

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

Group: 2

Program: Other Agency

Question No. AE15/105

Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 27 March 2015:

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Professor Triggs, are you a member of the Administrative Review Council?

Prof. Triggs: I believe I have been an adviser to it.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: But you are not a member?

Prof. Triggs: No.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Are you aware of when it last met?

Prof. Triggs: No, I am not. It reports and I receive its reports. But when it last met, I do not know.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: What is the nature of the advice you provide to that council?

Prof. Triggs: It has been that I have looked at matters that raise matters of public international law, essentially, and international human rights treaties. But my engagement has been a very slight one. In fact, it was in the earlier days of my presidency rather than now.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: It may be some time since it has met.

Prof. Triggs: It would have been at least nearly two years ago that I had any dealings with them. But may I take that on notice and come back to you?

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Yes, if you could. I am also interested in terms of how its affairs relate to your ongoing role as well, if you could deal with that question.

Prof. Triggs: We would be very happy to look at that.

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

Section 49(1)(ba) of the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975* provides that the President of the AHRC is an ex officio member of the Administrative Review Council. This provision of the AAT Act was inserted in 2011.

The last Council meeting was attended by the previous President on 22 July 2012 (by teleconference). There has been no meeting held since.

The ex officio members of the Council wrote to the Attorney-General noting the status of the ARC on 6 March 2014. A copy of the letter is attached.