

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programmes Question No: SQ16-000035

Topic: Appointments

Hansard page: Written

Senator Joe Ludwig asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. Please detail any board appointments made to date.
2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?
3. Has the department instigated or changed its gender ratio target and/or any other policy intended to increase the participation rate of women on boards? If yes, please specify what the target and policy is for each board.
4. Please specify when these gender ratio or participation policies were changed.

Answer:

1. The Department of Social Services is required to table Senate Order 15, which includes a list of appointments made by the Government. The Department of Social Services tabled its most recent Senate Order 15 report on 2 February 2016. Since the Senate Order 15 was tabled, four appointments have been made to the Settlement Services Advisory Council.
2. Currently, women hold 50 per cent of the 62 Department of Social Services Board positions. The gender ratio for each Board is as follows:

Board name	Female	Male
Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety ¹	1	0
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Limited Board ¹	1	2
Australian Multicultural Council	3	3
National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters	4	2
National Disability Insurance Agency Board	3	5
National Disability Insurance Agency Independent Advisory Council	5	6
Our WaTCh ¹	2	0
The Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership	5	10
Settlement Services Advisory Council	7	3
Total	31	31
	50%	50%

¹ The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Our WaTCh and Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety have additional members who were not appointed by Government and therefore are not reflected in the numbers above.

3. No. The Department adheres to the Australian Government's commitment of women holding 40 per cent of Australian Government board positions – known as the gender diversity target.
4. See above answer.