

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Topic:** Women in Public Service initiative

**Senator:** Moore, Claire

**Question reference number:** 52

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 27 February 2017, pages 100 & 101

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 13 April 2017

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Senator MOORE: Can I get data on how much the delay was on that particular project?

Ms McIntyre: That was about \$300,000.

Senator MOORE: That is one you can actually identify.

Ms McIntyre: That is right.

Senator MOORE: My understanding is that that money flowed into the next year and was not just lost.

Ms McIntyre: No, it did not flow. As you would know, if administered funds are not spent they lapse.

Senator MOORE: That is why I asked the question. So, in effect, a delay in data from another agency cost women \$300,000?

Ms McIntyre: That is the case.

Senator MOORE: Can I find out what the time frame was and the lead-in to that? I would really like to know what the delay was in that space.

Ms McIntyre: I can take that on notice.

Senator MOORE: I would expect it.

Ms McIntyre: It was well into this financial year before we had the guidelines.

Senator MOORE: Can we also find out what the time involved was and when they were asked for it and whether there was a time that we realised it was not coming. That is a significant underspend in, as we know, a limited budget...

**Answer:**

The Office for Women has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Woodrow Wilson Centre for International Scholars (WWC) which oversees the Women in Public Service Project (WPSP). In 2015-16, the Office for Women had \$350,000 set aside from its appropriation to fund projects aligned with the WPSP.

The WPSP Advisory Council commissioned an independent report in June 2014, to examine the WPSP's relationship with the WWC and to evaluate the WPSP's business model. This independent report informed the direction of the WWC's review of the WPSP throughout 2015-2016. All progress and funding for projects under the grant agreement were suspended

until the review was complete, to ensure alignment between the new WPSP strategy and the Commonwealth Government's priorities. Although the review took longer than anticipated, the WWC kept the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet advised of progress and there was no suggestion the review would fail to reach an outcome.

Once the WWC's review was delivered to the Office for Women in February 2016, there was insufficient time for the Commonwealth Government to consider and implement the new strategic direction before caretaker conventions came into effect.