

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: 240

Topic: Ministerial Council for Women

Hansard Page: 21/10/10 – CA14

Senator Cash asked:

Has the government's plans or potential plans to either abolish, downgrade or absorb into another ministerial council the ministerial council for women been discussed at COAG? Is it on the COAG agenda?

Answer:

In April 2010, following an independent review, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) gave in-principle agreement to a reform of the Ministerial Council system. The report from this review is under consideration.

At the Ministerial Council for Women in 2010, Women's Ministers recognised the important role of the MINCO and welcomed the opportunity to continue its important work. However, Ministers noted that equality between women and men needed to be a strategic consideration across governments and across the COAG reform agenda. Women's Ministers directed their officials to continue working with those leading the response to the COAG Review of Ministerial Councils to ensure that it results in a strategic engagement with the issue of gender equality.