

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates Hearings 2003-2004, 16 February 2004

Question: PM 11

Outcome 1, Output 2.1

Topic: Work and Family Taskforce

Hansard Page: F&PA 61

Senator Faulkner asked: How many of those meetings did a representative of the Minister for Family and Community Services attend?

Answer:

A representative of the Minister for Family and Community Services attended three taskforce meetings.

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Question: PM 12

Outcome 1, Output 2.1

Topic: Work and Family Taskforce

Hansard Page: F&PA 63

Senator Faulkner asked: Provide information on the number of times briefs have been provided to the Prime Minister's Office but not Cabinet [Work and Family Taskforce]

Answer:

The Work and Family Taskforce Secretariat has provided around 50 briefs to the Prime Minister's Office on work and family issues since September 2002.

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Additional Estimates Hearings 2003-2004, 16 February 2004

Question: PM 13

Outcome 1, Output 2.1

Topic: Work and Family Taskforce

Hansard Page: F&PA 66

Senator Collins asked: Is it intended that the results of that research be made publicly available [‘the issues important to Australians in balancing work and family responsibility’]?

Answer:

No decision has been taken on releasing the research. It would not normally be made public while the relevant policy work is still being developed or considered.

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Question: PM 14

Outcome 1, Output 2.1

Topic: Work and Family Taskforce

Hansard Page: F&PA 66

Senator Collins asked: How many people are we referring to? [24 focus groups and 14 in-depth interviews]

Answer:

Approximately 200 people participated in the qualitative research. There were 24 focus groups which included between 6-8 people in each group and there were a further 16 in-depth interviews with families, involving 31 people.

Note the correction to the record that there were 16 interviews not 14.

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Additional Estimates Hearings 2003-2004, 16 February 2004

Question: PM 15

Outcome 1, Output 2.1

Topic: Work and Family Taskforce

Hansard Page: F&PA 68

Senator Collins asked: Can we be provided with the details of the task force's modelling on the generosity of family assistance to single and dual income families?

Answer:

Details of the modelling will not be released while the relevant policy work is still being considered or developed.

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Question: PM 16

Outcome 1, Output 2.1

Topic: Work and Family Taskforce

Hansard Page: F&PA 69

Senator Collins asked: Whilst you have told me what work the task force directly commissioned, what research has been commissioned by the various departments that has informed the task force's deliberations?

Answer:

A number of government departments and agencies have ongoing interests in work and family and have research efforts which are also ongoing, for example, the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey which is funded by the Department of Family and Community Services. With the exception of the qualitative research commissioned specifically for the Taskforce, the Taskforce drew on existing research, either complete or ongoing, rather than commissioning new research.