

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

**Program:** Australian Human Rights Commission

**Question No. AE17/003**

**Senator Siewert asked the following question at the hearing on 28 February 2017:**

Senator SIEWERT: ... Also, I appreciate the answer you gave me about hearing impairment. Could you give me the numbers on hearing impairment.

Mr McEwin: Is your question about how many people with hearing impairment are making complaints to the commission?

Senator SIEWERT: It is specifically about accessing hearing services. You said there have been two to date. I have received a number of concerns. I am wondering if you are receiving concerns about access to hearing services as well.

Mr McEwin: Can I clarify? Do you mean in general? You are not talking specifically about the NDIS—you mean people with hearing impairment accessing hearing services?

Senator SIEWERT: There are two specific issues: generally about hearing services; and specifically under the NDIS, including early intervention.

Mr McEwin: I will have to take those on notice.

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

The table below provides the number of complaints that the Commission has received from people who identify as having a hearing impairment since July 2015. The table also provides the number of complaints from people who identify as having a hearing impairment who are complaining about access to hearing services, including interpreting services, Auslan, hearing loops and captioning services.

	2015-2016	July – Dec 2016
Hearing Impairment	40	29
Access to hearing services	17	11
NDIS	0	0