

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

**Outcome Number:** 7

**Question No:** 212

**Topic:** Female Participation in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Payne** asked:

What is the Department doing to encourage more female participants?

**Answer:**

On-ground evidence from remote service providers suggests that participation by Indigenous men exceeds that for Indigenous women. Women's lower participation rate reflects a demographic trend in remote Indigenous Australia of women outside the workforce caring for children both when young single supporting parents and as older women.

The Department reviews annually the CDEP Community Action Plans to ensure community development projects and work readiness services reflect both individual and community needs. The review process ensures providers have the opportunity to address specific needs of clients.

In light of the anecdotal and research evidence recent CDEP initiatives are focusing on opportunities for women's re-entry into the workforce through training and work experience. Some examples of the targeted approach are training in Children's Services, Business, Hairdressing, and Community Services – Aged Care, Arts and Culture Administration, Retail Food Handling and Rural Operations.