

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Budget Estimates 25 May 2011

Question: 23

Topic: Women in Local Government

Asked By: Senator MOORE

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 44

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Number of pages: 2

Senator MOORE: I have a general question about Women in Local Government, a very active organisation. Do they receive any funding?

Ms Foster: Yes, I am not sure I have the details here with me.

Senator MOORE: That is fine. I will put that on notice.

Answer: The Australian Government committed a total of \$490,000 in January 2010 to support a number of initiatives associated with the 2010 Year of Women in Local Government.

This included:

- \$250,000 for a three-year 50:50 Vision: Councils for Gender Equity program to audit councils and shires to determine the status and role of women in leadership roles as well as their participation in the workplace
- \$100,000 in scholarship funding to enable senior women in local government to participate in the new Executive Leadership Program being developed by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government and the Australia and New Zealand School of Government
- \$100,000 to improve the collection of data and reporting on the status of women in the local government sector
- \$40,000 to the Local Government Managers Australia for their 2010 Management Challenge, involving around 130 councils identifying strategies to promote gender equity in their councils.

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The \$250,000 (GST inclusive) for the 50:50 Vision – Councils for Gender Equity program was allocated to the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA). It comprised \$150,000 contributed by the Australian Government Office for Women and \$100,000 from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

Separately, in June 2009, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government paid \$21,000 (GST exclusive) to ALGWA to assist with administrative functions and secretariat services, including those to support the Gender Equity project and to develop mentoring networks to support women's participation in local government.