

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Maternity Services Review

Senator: Moore, Claire

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Question:

Senator MOORE: Of course. The issue around midwives and also the review of the maternity services in Australia: has the Office for Women had any role in the maternity services review?—which is a pretty significant issue for women. And, secondly, there is the ongoing issue in Australia about the practice of midwives, and, again, in terms of policy, has that had any input from the Office for Women?

Ms Cross: I think we will have to take that on notice. That may have been something worked on by the health area as well as the Office for Women, and, again, it may have been officials sort of liaising—but not that I can recall at my level.

Answer:

As part of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Office for Women is involved in the development and implementation of policies, including Health portfolio issues such as midwives.

The future of the National Maternity Services Plan will be discussed by all health ministers at the Council of Australian Governments Health Council meeting on 8 April 2016.