

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017**

**Australian Human Rights Commission**

**Question No. BE17-109**

**Senator Abetz asked the following question on 29 May 2017:**

Budget papers show that the Human Rights Commission has grown to 116 positions – 5 additional staff is that correct?

I understand that these staff are returning from a secondment. Have these positions been vacant over that period?

If the Commission has been operating without them for such a period doesn't that demonstrate there is capacity for the Commission to reduce itself in size?

Can you provide a breakdown of what these 116 staff do?

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

The staff who were seconded to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse were replaced by a mixture of contract staff and staff on higher duties arrangements. There will be a reduction in contract and other arrangements to accommodate the return of these staff to the Commission.

The 116 Australian Human Rights Commission staff carry out a variety of roles including:

Complaint Handling, Human Rights Policy development and promotion, preparation of reports on behalf of the National Children's Commissioner and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, managing major inquiries, delivering technical co-operation programs, working with partners to identify and promote best practice to prevent discrimination, research and analysis of domestic and international human rights issues, support services for Commissioners and President, legal services, education delivery, production of resources to support employers and corporate support activities.