

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Australian Human Rights Commission

Question No. BE17-078

Senator Abetz asked the following question on 25 May 2017:

Senator ABETZ: Thank you. Let us try and get through this quickly. I refer to question on notice No. 416. When were the two meetings referred to in the answer set up? I assume that you will need to take that on notice. I invite you to take that on notice given that an answer is not yet—

Prof. Triggs: Thank you, Senator Abetz. I will take that on notice.

Senator ABETZ: The freedom of information request would suggest that the invitation to address the Bob Brown Foundation lecture was accepted in December 2016—is that correct?

Prof. Triggs: I do not recall when the invitation was received. I would have to take that on notice.

Senator ABETZ: Take on notice when it was received and when it was accepted. The freedom of information schedule of documents suggests, albeit highly redacted et cetera—we are working through a process—that the speech you delivered as president may have been written not only by the president. Would that be correct? Staff were involved in its creation?

Prof. Triggs: You are referring to the speech I gave—

Senator ABETZ: At the Bob Brown Foundation.

Prof. Triggs: At the Hobart oration?

Senator ABETZ: That is right.

Prof. Triggs: Yes. I would have to, again, check the records. I think I wrote that speech myself.

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

1. The meeting with the Tasmanian Equal Opportunity Commission was set up on 22 Feb. 2017. The former Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Robin Banks sent an invitation on January 9 2017 for the President to visit Tasmania.
2. The invitation to address the Bob Brown Foundation lecture was received on 24 Nov. 2016, and accepted on 28 Nov. 2016.
3. The President wrote the speech, but some of the material was drawn from previous speeches which staff assisted with.