

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Working Women's Centres

Senator: Moore, Claire

Question reference number: 055

Type of question: FPA Monday 17 October 2016, page 100

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator MOORE: So, you had a teleconference with whom?

Ms McIntyre: There were members of the Working Women's Centres. I do not have the full list of participants who were involved in that. More than one of the centres were represented.

Senator MOORE: Good. Can we get on notice with whom that teleconference was done?

And Minister, your job in terms of Office for Women and also employment: is there any particular interaction—with your women's hat—with the policy decision—

Senator Cash: Yes, there is. We extended the funding for the Working Women's Centres—and I know you were very good in advocating for that—until 30 December. The funding, as you know, is actually administered through the Fair Work Ombudsman. The Fair Work Ombudsman are now going out for tendering, I think it was, going forward. And certainly in relation to the Northern Territory Working Women's Centre, my understanding is that the Fair Work Ombudsman was going to provide them with guidance as to how they should apply et cetera. So, they were fully informed on the application process. There was as much guidance as possible so they were able to put forward an application for the next round of funding.

Senator MOORE: And that was not done for Queensland or South Australia?

Senator Cash: I do not know. I would need to take that on notice for you. But certainly you are right: the Northern Territory were the ones who raised probably more queries than anyone else.

Answer:

The teleconference was held on 2 September 2016 between Amanda McIntyre (First Assistant Secretary, Office for Women), Rachel Livingston (Acting Assistant Secretary, Office for Women) and representatives from Women's Working Centres from South Australia (SA), the Northern Territory (NT) and Queensland.

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) has been in regular contact with the SA, NT and Queensland Working Women's Centres about the Community Engagement Grants

Programme. The FWO has contacted these three organisations proactively to provide information about the application process, and additional correspondence has been sent to individual organisations in response to specific questions raised by them.