

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Question: 94

Topic: Women in Local Government

Asked By: Senator RHIANNON

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 116

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011

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Senator RHIANNON: Thank you. You spoke there about collecting data. I note that the Minister for the Status of Women, Kate Ellis, has stated that the government is committed to increasing representation of women on boards, which is obviously very relevant to local councils. Only around five per cent of chief executive officer positions in local government are actually occupied by women. So, apart from the scholarships for women to participate in the first course at the Centre of Excellence for Local Government, is there ongoing funding to ensure increased representation of women in senior local government positions?

Mr Atkinson: I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department administers three projects in relation to representation of women in senior local government positions.

These projects are:

- The Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) Excellence in Leadership Program due to be completed by December 2011.
- 50:50 Vision: Councils for Gender Equity (An Australian Government initiative delivered through the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government and the Office for Women in FAHCSIA). This project is due to be completed by June 2012.
- Data on Women in Local Government due to be completed by June 2012.