

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: PM60

Outcome 1, Output 2.2

Topic: Women in combat

Hansard Page: F&PA 221

Senator Crossin asked: Does the Government intend to withdraw the reservation (women in combat)?

Answer: 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, including direct combat. These competencies are to be finalised before bringing forward proposals to open up further employment categories in direct combat to women.