

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 234

Topic: Accessibility of domestic violence shelters

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

Is the Department aware that some women with a disability who suffer from domestic violence have been turned away from shelters because they are not accessible? What plans are in place to make sure that domestic violence shelters are made accessible for people with a disability?

Answer:

The Department is not aware of any specific instances where women with a disability who suffer from domestic violence have been turned away from shelters due to accessibility reasons. A search of ministerial correspondence has not found any instances where such issues have been reported.

The Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards which will commence operation on 1 May 2011, in line with the adoption of the Building Code of Australia in each State and Territory, will achieve more consistent, systemic and widespread improvements in access for people with disability to public buildings. The Premises Standards will apply to new or converted buildings.

The Premises Standards will further the Commonwealth Government's social inclusion agenda by progressively ensuring that people with disability and the ageing population have better access to a wide range of public buildings.

The new Specialist Homelessness Services data collection, to be implemented from July 2011, will collect information on whether clients of Specialist Homelessness Services report having a disability.