

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 159

Topic: Changes to EOWA

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Cash asked:

On 9 March at the National Press Club, Minister Ellis announced ‘a suite of significant reforms to the Act and to the Agency that will give EOWA the powers it needs to really drive gender equality in Australian workplaces.’

What consultative processes have been pursued with business and industry to make sure their voices are being heard and their concerns addressed?

What are the anticipated transition costs of these changes:

- a) To the Department?
- b) To industry and business?

The Minister has outlined that ‘mobile support teams of Agency staff’ will help businesses in the transition phase. What are the anticipated costs of staffing these teams?

Answer:

Consultation with business and industry was conducted through the Implementation Advisory Group which met on 4 May, 7 June, 8 July, 2 August and 5 September 2011.

- (a) The Department has incurred costs associated with the gender indicators project (\$169,730) and for the 2009-10 review (\$294,977).
- (b) Consideration of costs to industry and business formed part of the Regulation Impact Statement which can be accessed at <http://www.finance.gov.au/obpr>.

The costs relating to ‘mobile support teams of Agency staff’ will be a matter for the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency.