

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 119

Topic: QoNs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Cash asked:

I refer to the answer to question on notice 232 from additional estimates 2011-12 which states the workforce re-entry policy is a matter for DEEWR. Can you please explain and outline the high-level advice you provide to DEEWR on this issue, in particular given that the Women's Budget Statement has flagged the potential productivity gains for women re-entering the workforce after having children. How is the Office of Women able to make this statement?

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. The Office for Women provides support to portfolios to consider gender equality in their policies and programs in a variety of ways.

The Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Amendment Bill 2012, which recently passed through the House of Representatives, contains important drivers to improve women's workforce participation including workforce re-entry.