

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

Program: 1.9 Royal Commissions

Question No. SBE16/132

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

Questions for the department:

1. Did the Department consult stakeholders prior to the establishment of the Royal Commission?
2. If so, who, when and on what detail? Were stakeholders consulted on the terms of reference and the appointment of commissioners?
3. What advice did the Department provide on the terms of reference, and when?
4. What advice did the Department provide on the Commissioners, and when?
5. Did the Department's advice to the Government include advice from the Solicitor-General?

Questions for Senator Brandis:

6. Indigenous Australians criticised you and the Government for ignoring their request to be consulted on the establishment of the Royal Commission. Are they correct in their criticism?
7. What consultation did you undertake prior to announcing the terms of reference for the Royal Commission and appointment of Brian Martin? Did you consult indigenous leaders?
8. Did you seek the advice of the Solicitor-General on the establishment of the Royal Commission?
9. The Member for Warringah, Tony Abbott, has said that the Government rushed its response to the ABC report into the treatment of children in detention. Is the Member for Warringah correct?
10. When did Brian Martin advise you that he intended to resign as Royal Commissioner?

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

1. Questions about the creation of Royal Commissions should be directed to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.
2. See answer to question 1.
3. See answer to question 1.
4. See answer to question 1.
5. See answer to question 1.
6. No.
7. My office consulted extensively with stakeholders, including Mick Gooda, the Northern Australia Aboriginal Justice Agency and the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission.
8. No.
9. No.
10. Saturday 30 July 2016.