

**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:** 220

**Topic:** AppointWomen

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Cash** asked:

Since November 2007 what has been the annual increase in the appointment of women?

**Answer:**

In the 2007-08 financial year, women's representation on Australian Government boards was at 32.8 per cent. In the 2008-09 financial year, women's representation on Australian Government boards stood at 33.4 per cent.

The 2009-10 Women on Australian Government Boards Report was released by Minister Ellis on 23 December 2010, and is publicly available on the FaHCSIA website [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/pubs/govtint/women\\_govt\\_report/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/pubs/govtint/women_govt_report/Pages/default.aspx).

Key findings of the report show that between the 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, of the 6115 board positions spanning 530 Australian Government boards across 19 portfolios, women held:

- 33.2 per cent of board positions (2029 of 6115 positions)
- 17.7 per cent of Chair positions and 32.6 per cent of Deputy Chair positions
- 35.1 per cent of new board appointments (648 of 1844)

The number of portfolios who meet the target has doubled over this period (five of the 19 portfolios now meet the 40 per cent target). Additionally, seven portfolios are above the 30 per cent representation level.