

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

**Division/Agency:** Social Policy Division  
**Question No:** 266  
**Topic:** Balancing the Future Strategy  
**Reference:** Hansard page 51 (29 May 2017)  
**Senator:** McAllister, Jenny

**Question:**

Senator McALLISTER: I am going to give it a fourth go. I am hopeful that I will be able to ask about whether Treasury is conducting an examination of the tax-transfer system, and its impact on women and their families.

Senator Cormann: I thought you already answered that?

Senator McALLISTER: I think he said no.

Mr M Brennan: No.

Senator McALLISTER: The APSC released a gender equality strategy called 'Balancing the future', and it contains a section about the G20 commitment we have made about increasing women's workforce participation and what action is being undertaken by government to achieve the target. One of the actions is, 'The government is taking action to boost women's workforce participation by examining the tax-transfer system, and its impact on women and their families.' So is that work not yet being commenced?

Mr M Brennan: It is not underway that I am aware of, within the Treasury.

Senator Cormann: Within the Treasury. I seem to—

Senator McALLISTER: Well, I asked the Minister for Women and she said it was being done by Treasury.

Senator Cormann: No, I seem to recollect that you were asking some questions about this in PM&C.

Senator McALLISTER: I was. They referred me to you.

Senator Cormann: Indeed. So Mr Brennan has given you the answer for Treasury.

Senator McALLISTER: That is great, because the Minister for Women said ask Treasury, and Treasury says they are not doing it.

Senator Cormann: We might take on notice, because as outstanding as Mr Brennan is, he might not be aware of every last bit that is happening within the Treasury. So we might just take on notice to see whether we can further add to that answer, having gone through it.

**Answer:**

Treasury was consulted as part of the development of the Government's *Towards 2025: An Australian Government strategy to boost women's workforce participation*, which was released on 6 July 2017. The Strategy includes a discussion of the tax-transfer system, and its impact on women and their families, and is available here:  
<http://womensworkforceparticipation.pmc.gov.au/>.