Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation CommitteeANSWERS TO OUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 20-24 October 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet **Topic:** Commission on the Status of Women - delegation

Senator: Claire Moore

Question reference number: 160

Type of question: FPA Monday 20 October 2014, page 50

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 December 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator MOORE: What was the difference in the actual size of the delegation? Maybe you can take that on notice as well. My understanding is that there was not such a great difference in the size itself—I would like to get that confirmed or denied—but it is the policy difference in who paid and did not pay.

Ms McDevitt: There was not a policy difference in who paid. As part of the formal Australian government delegation in addition to the minister we paid for officials from PM&C and from DFAT and for some non-government delegates to be part of the formal Australian government delegation. In addition to that, obviously, a lot of other people paid their own way.

Senator MOORE: There has obviously been a significant difference in the number who were paid for and the number who paid their own way.

Ms McDevitt: I think what you are saying is that there was a reduction in the size of the overall delegation—that went for both bureaucrats and NGO representatives.

Senator MOORE: Can you refine the answer to question 83 to give me the numbers? That would be really useful.

Answer:

There were a total of nine people on the Australian Government delegation to the 58th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women:

- Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women;
- o Ms Natasha Stott Despoja AM, Ambassador for Women and Girls;
- Ms Elizabeth Broderick, Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission;
- Dr Brooke Thomas, Chief of Staff to Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash,
 Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women;

- o one Canberra-based government official from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- two Canberra-based government officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; and
- o two non-government delegates.

This represents a reduction in numbers compared to the CSW57 Australian Government Delegation which had a total of 15 people including:

- o the then Minister for the Status of Women, the Hon Julie Collins MP;
- Ms Penny Williams, Global Ambassador for Women and Girls, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- Ms Elizabeth Broderick, Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission;
- Ms Lisa Mycko, Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for the Status of Women;
- o three Canberra-based government officials from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs;
- o two Canberra-based government officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade:
- o two Canberra-based government officials from AusAid;
- o one Canberra-based government official from the Australian Human Rights Commission;
- o four non-government delegates; and
- o one support person for non-government delegate with a disability.

In both instances the Australian Government delegation received additional support from staff based at the Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York.

Expenditure relating to government officials' travel is the responsibility of their respective departments.

The attendance of non-government delegates is funded by the Office for Women under the Women's Leadership and Development Strategy budget.