

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights

Attorney-General's Department

Hearing date: 20 October 2023

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Josh Burns asked the following question:

Chair - On notice, can I ask that the Attorney-General's Department come back to us on whether there is an estimated cost for an education program—if there were to be one—within the Public Service especially, which is probably the area of expertise that you would have, as opposed to a broader education program that might be separate for the general public. What would it take from a resourcing point of view to ensure that there is localised expertise of human rights inside the different government departments? Let us know if there is any advice that can be provided for the committee as we make the recommendations around the whole framework.

The response to the question is as follows:

The cost of any public sector education program would depend on multiple factors including the scope of learning objectives, mode of delivery, scale and timeline for delivery, as well as the nature of any educational support materials developed such as e-learning modules or guidance material. While the department has not undertaken current costings for a new education program, information on the 2010 human rights education program funded by the then Government is set out in the Department's submission to the Committee.

When the 2010 Human Rights Framework was launched, \$3.8 million was provided over four years to develop an education and training program for the Commonwealth public sector. That program consisted of face-to-face workshops, an e-learning module and the development of human rights guidance material including publicly available public sector guidance sheets which contain information on the rights and freedoms in the seven core international human rights treaties to which Australia is a party.