

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

Question No. 63

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:

Question: In the settlement with Mr James Ashby in *Ashby v Commonwealth of Australia* (NSD 580 of 2012), the Commonwealth undertook to:

“Implement an improved education program for staff employed under the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 concerning the processes by which issues of bullying and harassment can be brought to its attention and remedied, and offer specific training for members and senators in relation to issues of sexual harassment.”

1. Has the Commission been approached by the Department regarding this ‘improved education program’?
2. Does the Commission intend to have input in the development of this ‘improved education program’?

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

1. Yes, the Commission was contacted on 24 October 2012 by an officer from the Department of Finance and Deregulation regarding the development of an on-line sexual harassment training for Members of Parliament.
2. The Commission is happy for the sexual harassment materials available on the Commission’s website to be used in the development of the ‘improved education program’. The Commission has not been requested to provide any other input into the development of the ‘improved education program’.