

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates Hearings 2002-2003, 10-11 February 2003

Question: PM59

Outcome 1, Output 2.2

Topic: CEDAW

Hansard Page: F&PA 221

Senator Crossin asked: Has OSW investigated the issue since the statement in 1995?

Answer: In 1998, OSW, in conjunction with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Attorney-General's Department, held public consultations and invited written submissions on the reservation.

In 2000, Australia withdrew its CEDAW reservation on women's employment in combat related duties. Australia's reservation on women's employment in direct combat units remains in force.

In 2000, the Department of Defence established a project team to develop gender neutral employment competencies for the combat employment categories. These competencies are to be finalised before bringing forward proposals to open up further employment categories in direct combat to women.