

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: WLDS grants

Senator: Senator Claire Moore

Question reference number: 39

Type of question: FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 103

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 April 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator MOORE: I would be expecting the same budget report after this meeting as I have had for the last one.

Ms Cross: Yes, we are happy to provide that.

Senator MOORE: I would like to ask about the WLDS grants. The website says that the government has committed \$17.891 million from 2013 to 2018, so we are through the first year and the expenditure is \$1,722,486.20. I am just wanting to get an idea of how this process works in terms of how you budget across the years. With such a significant amount, which is wonderful, what is the process for determining across those five years how much money is given per year? How do you run the budget rounds? It actually says that all new grants will be published at the Department of Prime Minister of Cabinet's WLDS grant reporting page. I would like to know how they are actually advertised, what the process for decision is and who actually does make the decision. The range of organisations and the terms of the current grants that are on that reporting page are very varied, which is great, but when I divide \$17.891 billion by five it does not come up to \$1,722,486.20.

Ms Larkins: I would have to take that on notice. I have not been involved in the process.

Answer:

The Office for Women is allocated an appropriation across the forward estimates as per the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statement for the Women's Leadership and Development Strategy (WLDS).

As of 17 February 2015, the WLDS has committed \$8.765 million since 2013 through to 2016.

Organisations can apply for funding under the WLDS to undertake activities that align with the following Government's priorities for women: safety, leadership and economic empowerment. Consistent with the practice of previous governments, there are no advertised grants rounds.

The approval for funding grant and procurement activities is agreed by the Minister and allocated on an as needs basis.

In accordance with the Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines, information on individual grants must be published on the Department's website no later than 14 working days after entering into the grant agreement.

In accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules, all contracts and amendments over \$10,000 are published on AusTender within 42 days of entering into (or amending) a contract on its website.