

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 Supplementary Hearings 2002-2003, 20 November 2002

Questions: PM 47-48

Outcome 1, Output 2.2

Topic: *Australia's Beijing Plus Five Action Plan*

Direct on Notice

Senator Crossin asked:

PM47. In the country statement to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (NY March 2002) it is stated, "*Over the past twelve months the Australian Government has taken significant steps to implement Australia's Beijing Plus Five Action Plan 2000-05.*" What policy has the Government actually developed in response to the Beijing Plus Five Action Plan?

PM48. What has been achieved since the round table of Government Department Senior Officials in May? What new actions have been adopted to reduce gender inequality in these Departments and by the Government on a national scale?

Answer: Several initiatives have been undertaken to implement *Australia's Beijing Plus Five Action Plan 2001-2005*. These include a Beijing Plus Five Roundtable, meetings with departmental secretaries, a *Beijing Plus Five Kit*, a gender mainstreaming telephone advisory service. Since 2000, a wide range of Government initiatives have also been implemented to further improve outcomes for women. Some key measures include a women's information strategy, the *National Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault*, the *National Leadership Programme* and the *Women's Development Programme*.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Supplementary Hearings 2002-2003, 20 November 2002

Question: PM 49

Outcome 1, Output 2.2

Topic: *Beijing Plus Five*

Direct on Notice

Senator Crossin asked: PM49(a) What further future developments or plans have been made in relation to the Beijing Plus Five Platform and its implementation in Australia? Is there any ongoing work on the Beijing Plus Five Platform?

Answer: Over the past two years, implementation of the *Beijing Plus Five Outcome Document* has focused primarily on OSW working with government agencies. OSW is currently developing an implementation strategy for the next phase.

Senator Crossin asked: PM49(b) Is there any form of review conducted by the OSW to assess the Governments commitment and implementation of policy in line with the Beijing Plus Five Platform?

Answer: No.

Each year, OSW collects information from government agencies on initiatives that are relevant to the thematic areas for discussion at the Commission on the Status of Women meeting.

It is anticipated that OSW will report on Australia's efforts to implement the *Beijing Platform for Action* and *Beijing Plus Five Outcome Document* for the United Nations Fifth World Conference on Women. The Conference is scheduled to be held in 2005.