

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

Program: Australian Human Rights Commission

Question No. AE17/008

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

Senator McKIM: ...I wanted to raise with you a matter that has just been drawn to the attention of the Senate. It has been drawn to the attention of the Senate in recent times by a person of some standing in the community who has recently complained of a group of people having something taken from them because of retrospective changes that were made by this parliament. The person I am referring to likened those changes to the work of Hitler, Stalin and Idi Amin. Of course, I am referring to that noted champion of human rights Senator Ian Macdonald here, and he was complaining about parliamentarians who have lost their gold card entitlements. I wanted to ask whether the commission has received any complaints from Senator Macdonald or any other member of parliament in regard to this egregious abuse of human rights, as Senator Macdonald has described it.

Prof. Triggs: To my knowledge we have received no complaints.

Senator McKIM: So there have been no complaints at all. Perhaps I could ask you to take that on notice.

Prof. Triggs: I will. I am aware of none, but I will certainly take it on notice and check.

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

The Commission has not received any complaints about this issue.