

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget 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:** Gender Diversity Report 2015-16

**Senator:** Kakoschke-Moore, Skye

**Question reference number:** 57

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 17 October 2016, page 101

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 2 December 2016

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: I have just one final question in relation to the Gender balance on Australian government boards report. In the round of Senate estimates in October last year my colleague Senator Xenophon questioned the process involved in compiling the gender balance report. At the time, the acting assistant secretary of the Office for Women described it as a data collection process but also stated that the office plays a coordination role. Perhaps on notice, if we cannot do so right now, you could elaborate on what that coordination role involves—on notice?

Senator Cash: Yes, I would be more than happy to.

**Answer:**

Data on reportable boards (as defined by the Gender Balance Report Guidelines issued by the Office for Women) is gathered from departments by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in July. This data is cleared by the relevant Deputy Secretary in each department and submitted to the Office for Women.

The data covers:

- number of boards as at end of June (per portfolio)
- number of appointments made as at end of June (per portfolio)
- overall proportion of women on boards as at end June (per portfolio)
- number of appointments made over preceding financial year (per portfolio)
- overall proportion of women appointed over preceding financial year (per portfolio)
- overall proportion of women Chairs and Deputy Chairs appointed over preceding year (aggregated at whole-of-Government level).

The Office for Women:

- collates the data and identifies any trends
- provides data to the Minister for Women to distribute to individual portfolio ministers via letter
- prepares the Gender Balance Report for release to the public.