

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: Gender Diversity Report 2015-16

Senator: Kakoschke-Moore, Skye

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Question:

Senator Cash: ...as of next year, from 1 July 2017, the live data will also show who the nominating bodies and who they have nominated by way of gender.

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Will that include any information to be communicated to you about the steps they are taking to meet that target?

Senator Cash: I would need to take that on notice. Again, one of the things I am doing now is going through the process in Employment whereby if a male is put forward to me I will now take the step of writing back and asking them whether they considered females and would they please consider a female before they submit another appointment to me. In some cases they do. In other cases they write back and say, 'This is the most qualified candidate.' But certainly you are right: literally intervening in the many steps along the way is assisting in getting people to understand (a) the government's expectations and (b) the cultural change that is required.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is considering options which would require nominating bodies to explain the appointment of a man if they are failing to meet their targets.