

**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:** 222

**Topic:** AppointWomen

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Cash** asked:

In the introduction to the Report is stated that “*At the October 2009 Commonwealth, State, Territory and New Zealand Ministers' Conference on the Status of Women (MINCO), Ministers welcomed the attention to address and improve the representation of women on government, private and community boards, noting the inadequate performance of the private sector in promoting women to their boards and senior leadership positions. Women's Ministers will work together to explore a variety of solutions to improve the representation of women on boards during 2010*”:

- a. What has been done to date by the various State and Federal Ministers to explore a variety of solutions to improve the representation of women on boards during 2010?
- b. What has been achieved to date?

**Answer:**

A variety of measures are employed across jurisdictions to increase the proportion of women on their individual Government boards and committees.

The Australian Government, Australian Capital Territory, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania all have targets in place for women's representation on government boards.

The Government has committed to achieving a minimum of 40 per cent representation by women and men on Australian Government boards by 2015, and has co-funded 70 scholarships to the Australian Institute of Company Director's course as a practical step to increase the number of board-ready women in Australia.