

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

**Question No. 14**

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

Please provide as much detail as possible regarding the use of the \$6.6 million funding increase. Where that money is spent on staffing, please outline the staff levels and functions and roles of the staff. Where the money is not spent on staffing, please outline what the funds will be used for.

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

The Australian Government announced in the 2010-11 Budget that the AHRC will receive the following funding over the next four years for community education activities:

2010/11:	2011/12:	2012/13:	2013/14:	<b>TOTAL</b>
\$1.015m	1.433m	2.073m	2.092m	<b>6.613m</b>

The funding has been provided for the following three activities:

1. Community education.
2. Additional inquiries and complaints staff.
3. To assist the Attorney-General's Department with education among the Australian Public Service and to cover workload associated with the consolidation of discrimination laws exercise (beyond the core workload relating to usual interaction on legislative amendments).

**1. Community education activities** – For the Commission to develop and deliver community education programs about rights and responsibilities, providing seminars and material online. Over the four years, materials and programs will also raise awareness of other components of Australia's Human Rights Framework, including the consolidated anti-discrimination Act. The Commission's activities will be complementary to education activities undertaken by NGOs under the new human rights education grants program.

Resourcing to the Commission for this work is comprised of staffing and travel components. There is no program funding.

**2. Inquiries and complaints** – To address the anticipated increase in inquiries about human rights issues as well as usage of the Commission's complaints handling service. Resourcing to the Commission for this work is comprised entirely of staffing.

**3. APS Education** – While materials will be developed and delivered primarily by AGD, staffing has been provided to enable AHRC to provide educational and human rights expertise.

The total staffing to the Commission is for 8 positions in 2010-11; 11 positions in 2011-12; and 16 positions in 2012-13 and 2013-14.