

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

Question No. 84

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

Has there been any follow up from the report you released earlier this year about discrimination against older Australians in the workforce? Have you collected any additional data about older workers, or do you have any plans to collect further data? Please provide details.

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

The Commission collects and publishes annual data about the nature and the number of age discrimination complaints. This includes workforce discrimination complaints. The data is published in the Commission's annual reports.

In June this year the Age Discrimination Commissioner contracted *Essential Media* to conduct research into community attitudes to ageing. This data has been used in speeches and may inform future publications.

In 2012 the *Deloitte Access Economics* conducted research for the Commission into the benefits to the Australian economy if the workforce participation rates of people over 65 were increased by 3% and 5%. This research was conducted on a pro bono basis.

The Age Discrimination Commissioner is continuing work into age stereotyping in the media and will be commissioning research into the scope and depth of age stereotyping and discrimination in the community. The research will be finalised by April 2013 and media roundtables will be held in June 2013.