



Australian Government

Australian Law Reform Commission

Professor Rosalind Croucher
President

Senator Barnett (*Chair*), Senator Crossin (*Deputy Chair*)
Senate Standing Committees on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100
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Canberra ACT 2600
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9 March 2011

Dear Senators,

I refer to the draft Hansard of the second public hearing on 3 March 2011 in the Inquiry into the Australian Law Reform Commission and would like to note for the record that a statement made by Senator Crossin during her questioning of Justice Hammond was inaccurate, as follows:

CROSSIN—Thanks, Chair. Justice, thanks for your contribution and your submission. In New Zealand, if you are actually dealing with a specific area of law reform, is there a capacity to appoint temporary, full-time commissioners? Let me just give you an example. **Here in Australia, the Law Reform Commission has undertaken some work in relation to family law, so the government provided the capacity for a full-time commissioner to be based with the Law Reform Commission during that period of work, because of that person's expertise. Does something similar happen in New Zealand?**

In fact the government did not provide for a full-time Commissioner to be based with the ALRC during the family violence inquiry. There was only one ALRC full-time Commissioner for that inquiry, and that was myself. Only a part-time Commissioner was appointed specifically for that inquiry—Magistrate Ann Goldsbrough, from Victoria. However, as the ALRC has explained in evidence, and in its submission to the Inquiry, there is a significant difference between the role of a full-time and part-time Commissioner and the support that they can give to any inquiry.

Since December 2009 there has only been one full-time Commissioner—and that is me. There has been no other full-time Commissioner since then.

I would appreciate it if you could note this correction formally for the record.

Yours sincerely,

Rosalind Croucher

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