

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 2003-2004, 16 February 2004

Question: PM 56

Outcome 1, Output 2.2

Topic: "Statement of Savings"

Direct on Notice

Senator Faulkner asked:

On p.29 of 'Statement of Savings Expected in Annual Appropriations' 2003-04, \$1.179m of estimated savings are identified under the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet.

(a) What programs can this saving be attributed to? That is, where is this underspending occurring in the department?

Answer: The net saving of \$1.179m in the department's 2003-04 administered appropriations is due to the deferral of expenditure of \$1.631m for women's programmes for 2003-04, that is offset by increases in expenditure of \$0.452m for other administered functions.

(b) Is any of this related to the Office of the Status of Women? If so, for what specific programs?

Answer: There is a deferral of funds for women's programmes of \$1.631m from 2003-04 and \$0.859m from 2004-05 consisting of:

- \$0.966m in 2003-04 and \$1.524m in 2004-05 rephased from the *National Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault* programme to 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively; and
- \$0.665m from 2003-04 rephased from the *Partnerships Against Domestic Violence* programme to 2004-05.

The deferrals are necessary to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet the costs of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) follow-up survey to the 1996 Women's Safety Survey. Due to other higher priority demands being faced by the ABS, work on this survey has been delayed until 2004-05.

Overall expenditure on women's programmes remains unchanged, as the deferrals do no more than reschedule existing expenditure to later periods.