

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2003-2004, 26-27 May 2003

Question: PM73

Outcome 1, Output 2.2

Topic: Office of the Status of Women

Direct on Notice:

PM73 Part 1

Senator Crossin asked: How many people participated in the 2003 WomenSpeak Conference?

Answer: There were 488 participants at the Conference.

PM73 Part 2

Senator Crossin asked: What was the amount of funding provided by OSW for the Conference?

Answer: \$270,000

PM73 Part 3

Senator Crossin asked: Provide detailed financial statement of expenditure for this conference. How much was spent on speakers? How much was spent on the Conference dinner?

Answer: The Conference accounts have yet been finalised.

Approximately \$35,500 was spent on speakers. This figure includes travel, accommodation, transport and reimbursement of costs associated with attending the conference.

Estimated cost for the Conference dinner, including pre-dinner drinks and savouries, is approximately \$27,000.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2003-2004, 26-27 May 2003

PM73 Part 4

Senator Crossin asked: What was the cost of the Conference per individual participant? How many people applied/were granted sponsorship to enable them to attend under financial difficulty? Could you provide a breakdown of the cost of the registration fee participants had to pay to attend the Conference?

Answer: It is not possible to impute a cost per delegate to attend the Conference. It should be noted that due to the number of sponsorships obtained, costs for the Conference were kept to a minimum, and in fact, were lower than those for the Inaugural Conference held in August 2001.

Twenty applications for sponsorship were received and 19 of those were granted.

A breakdown of the cost of registration fees are listed below:

Full early individual registration	\$295.00
Full late individual registration	\$395.00
Full daily registration	\$ 80.00
Concessional registration (students, HealthCare cardholders)	\$195.00
Concessional daily registration	\$ 80.00
Non-Government Organisation – NGO (for up to 3 delegates)	\$395.00
NGO daily registration	\$250.00

*NB –Registration fees did not increase from the Inaugural Conference.

PM73 Part 5

Senator Crossin asked: Has there been a formal evaluation completed yet? Please provide a copy.

Answer: A formal evaluation is to be completed by the Department this calendar year. However post-conference evaluation forms completed by delegates indicate that the conference was viewed very positively.

PM73 Part 6

Senator Crossin asked: What outputs or outcomes from this conference are currently being fed into OSW policy or programmes?

Answer: The overall themes of the conference highlighted women's achievements and celebrated the Centenary of Women's Suffrage: OSW obtains input to policy and programmes in a range of ways, including through meetings, consultancies, contracted work with women's NGOs, secretariats, taskforces, meetings with other departments, meetings with a range of stakeholders and through the Australian WomenSpeak Conference.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2003-2004, 26-27 May 2003

PM73 Part 7

Senator Crossin asked: Have any of the papers or presentations from this conference been sent to conference delegates? Is there any plan for this to happen?

Answer: It is intended that key papers from the Conference will be made available on the OSW website.

PM73 Part 8

Senator Crossin asked: Were individual participants in the Corporate Conference "work and family conference" to which the OSW provided \$32,000 worth of funding made to pay a registration fee?

Answer: No.

PM73 Part 9

Senator Crossin asked: What was the amount of funding WWDA received to complete the report *Moving Forward: Sterilisation and Reproductive Health of Women and Girls With Disabilities*?

Answer: Women With Disabilities Australia received \$27,500 under the Women's Development Programme in 2000-01 to hold a National Forum on sterilisation and reproductive health of women and girls with disabilities, and to produce the report arising from that Forum, *Moving Forward: Sterilisation and Reproductive Health of Women and Girls With Disabilities*.

PM73 Part 10

Senator Crossin asked: Has the Non Government Organisation Women With Disabilities Australia continued to receive funding through the OSW.

Answer: Other than funding received in 2000-01 under the Women's Development Programme, Women With Disabilities Australia has not received further funding through OSW.

PM73 Part 11

Senator Crossin asked: Is Women With Disabilities Australia part of the Secretariat of women's NGOs?

Answer: Women With Disabilities Australia is a consultative partner of the Security 4 Women Consortium managed by the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2003-2004, 26-27 May 2003

PM73 Part 12

Senator Crossin asked: What further work has the OSW done in regards to the sterilisation and reproductive health of women and girls with disabilities?

Answer: The OSW has participated in an interdepartmental forum convened by the Attorney General's Department on the illegal sterilisation of disabled minors.

PM 73 Part 13

Senator Crossin asked: Was the OSW required to contribute (research or staff) to the delegation sent by Australia to the 5th Asia Pacific Population Conference in December 2002? In what form was this contribution made to the delegation?

Answer:

Yes. OSW provided policy advice on the outcomes statement and action plan and input into Australia's country statement.

PM 73 Part 14

Senator Crossin asked: Did OSW provide any information to the delegation of Senior Officials on the International Conference on Population and Development with regards to the reproductive rights of women within the context of the status of women in Australia and internationally?

Answer:

Yes. OSW was requested by AUSAID to provide advice under Section 9, Gender Equality and Development, which included:

"improvements made in women's status since the Bali Conference and ICPD, as reflected in their legal rights, education, health, employment, position in the household and family decision-making power."

OSW's response provided information on reproductive rights education, including Commonwealth contributions to sexual and reproductive professional education, community education and clinical services.