

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

Program: Australian Human Rights Commission

Question No. SBE16/023

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

Senator SIEWERT: Are you starting to get complaints about the NDIS in relation to people with disability?

Mr McEwin: We have a small number at the moment, but it is too early to comment on the nature of those complaints.

Senator SIEWERT: When you say a 'small number', what is the quantum?

Mr McEwin: I do not have exact figures. I am happy to take that on notice.

Senator SIEWERT: If you could. I am also particularly interested in whether you have received any complaints relating to the NDIS, particularly in relation to hearing.

Prof. Triggs: I know we have had some, but, again, I will have to get back to you very precisely with that information. We will be very happy to do that in a comprehensive report about these statistics.

Senator SIEWERT: I am careful in terms when I ask about the nature of complaints, but could you provide some indication of the nature of those complaints?

Prof. Triggs: Yes, we will give you rather more detailed information within each category of disability about where those complaints lie. Again, there tends to be a spike in certain areas for reasons across a year. I have every expectation that with Alistair McEwin's position we probably will give greater public understanding of those with hearing disabilities and their rights under the law, and I think it is quite likely we will actually see more of these kinds of complaints arising.

Senator SIEWERT: That would be appreciated.

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

The Australian Human Rights Commission has received seven complaints against the National Disability Insurance Agency, the agency that administers the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The majority of these complaints do not relate to the administration of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Two of the complaints are from individuals who have identified hearing impairment as their disability