

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30 May 2011

Question: E11-173

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

TOPIC: PAY EQUITY CASE

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Senator Siewert asked:

What is the scale of the implication for this agency (DoHA) of the pay equity case?

Answer:

The implications of the pay equity case for this agency will not be known until a final decision is handed down in the case.

While having formed some preliminary views, Fair Work Australia (FWA) is still to determine the extent to which the Social and Community Services (SACS) sector is undervalued on a gender basis and what the appropriate remedy to such undervaluation should be.

- a) The funding arrangements in the SACS sector are highly complex, with funding provided by a range of sources and through various mechanisms. The Government has established the Community Sector Wages Group (CSWG) to examine the potential implications of pay increases that may be awarded by Fair Work Australia in the case.
- b) The Government is currently assessing the potential cost implications of the case.
- c) The CSWG is assisting the Government to identify possible strategies for addressing any implications flowing from the case.