

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: 140

Topic: Closing the Gender Pay Gap

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Cash asked:

At the last estimates hearings in February Ms Carroll gave evidence that it was in fact DEEWR that had the lead on closing the gender pay gap. Please outline what contribution the Office for Women has, in terms of undertaking to fulfil its commitment to the priority areas of increasing women's economic security and ensuring women's equal place in society, in assisting or advising DEEWR on initiatives, programs, or other actions that will help to close that gap, which still stands at 17.4 per cent? (ABC Gender Pay Gap Statistics, May 2012)

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 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, recognises pay equity as an issue central to achieving gender equality.