

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

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Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Office for Women alliances

Senator: Senator Claire Moore

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Question:

Senator MOORE: Thank you for those lines, because I have not seen them put out in that way. This is a question that I will ask Attorneys, or somebody else will. Has any community legal service been advised of cuts? I will just put that on record to make the whole thing link up. Then, I have a couple of questions about alliances. Can you tell me what the current budget is for the alliances? Also, the website gives me some background to the alliances, but it does not tell me what the budget is. I am just thinking it might be useful for the website to say what the budget is, and it does not.

Ms Larkins: I do not have the budget with me, so I will take that on notice.

Senator MOORE: We asked questions at the last one and I want to acknowledge and thank the minister's office and the department for providing me with a briefing on the process. At that time there had been a budget for a multicultural women's alliance. We were given answers at the last hearing that work on issues to do with multicultural women was going to be given to the other alliances, and their focus would not be lost in the process. Can I have some information about the current work plans of all the alliances and whether there have been dedicated functions in those work plans to look at issues around multicultural women?

Ms Larkins: Again, I could talk in a bit more detail about that, but it is probably better that I take it on notice and give you a comprehensive answer.

Answer:

On 26 March 2015, the Australian Government announced it would restore the final two years of supplementary funding previously allocated to the 57 community legal centres under the Community Legal Services Programme.

The current 2014-15 budget for the National Women's Alliances (the Alliances) is \$1.365 million.

The Alliances, with the exception of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance, are required to ensure their activities address culturally and linguistically

diverse (CALD) women. Alliances have committed to undertaking the CALD activities in their work plans.

The Equality Rights Alliance have committed to:

- undertaking an analysis and debate regarding housing policy, considering the specific needs of marginalised women including those from CALD backgrounds; and
- providing opportunities for members, including those with CALD backgrounds to engage in the budget cycle process.

The Australian Women against Violence Alliance (AWaVA) have committed to:

- including CALD women's organisations in the preparation of policy advice and promotion of the implementation of the Second Action Plan of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-22*; and
- maintaining feedback mechanism for members including: organisations focussing on CALD women to monitor emerging issues, inform AWAVA's position on issues, and gather case studies to add to the evidence base.

The Economic Security 4 Women Alliance (eS4W) have committed to:

- sponsoring CALD women's participation at the launch of the eS4W *Careers Exploration Report* that was held in Perth in 2014 for Equal Pay Day; and
- developing partnerships with the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) to consult with Small and Medium-sized Enterprises for the WGEA Small Business Project. This includes engaging with CALD women due to the significant proportion of CALD women that are involved in small business operations.

The National Rural Women's Coalition Alliance (NRWC) have committed to:

- engaging member organisations with a focus on regional, rural and remote (RRR) CALD women; and
- sharing effective information between RRR women, government, industry and rural communities by incorporating the views of RRR CALD women. This will contribute to increasing the number of CALD women supporters who are engaging with the NRWC at face to face events, online webinars, and NRWC hosted social and digital media.