

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Question No. AE16/004

Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 9 February 2016:

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Okay. Professor Triggs, former Senator Stott Despoja is an ambassador for women and girls. What are the other positions that relate to Australia's human rights effort?

Prof. Triggs: We obviously are and have long been engaged in the United Nations human rights monitoring processes, and they are conducted basically through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with advice and support from the Attorney-General's Department. That engages a surprisingly large number of people, in fact, who go to these meetings and working groups. There is a major working group on the rights of indigenous peoples, for example, and rights in relation to women, children, disabilities and obviously race. On notice I can give you the names of all of those committees and those people who are currently appointed to them. Our ambassadors throughout the world play a role in relation to human rights—

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: No, I am asking more specifically about specific positions other than an ambassador, such as Senator Stott Despoja, which is why I used her as an example.

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

This is a question for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade who is responsible for the appointment of such positions.