

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Program: Australian Human Rights Commission

Question No. SBE16/021

Senator Siewert asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2016:

Senator SIEWERT: Professor Triggs, I would like to ask you some questions in your acting role. I am particularly interested in the debate around the justice targets and whether the commission has been doing any work in that space. Have you considered the issue and have you provided any advice to government about justice targets as part of the Closing the Gap targets?

Prof. Triggs: Thank you very much, Senator Siewert. It is an important question. The commission has over many years, particularly, of course, recently under Commissioner Gooda, made recommendations in relation to justice targets, and we have reported recently to that effect.

Senator SIEWERT: To whom?

Prof. Triggs: In our Social Justice Report last year, and I believe we are doing the same this year as well.

Senator SIEWERT: In the report that will be coming this year?

Prof. Triggs: That is right. It is just being finalised now.

Senator SIEWERT: What I am after is: has your advice been sought most recently given the current debate that is on at the moment? Has your advice been specifically sought for both national and state and territory targets?

Prof. Triggs: As I understand it, no. But perhaps, if it would help you, I could take that on notice to look at when we were last asked this question and give you a fuller report on when and how we have raised the issue of justice targets. But I know it has been a matter very much on the mind of Mick Gooda throughout his term.

Senator SIEWERT: Okay, thank you. I would be particularly interested, too, in who asked you for that advice.

Prof. Triggs: We would be very happy to provide that. Thank you very much, Senator.

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

The Australian Human Rights Commission has not been specifically requested to give advice regarding justice targets by the Australian Government.