

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Program 1.2**

**Question No. 68**

**Senator Cash asked the following questions at the hearing on 18 October 2011:**

1. Why was the decision made not to extend the Bsafe project beyond the three-year pilot conducted from 2007 to 2010 in the Hume region in Victoria?
2. What were the benefits of the Bsafe Program?
3. The Cost analysis in the Bsafe final report shows that: 'The cost of a woman with children who accesses crisis accommodation, refuge, transitional housing and then exits into private rental in the Hume region was estimated at \$10,195.90', compared with a cost of \$3755.12 for women who access crisis accommodation and returned home with Bsafe. What was the rationale behind axing a policy that had a proven economic impact?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

1. Women's Health Goulburn North East (WHGNE) received non-recurrent funding under the National Community Crime Prevention Programme (NCCPP) in 2007 for the Bsafe pilot project. The funding concluded in March 2011 at the end of the project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement between the Commonwealth and WHGNE.
2. The Bsafe pilot project objectives centred on providing an effective integrated, multi-agency response to improve the safety and autonomy of victims of family violence and sexualised assault while increasing detection and accountability for those perpetrating such violence.

The Bsafe pilot successfully met these objectives and allowed women and children to stay in their own homes and communities, reduced fear of crime, reduced incidence of family violence within the community and facilitated early intervention and arrest of repeat offenders.

3. Women's Health Goulburn North East successfully completed the Bsafe Pilot project in March 2011 and expended the funding for the project in accordance with the Funding Agreement. No policy was axed.