

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates 20-24 October 2014**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

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

**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Higher education changes – provision of data

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 7

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 20 October 2014, pages 62 & 63

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 5 December 2014

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator WONG: In relation to the modelling of the impact of the government's higher education changes, in particular, deregulation, the changes to repayment arrangements and debt, do I understand that you have not provided advice in relation to the gender impact of those changes?

Ms McDevitt: The Department of Education is responsible for the modelling in relation to those measures.

Senator WONG: Okay. I presume you do not have an independent modelling capacity in the office?

Ms McDevitt: No, we do not.

Senator WONG: So you have not modelled how that might play out in terms of gender or different income levels, correct?

Ms McDevitt: We do not have that capacity.

Senator WONG: Has any such data been provided to you either during or subsequent to the budget process?

Ms McDevitt: I would have to take that on notice.....

Senator WONG: Well, it is a very simple question. If you have not, that is a matter for you, but have you or have you not looked at or sought advice about the different ways in which women will be affected by the government's proposed higher education changes?

Senator Cash: I will have to take that on notice, Senator Wong, and go and check my files.

Senator WONG: You do not know if you have sought advice?

Senator Cash: No, I said I would take it on notice.

**Answer:**

The Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women does not comment on the nature of advice sought or received.