

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Senator: Senator Claire Moore

Question reference number: 49

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 April 2014

Number of pages: 3

Question:

Would the Office for Women provide the Committee with details relating to Australia's attendance at the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women from 10 to 21 March: specifically,

1. Who is attending as part of the Australian delegation?
2. What are the organisations that are self-funding and who are they sending?
3. What report, if any, have we provided to the UN in advance of our attendance?
4. When will that be public? Will the Committee be provided with a copy?
5. What is the process and timeline for reporting back to Parliament after the event?
6. Will any other publication come out of that event? If so, will it be publicly available?
7. How will we know what has gone on at that event?
8. What is the budget for the Australian delegation to that event and what does it include?

Answer:

1. The Australian Government delegation to 58th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW58) comprised the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash; the Ambassador for Women and Girls, Ms Natasha Stott Despoja AM; the Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Ms Elizabeth Broderick; Ms Helen McDevitt, First Assistant Secretary, Social Policy Division, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; Ms Mairi Steele, Assistant Secretary, Office for Women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; Ms Harinder Sidhu, First Assistant Secretary, Multilateral Policy Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Ms Julie McKay, Executive Director, Australian National Committee for UN Women; and Dr Susan Harris Rimmer, Director of Studies, Asia Pacific College of Diplomacy, Australian National University.

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Five delegates, including the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women, attended CSW58 from 8 – 13 March 2014; and Ms Mairi Steele, Ms Julie McKay and Dr Susan Harris Rimmer attended from 8 – 22 March 2014.

2. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has been advised that the following organisations sent representatives to CSW58: YWCA Australia; Australian Women against Violence Alliance (AWAVA); ActionAid Australia; Australian Federation of Medical Women; National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alliance (NATSIWA); Equality Rights Alliance (ERA); JERA International; Australian National Committee for UN Women; Women with Disabilities Australia; BPW International; Catholic Women's League Australia; Gender, Leadership and Social Sustainability Research Unit (GLASS); International Council of Women (ICW-CIF); Asia Pacific Women's Watch; Australian Federation of Graduate Women; Soroptimist International - South West Pacific; and, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Details of their funding arrangements and every individual representative are not known.

3. Australia has not submitted a report to the United Nations ahead of its attendance at CSW58. There is no requirement to do so.

4. See response to question 3 above.

5. On Monday 24 March 2014, the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women tabled a statement in Parliament.

6. The Commission publishes the Agreed Conclusions from each session on the UN Women website after they have been adopted by the General Assembly. Any further reporting post-CSW is at the discretion of the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women.

See responses to questions 5 and 6 above and refer to the Minister's parliamentary statement at

<http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;db=CHAMBER;id=chamber%2Fhansards%2F6a5b8de8-212b-46a9-b00f-61b865fe92a2%2F0082;query=Id%3A%22chamber%2Fhansards%2F6a5b8de8-212b-46a9-b00f-61b865fe92a2%2F0000%22>

7. The Australian Government delegation to CSW58 was smaller than in previous years and costs are expected to be significantly lower. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's budget for CSW58 included

- \$50,000 to support Pacific delegates' attendance;
- \$25,000 for non-government delegates' travel;
- \$25,000 for PM&C officials' travel;
- \$10,000 for CSW events; and

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- \$10,000 for post-CSW activities, including reporting.

Travel expenses for other delegates attending CSW58 were funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Human Rights Commission.