
 - b. How were the attendees selected and by whom? Were there selection criteria, if so, what were they?
 - c. What was the person's role at the relevant Forum?
 - d. What was the cost of each attendee at the relevant Forum?

Answer:

Domestic Forums

Office for Women staff attend or participate in a wide range of domestic forums, conferences and meetings as part of their ongoing work of the Office. These include forums such as the 2008 National Rural Women's Summit, the National Women's Alliances Annual Forum, meetings with the National Women's Alliances, and conferences organised by Women on Boards and national or community based women's groups. Travel is funded from within the departmental budget. Provision of the detail requested would require a significant diversion of resources to respond.

International Forums

Information on international travel undertaken by the Office for Women from November 2007 to present can be found at **Appendix A**.

Appendix A

Dates of Activity	Activity Title	Location	Office for Women Attendees	The Office for Women's Role in the Activity	Total Departmental Costs
26-30 November 2007	APEC Gender Focal Point Network	Jarkata, Indonesia	Ms Jeannine Bevan, Director	As delegated "friend of the chair" the Office for Women sent a gender specialist to provide assistance.	\$5,910.00
3 December 2007	APEC Initiative Fiscal Space –Reviewing, Assessing and Prioritising Government Expenditure	Brunei, Darussalem	Ms Bronwyn Webster, A/g Branch Manager	Guest presenter on gender related government expenditure issues.	Australian Treasury met all associated travel and accommodation costs.
20 February – 9 March 2008	52 nd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women	New York, USA	Ms Julia Burns, Executive Director Ms Elicia Rudnicki, Policy Officer and Ms. Emily Maher, Policy Officer	Lead the Australian delegation to CSW52 and delivered Australia's country statement.	\$55,170.88 (estimates)
9-15 May 2008 and 17-18 May 2008	APEC Women Leaders' Network and APEC Gender Focal Point Network	Lima, Republic of Peru	Ms Janet Stodulka, Branch Manager, Ms Jeannine Bevan and Ms Patricia Hamilton	The Office for Women was required to attend in order to fulfil APEC "friend of the chair" role.	\$69,806.00 (estimates)
26-28 February 2009	The Minister to attend bilateral meetings in New York relevant to her portfolio responsibilities	New York, USA	The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Ms Monika Wheeler, Adviser, Ms Sally Moyle, Branch Manager and Ms Caroline Hughes, A/g Section Manager.	To discuss housing and gender issues of common interests.	Cost of travel for Minister Plibersek and adviser was covered by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, as per usual practice.
1-5 March 2009	53 rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women	New York, USA	The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Ms Monika Wheeler, Adviser, Ms Sally Moyle, Branch Manager and Ms Caroline Hughes, A/g Section Manager.	Lead the Australian delegation to CSW53 and deliver Australia's country statement.	The Office for Women funded two staff members to participate at a cost of \$43,428.
14-20 November 2009	UN High Level Meeting in preparation for CSW54 and review of Beijing Platform for Action	Bangkok, Thailand	Ms Sally Moyle, Branch Manager.	Position Australia for CSW54 and the review of the Beijing Platform for Action. An important forum	\$5,797.00

				for the development of the international human rights framework for gender equality in our region.	
1-12 March 2010	54 th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women	New York, USA	Ms Sally Moyle, Branch Manager and Ms Jacqui Thomson, Policy Officer	Lead the Australian delegation to CSW54 and deliver Australia's country statement.	\$29,136.00
5-10 June 2010	Ninth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting	Bridgetown, Barbados	Ms Julia Burns, Group Manager and Ms Anne Meuronen, Policy Officer	Represent the Minister for the Status of Women at the Ninth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting.	\$29,558.00
20 July 2010	To appear before the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	New York, USA	Ms Sally Moyle, Branch Manager and Ms Emily Hall, Policy Officer.	Present Australia's country report to the CEDAW Committee for review. Also, required to appear before the CEDAW Committee for a full day of questioning regarding Australia's implementation of CEDAW.	\$24,447.00
16-20 August 2010	Pacific Women's Minister's Triennial	Noumea	Ms Sally Moyle, Branch Manager	Represent Australian interests at the Pacific Women's Minister's Triennial meeting.	\$4,613.00
19-23 September 2010	APEC Women Leaders' Network and APEC Gender Focal Point Network	Japan	Ms Patricia Hamilton, Section Manager	The Government's on-going involvement and representation at the WLN and GFPN supports the valuable contribution of women, including Australian women, to discussion on trade policy and emerging economic issues in the APEC region.	\$10,208.00 (estimate)