

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

Question No. 82

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

Are there any further reports from the roll-out of the Stronger Futures legislation? Have you received any complaints relating to the roll-out of this legislation?

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

The Australian Human Rights Commission made an extensive submission to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee on the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011 and two related Bills. The Submission is available on the Commissions website at: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/legal/submissions/2012/20120206_stronger.html. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner (Social Justice Commissioner), Mick Gooda and the Race Discrimination Commissioner, Dr Helen Szoke also appeared before the Committee regarding the Bills. Their statement is also available on the Commissions website at: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/legal/submissions/2012/20120301_stronger.html.

In the *Social Justice Report 2012*, scheduled for tabling in the last week of November 2012, the Social Justice Commissioner has reviewed the process undertaken by the Australian Government to secure the Stronger Futures legislation. In the report the Commissioner considers the consultation process and the Senate Inquiry. He also provides comment on future considerations, focused on implementing the legislation.

The Commission has not received any complaints about the rollout of Stronger Futures to date.