

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

Group: 2

Program: Other Agency

Question No. BE15/035

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

Senator RHIANNON: Professor, how many matters have you passed to the AAT in the last 12 months?

Prof. McMillan: In the last 10 months of this reporting year, we have discontinued 56 under a provision of the act that says I can discontinue the matter and the applicant can then commence the proceedings afresh in the AAT. We do not refer the matter to the AAT; we simply discontinue. The short answer is 56 in the last 10 months.

Senator RHIANNON: Is it possible, out of those 199, to inform the committee how many are from individuals trying to ascertain information about their own circumstances and how many are from organisations?

Prof. McMillan: I do not have those figures at hand, and my guess is that we do not have those.

Mr Pilgrim: No. We will take on notice whether we can do that.

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

The OAIC is unable to provide a breakdown of matters on this basis as it would require a manual review of each matter, and require the OAIC to divert administrative resources from other functions.