

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: Women's Safety Package

Senator: Kakoschke-Moore, Skye

Question reference number: 76

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

The Women's Safety Package has placed an emphasis on improving frontline support and services, including by providing more domestic violence training to police officers. Currently, every state and territory have their own Intervention Order Act, with differing definitions and protections. Each Order has to be re-confirmed if a woman moves or travels interstate as they are only protected within the state they are applied. In May 2015 Senator Cash stated that the legal framework to federalise the Intervention Order scheme was on track to be agreed to by December 2016.

- a. Is this still the expected timeframe?
- b. What has the office for women accomplished so far in meeting this goal?
- c. With the emphasis on women's safety in the Women's Safety Package, has the Office for Women been involved in the discussions to federalise this scheme?
- d. Will the government be conducting a review of the differing Intervention Order Acts, to resolve the existing inconsistencies between the acts?

Answer:

- a. Yes. All jurisdictions with the exception of Western Australia have introduced legislation to their respective parliaments that will underpin the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme.
- b. The Attorney-General's Department has policy responsibility, at the Commonwealth level, for the National Domestic Violence Order (DVO) Scheme (the Scheme). The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) following the merger of CrimTrac and the Australian Crime Commission, has been tasked with developing

two systems in parallel to support the sharing of DVO information under the Scheme. These will be a comprehensive, purpose-built national system for delivery by the end of 2019, and an interim information sharing solution that will leverage off existing police systems and be delivered by November 2016. The interim solution will provide information on the existence of DVOs to enable further direct enquiry and better support law enforcement and courts operationally, while the comprehensive national system will have the capability to support legal evidentiary and enforcement needs in the prosecution of DVO breaches. ACIC made this interim solution available to police in May 2016, with read-only access to be extended to courts by November 2016. The Office for Women/Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) receives updates on the Scheme.

- c. As part of PM&C, the Office for Women supports the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, in his role as chair of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). The Office for Women was consulted in the development of the National DVO Scheme agreed by COAG in December 2015.
- d. A review is not currently under consideration.