

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 6

Question No: 159

Topic: Commission on the Status of Women, March 2011

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Cash asked:

Please provide a report on Minister Ellis and Mairi Steele's visit to New York for the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2011.

Answer:

Minister Ellis led the Australian delegation for the first week of CSW, supported by Ms Steele. In the second week, Ms Steele led the Australian delegation's negotiations on the language for the Agreed Conclusions.

See FaHCSIA website at www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/progserv/intengage/un/Pages/default.aspx#commission for an update on CSW 55. See **Attachment A** for details on Minister Ellis and Ms Steele's activities during CSW 55.

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Attachment A

Minister Ellis's Attendance at CSW 55

- At CSW, Minister Ellis:
 - delivered Australia's Country Statement (Thursday 24 February), which focussed on education and training, and access to decent work, and referred to Australia's *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children*
 - jointly hosted a Ministerial Welcome Reception with Qatar and Brazil
 - launched, internationally, Australia's *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children*
 - chaired a Pacific side event, jointly hosted by New Zealand, entitled *Access to Education = Success in Employment?*, and
 - participated in a side event, jointly hosted by Armenia, promoting the independent role of National Human Rights Institutions in the proceedings of CSW.
- The Minister also attended bilateral meetings with:
 - Michelle Bachelet, Under Secretary-General and Head of UN Women
 - Melanne Vermeer, US Ambassador for Global Women's Issues
 - Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Secretary-General of the World YWCA
 - The Hon Rona Ambrose, Canadian Minister for the Status of Women
 - Baroness Verma, UK Minister for International Development and for Women and Equalities in the House of Lords, and
 - Ms Ilene Lang, President of Catalyst New York.

Ms Steele's Attendance at CSW 55

During CSW, Ms Steele:

- provided support to Minister Ellis
- participated in CSW sessions, including the high level plenary sessions where the Country Statements were delivered
- attended the CSW side events listed above
- participated, as a panellist, in BPW International's workshop, *Closing the Pay Gap*, hosted by the Permanent German Mission to the United Nations
- accompanied the Minister to some of her bilateral meetings, as listed above, and
- led the Australian delegation's negotiations on the language of the Agreed Conclusions for CSW 55.