

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
[SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010-2011]

[Portfolio of the Prime Minister and Cabinet]

Department/Agency: Australian Institute of Family Studies
Outcome/Output Group: Australian Institute of Family Studies
Topic: Research on abortion

Senator: Boswell

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Type of question: Written

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- a) Has any research been done on the impact of abortion on family relationships, and if not, can such a study be undertaken in the near future?
- b) What, if anything, is being done to raise the profile of adoption as a real option instead of abortion?

Answers:

- a) AIFS has not undertaken research on the impact of abortion on family relationships. A study on this topic is not currently planned and is not in AIFS' 2009-2012 Research Plan. Such a study could be undertaken but would require funding.
- b) AIFS has not conducted research into what is being done to raise the profile of adoption as an alternative to abortion. However, on 4 June 2010, the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference (CDSMC) announced that Ministers had agreed to a joint national research study into past adoption practices, to be conducted by AIFS. The focus of this study will be on understanding current needs and information to support improved service responses. In a broad sense, the subject matter of the research is relevant to the issue of abortion, and the options that women felt were available to them in the past.