

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Question No. 13

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:

Please provide an update of the eight supplementary reports to which you refer regarding the Freedom of Religion and Belief in the 21st century project.

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

The Freedom of Religion and Belief in the 21st century project has involved the preparation of a series of background research papers on a diverse range of issues by academics. Each background paper presents the independent views of the authors, and is intended to inform the consultation report of the project (prepared by the Australian Multicultural Foundation). The following supplementary or background papers have been received and are currently being finalised for public release:

- *Freedom of religion and belief and physical and mental wellbeing* - VicHealth
- *Religion and the arts* - Professor Amareswar Galla (University of Queensland)
- *The law, judiciary and religion* - Associate Professor Carolyn Evans (University of Melbourne)
- *Religion and family law* - Maria Dimopoulos and Justice Nahum Mushin
- *Indigenous spiritual expression and freedom of religion and belief* - Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)
- *The intersection of freedom of religion and gender equality* – separate papers from Muslim, Catholic and Jewish perspectives written by Ghena Kryhem, Sister Trish Madigan, and Melinda Jones and Peta Pellach
- *Freedom of religion and belief and global peace* –Professor Kevin Clements (University of Otago)
- *Inter-faith dialogue as a means of peace-building and public safety* – Anna Halafoff (Monash University)
- *Freedom of religion and belief and secularism* –Dr Nicholas Tonti-Filippini (Australian Catholic University)

The Commission has also commissioned Professor Kevin Dunn of the University of Western Sydney to conduct a demographic analysis of submissions received during the consultation phase of the project.

The consultation report and background papers for the project will be released in early 2011.