

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

Program: Australian Human Rights Commission

Question No. SBE16/106

Senator Watt asked the following question at the hearing on 12 December 2016:

Senator WATT: Professor Triggs, thank you for coming back yet again to estimates. Obviously coalition senators are big fans of your work. They like to get you in regularly and have you here for hours. Have you kept a bit of a record of how many hours of evidence you have provided to this committee over, say, the past couple of years?

Prof. Triggs: I have a record of how many hours in each session I would spend. I have not added them up.

Senator WATT: You do not have those numbers handy at all, just to give an indication?

Prof. Triggs: It goes from anything between eight hours and four or five.

Senator WATT: So, you are usually here for at least four or five hours per session?

Prof. Triggs: Yes.

Senator WATT: So, over the past couple of years—there are three sessions of estimates a year—at a minimum we would be talking about 24 hours, and probably longer if you add in the eight-hour session and that kind of thing?

Prof. Triggs: I would have to take that question on notice. In fact, as you know, in the Hansard the exact time is there to be checked, so I can easily come back to you with an answer on notice.

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

At senate estimates sessions between May 2014 and October 2016, the Commission has appeared for 31 hours, inclusive of breaks.

Date	Time started	Suspended/finished	Hours
29 th May 2014	9.05	10.30	1.25
20 th November 2014	12.16	16.34	4.18
24 th February 2015	9.06	16.48	7.42
27 March 2015 (spill over day)	13.05	16.01	2.96
28 th May 2015	9.06	11.40	2.34
20 th October 2015	9.05	12.04	2.99
9 th February 2016	9.08	12.54	3.46
5 th May 2016	9.06	10.39	1.33
18 th October 2016	9.05	16.09	5.04
Total			30.97