

**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:** 240

**Topic:** Select Council on Women's Issues

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Cash** asked:

At the first meeting on 18 November 2011, Ministers ‘expressed their concerns about the impact of sexualisation of women and girls on gender equity, and noted in particular the potentially negative impact of child pageants’. The Communiqué from that meeting notes that Ministers will consider a range of options ‘including writing to media outlets and organisers of such pageants expressing concern about the overt sexualisation of girls and the safety and wellbeing of participants in these pageants.’

Have any of these actions, or any other actions, been taken? If yes, which ones? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

The Communiqué of the inaugural meeting of the Select Council on Women’s Issues, held in November 2011, indicated that:

“The Ministers will ask Chairs of relevant Ministerial Councils to consider a range of options including writing to media outlets and organisers of such pageants expressing concern about the overt sexualisation of girls and the safety and wellbeing of participants in these pageants.

Individual jurisdictions will consider their options for action relating to this issue.”

Liaison with relevant Ministerial Councils on the issues raised by Women’s Ministers has commenced.

It will be a matter for each Council, and each jurisdiction, to decide what action, if any, they may wish to take.