

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Australian Human Rights Commission

Question No. BE17-080

Senator Watt asked the following question on 25 May 2017:

Senator WATT: Yes. Before I was interrupted, I was reminding Senator Brandis that while the Department of Finance did give evidence that their role is to maintain the system overall, it is agencies that are responsible for providing information. So is it not the case that it was the responsibility of his agency to provide that information?

Senator Brandis: Well, assuming that that is right—and I will assume that it is—I suppose it all depends what the question is about. If the question is about the website, it is a question to the Department of Finance. If it is a question about what information an agency in my department provided to the Department of Finance for the purposes of the website, it is obviously a question for the Human Rights Commission.

Senator WATT: So whose responsibility is it to provide correct information to the Department of Finance?

Prof. Triggs: Well, I would imagine it is our responsibility, so I will certainly go back to the office and find out exactly what information we gave them or what the timing was. If we failed to get that information with regard to Mr Wilson's appointment to them in a timely way, I will report back to you as a question on notice and apologise. But I do not know that that is the case at all. I need to go back to the office and find out what happened.

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

The Attorney-General's Department clarified this question during the hearing. It is the responsibility of the Attorney General's Department to provide updated information. Updated information was provided to the Department of Finance on 23 November 2016, and the website was updated by the Department of Finance on 10 April 2017.