

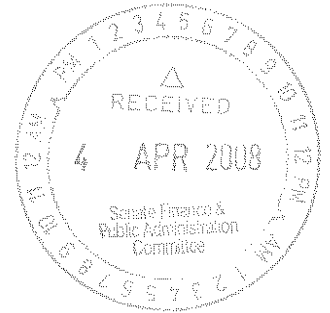
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates Hearings 18 February 2008



Question: PM86

Outcome 1, Output 2

Topic: Family Impact Statements

Hansard Page: Written Question

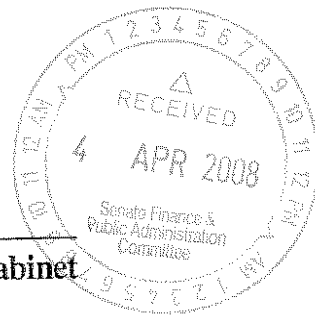
Senator Fielding asked: Please provide a copy of the guidelines for preparing family impact statements.

Answer: A copy of the Interim Guidelines for the preparation of Family Impact Statements is attached. Longer term measures are under development.



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INTERIM GUIDELINES FOR FAMILY IMPACT STATEMENTS

1. What is a Family Impact Statement?

A Family Impact Statement (FIS) is a component of Cabinet documentation which describes the potential economic and social impacts on Australian families of new policy, programs or legislation. All submissions provided to Federal Cabinet require a FIS, including Cabinet submissions and Portfolio Budget submissions and associated New Policy Proposals.

2. Why is a Family Impact Statement required?

The purpose of the FIS is to help inform Cabinet decisions by providing Cabinet with an assessment of the potential impact on Australian families of new policy, programs or legislation. The process of developing a FIS also helps agencies to identify and address the impacts on Australian families during the development of new proposals.

3. Identifying family impacts

Agencies need to consider whether a new policy, program or legislation will have any impacts – negative or positive – in terms of three key areas:

Economic impact on family wellbeing

For example, what is the impact on:

- Family income and assets, including relevant taxation, income support and family payment provisions; and
- Affordability of major services for families including child care, education, housing and transport.

Work and family balance

For example, what is the impact on:

- Family responsibilities, including areas such as economic responsibilities and caring responsibilities;
- Family health and functioning;
- Opportunities and incentives for workforce participation; and
- Workplace relations.

Children's health, development and general wellbeing

For example, what is the impact on:

- Children's health and access to health/medical services, facilities, resources and education;
- Children's development, including physical, mental, and social development; and
- Children's general wellbeing.

In addition, it may be appropriate for agencies to consider family impacts in other areas, including:

Services and Infrastructure

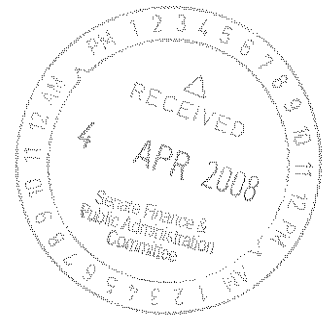
For example, what is the impact on:

- Access, supply and quality of major services for families including child care, health, education, housing and transport;



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- Community programs and community support to families, including community engagement and connectedness; and
- Family safety.

Family Functioning

For example, what is the impact on:

- Family relationships, including strengthening families, supporting families at risk or in crisis, and family law;
- Early childhood development and care; and
- Parenting and carer support.

4. How detailed should the Family Impact Statement be?

Proposals that are principally directed at families (such as those relating to family payments, child care, family health or family law) and which are therefore expected to provide detailed discussion of the family impacts in the body of the submission, require a FIS which summarises the impacts.

All other FISs should specifically consider the impact on families in the three areas of economic impact on family wellbeing, work and family balance and children's health, development and general wellbeing. Where any impact is anticipated, further details are required.

Proposals that have no impact on families require a brief FIS to that effect.

5. Where to include the FIS

Agencies should consult *The Drafter's Guide: Preparation of Cabinet Submissions and Memoranda*.

6. Further Information

The Office of Work and Family (OWF) in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) is responsible for managing the FIS process.

The OWF has the opportunity to routinely provide input to the coordination comments provided by PM&C. Where there is a difference of opinion between the OWF and the responsible agency, regarding the FIS, this is likely to be addressed in PM&C's coordination comments.

The OWF is available to provide advice to agencies and encourages early contact.

Telephone:
02 6271 5160 or 02 6271 5653

Email: family.impact@pmc.gov.au
(unclassified material only)