

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

Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities Question No: SQ15-000947

Topic: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children

Hansard page: 56

Senator Polley, Helen asked:

Can you provide an update on the work that was undertaken for the second action plan on a national response to the sexualisation of children, particularly any outcomes from the issues paper that was under development last year?

Answer:

Under the Responding to Sexual Abuse priority, the Second Action Plan of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children committed to 'explore ways to respond nationally to the sexualisation of children' (Action 13.4).

Two projects have been undertaken in relation to this action;

- an Issues Paper on the Sexualisation of Children, which was prepared by the Department of Social Services; and
- a project titled 'Responding to the Sexualisation of Children and Young People: Creating Safe, Equitable and Respectful Identities' which was undertaken by Our Watch in partnership with the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS).

The Issues Paper uses a rights-based framework to identify the problems associated with the sexualisation of children, particularly in relation to impacts on wellbeing, health and self-image. The paper presents an overview of domestic and international responses to the issue and highlights some possible policy approaches. It informs further work to address sexualisation of children and young people nationally, including the project by Our Watch and AIFS.

As a result of the 'Responding to the Sexualisation of Children and Young People' project undertaken by Our Watch, a resource package 'Discussing Gender Stereotypes' has been released on The Line website for parents and teachers to use with nine to 11 year olds.