

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 Supplementary Hearings 2003-2004, 3-4 November 2003

Question: PM 12, PM13 and PM14

Outcome 1, Output 2.2

Topic: Evaluation of Secretariats

Hansard Page: F&PA 127

Senator Crossin asked: What is the time line for the evaluation of the national secretariats under the women's development program. Are those publicly available?

In relation to the two-year period, could you give me some more detail on the external evaluation, the internal compliance audit and the self-evaluation: when they are expected, who does them, what time are they due to report to you and whether any of those are actually available publicly.

Answer: The three-part evaluation of the National Secretariats commenced in September 2002 with the external component of the evaluation. This was conducted by a research agency, Worthington Di Mazio. It used focused telephone interviews with member organisations to ascertain the effectiveness of the consortia model for the exchange of information between government and the women's sector. The evaluation was completed in December 2002.

The second and third components of the evaluation were conducted over the period October 2002 to March 2003 and comprised:

A Self-Evaluation by each of the four National Secretariats based on an assessment of each of the two quarterly reports submitted to OSW by the Secretariats in November 2002 and February 2003 respectively.

An Internal Compliance Audit that involved an audit of the contracts with the Secretariats from the commencement of their contracts in November 1999. The audit reviewed each Secretariat's performance against the contract requirements. It commenced in October 2002 and was completed in March 2003.

The complete evaluation of the Secretariats was finalised in March 2003. The satisfactory outcomes of the evaluation led to the extension of the contract with the National Secretariats for two years to 30 June 2005.

Each of the Secretariats was given a copy so that we could work together to address the findings. It was not generally made available as it was thought it would be of little interest to the public.

It is expected that an evaluation of the Secretariats' performance against their current contract will be undertaken closer to the contract termination date of 30 June 2005.