

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

Program: Australian Human Rights Commission

Question No. AE17/007

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

Senator McKIM: Thank you. That is abundantly clear.

These may be questions to Commissioner Soutphommasane, but I will offer them up to the table. First, with regard to the 'Racism. It Stops with Me' campaign: is that funded out of existing commission funds?

Dr Soutphommasane: Yes.

Senator McKIM: So there is no extra funding allocated for that?

Dr Soutphommasane: No.

Senator McKIM: Are you able to inform the committee what the forecast funding allocations are in the commission's budget for that campaign for the future?

Dr Soutphommasane: I can take that on notice, but, to give you a general sense of the figure involved: it would be about \$100,000 per year.

Senator McKIM: Thank you. I am happy if you wish to take these on notice as well. How many staff would be working on that? I guess you are not going to get many staff involved with that for \$100,000. Could you give an indication of what kind of events and matters you would be looking at pursuing as part of that campaign? Have you collected any baseline data? How do you intend to assess the efficacy of that campaign? What data have you got and what data will you collect as part of that campaign and any evaluation process to determine the success or the impact of that campaign?

Dr Soutphommasane: Yes. I am happy to give you a preliminary answer. We currently have a secretariat officer who works on the campaign on a part-time basis. There are also other staff who contribute to the campaign from time to time. In terms of events and activities: we are currently developing a community service announcement courtesy of a \$50,000 grant that has been given to us by the Department of Social Services, which is a member of the National Anti-Racism Partnership, which oversees the work of the strategy and 'Racism. It stops with me.'

In terms of baseline data and evaluation: we did conduct an evaluation of the National Anti-Racism Strategy a few years ago, and I would be happy to give you further details of that.

Among the things we measure is whether supporters of the campaign feel that they have a better understanding of issues of racism and whether they feel empowered to take action on racism. I can advise you that the campaign evaluation was very positive on measures such as those.

Senator McKIM: Thank you

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

The Commission has allocated \$90,000 from its regular budget in 2016-17 to deliver the National Anti-Racism Strategy. This is supplemented by contributions from other government departments that are members of the National Anti-Racism Partnership and Strategy from time to time.

Currently, the Secretariat is staffed by a Project Officer (APS 6) 3.5 days per week. The Manager, Education and Innovation (EL2), the Adviser to the Race Discrimination Commissioner (APS 6) and the Executive and Research Assistant (APS3/4) to the Race Discrimination Commissioner also support the work of the Strategy.