

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 6

**Question No:** 208

**Topic:** Gender Pay Gap

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Cash** asked:

The 2010 Labor platform states (<http://www.alp.org.au/getattachment/e8260ebd-355b-4b6b-9943-a358c45cf006/our-platform/>): ‘We need to build a much stronger partnership between men and women to achieve our goals. Labor will do this through: Regulation and education for employers to promote equal opportunity, gender pay equity and work and family balance’

In Labor’s National Platform and Constitution 2007 at chapter 13, point 18, the Government states that it will “further reduce and ultimately eliminate the earnings gap between male and female workers.”

When does Labor expect to fulfil this commitment to “eliminate the earnings gap, which at last count stood at 18 per cent and in Western Australia is reputed to be at 25 per cent?

**Answer:**

Consistent with the Beijing platform, this Government and the previous Government have supported gender mainstreaming as the best practice approach to ensuring gender is considered in the full range of decisions affecting women.

As wages policy is a matter for the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations this question should be referred to that Department.

The Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Amendment Bill, which the Office for Women has taken the lead in developing in consultation with the key stakeholders, acknowledges equal remuneration as a key issue for achieving gender equality.