

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Office for Women – launch

**Senator:** Senator Claire Moore

**Question reference number:** 89

**Type of Question:** FPA, Tuesday 27 May 2014, page 95

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 June 2014

**Number of pages:** 3

### **Question:**

Senator MOORE: There are a number of women's awards through the government to let departments sponsor different awards for women. I would like to know what the role of the Office for Women is in that. Do you coordinate that? Are you aware of those awards? They are things like the Rural Women's Award and other awards that are around. I would like to know what the interaction is with the Office for Women around those and also what the funding arrangements are. For instance, the Rural Women's Awards has a significantly well-resourced award base. I want to find out how we ensure that things like that are funded into the future.

Ms Cross: We will take the question on notice and see if we can answer it. It may be that in some instances we need to refer you to another department.

Senator MOORE: I understand that. That is why I have come to this one. Did the DSS processes, the gender equality for women programs, stay with DSS?

Ms Cross: Yes.

Senator MOORE: Why did they stay with DSS? This can be on notice as well. There are three major programs funded out of DSS. The National Rural Women's Coalition, the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Australian Sports Commission all have women's leadership and development grants. I want to know why that stayed with DSS. I will ask DSS the same thing.

Ms McDevitt: We might take that on notice around the timing. I think some of those projects are funded from the Women's Leadership and Development Strategy. If you put it in writing that means that we can be very particular about where they sit.

Senator MOORE: A lot goes to why they were women's leadership and development. Your program is women's leadership and development. I am interested in how those go together.

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Ms McDevitt: I think they are projects that have been funded out of that, from what you have said, Senator. But we will have a look at it.

**Answer:**

*Awards*

The Office for Women does not coordinate Government-sponsored awards across Government and does not itself sponsor any women's awards. Government-sponsored awards are the responsibility of the relevant portfolio Ministers (including on occasion the Prime Minister), and administered by their respective departments. The Rural Women's Awards, for example, are managed by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, a Statutory Agency administered by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture.

*Gender Equality for Women Programme (GEWP)*

The Women's Leadership and Development Strategy (WLDS) and the Women's Safety Programme were two separate components under the Gender Equality for Women Programme in the then Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

As a result of the Machinery of Government arrangements, family and community safety programmes remain the responsibility of the Department of Social Services (DSS), including women's safety initiatives. Therefore, the Women's Safety Programme administered funding remains with DSS to support this work.

Similarly, the WLDS was transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as part of the Machinery of Government arrangements with the Office for Women because of the whole-of-government applicability of the programme.

WLDS funding currently supports:

- Board Diversity Scholarship Programme, managed by the Australian Institute of Company Directors;
- Women Leaders in Sport Programme, managed by the Australian Sports Commission; and
- National Women's Alliance Programme, which funds the work of the National Rural Women's Coalition.