

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Provision of modelling or gender analysis prior to the announcement of the first economic response to COVID-19

Senator: Gallagher

Question reference number: 0212

Type of question: Hansard, pages 38-39, 22 September 2020

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 October 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

CHAIR: ...I think the Prime Minister announced that the statement would get a refresh in June—I'm interested in March and April, primarily, when initiatives like the early access to super, the child care, the early childhood package and JobKeeper and JobSeeker were announced as big pillars of the first economic response. I'm interested in the opportunity you had to do some gender analysis of those measures, of how those measures would impact on women, and whether you had the opportunity to do that so that cabinet was informed of that ahead of making decisions.

....

CHAIR: You can refer it to the minister if you want, but, from where I sit, an answer about whether or not you were in a position to advise on the gender impacts of those key measures in the package—yes or no—would be useful for the committee.

Ms Hawkins: Then can I take it on notice and come back to you?

CHAIR: Okay.

Answer:

Between March and April 2020, the Office for Women did not brief on early access to superannuation, JobKeeper or JobSeeker in advance of government decisions on these issues.

The Office for Women did provide briefing on childcare during the same period.