

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

Group: 2

Program: Other Agency

Question No. BE15/031

Senator Siewert asked the following question at the hearing on 27 and 28 May 2015:

Senator SIEWERT: In that, I will put those questions on notice. I have a couple of questions on disability. Regarding employment, you said 30 to 40 per cent.

Ms Ryan: Yes.

Senator SIEWERT: Is the 30 to 40 per cent the range over a period of time and so there have not been any improvements?

Ms Ryan: I would have to have the year-on-year details, and I do not have them in front of me, but I will certainly provide you with that information. Generally, the situation of access to employment has not improved in recent years. You will be aware that in the Australian Public Service, for example, there is a very low rate of employment of people with disability, which is lower than it was some years ago. I am already having discussions with the Public Service Commission, secretaries of departments and so on around that. I will provide you with those detailed year-on-year comparisons on notice, but it seems that the situation has not been getting better; in fact, it might have been deteriorating, hence the relevance of the national inquiry that Senator Brandis asked us to undertake.

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

The table below sets out information on the percentage of complaints the Commission has received over the past 10 reporting years which relate to disability discrimination in employment. Over the 10 year period, the average is 40%. In the five year reporting period 2004 – 2009, the average is 48%. In the following five year period 2009 – 2014, the average is 33%.

Reporting year	Percentage of complaints received under the <i>Disability Discrimination Act, 1992 (Cth)</i> that relate to employment
2004-2005	49%
2005-2006	58%
2006-2007	46%
2007-2008	46%
2008-2009	40%
2009-2010	36%
2010-2011	31%
2011-2012	31%
2012-2013	33%
2013-2014	33%