

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: PM90

Outcome 1, Output 2.2

Topic: Women's Internet Portal - www.women.gov.au

Direct on Notice: PM90

Harradine
Senator Crossin asked: I understand that the Internet portal www.women.gov.au does not have a balanced coverage of the debate surrounding abortion. Does the Department agree that there are women supporters and opponents of abortion? Is the department aware that a search of the work "abortion" leads to only pro-abortion material being found? Would the Department please rectify this situation so that there is balanced material on this topic.

Answer: The internet portal aims to provide a single point of access to online government information, research, services and resources that are targeted at women or of specific relevance to women.

Some material found through the women's portal may include views, opinions or recommendations of third parties, which do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commonwealth, or the Office of the Status of Women, or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.

The Department is aware that there are some areas where the number of links to relevant information is short. There are a number of factors which prevent some information from being displayed, one of which relates to the software limitations of content owner sites.

However, given that a balanced description of the options facing a woman experiencing an unplanned pregnancy can be found elsewhere on the site, albeit from the header links on the page, rather than through the 'search' box, it will be ascertained whether ALL relevant sites for information on this topic can be made available via the 'search' box.