

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

Group: 2

Program: Other Agency

Question No. SBE14/017

Senator O'Sullivan asked the following question at the hearing on 20 November 2014:

Prof. Triggs: and we are dealing with a matter of law. I have discussions across the commission with executive staff daily. We discuss matters that certainly would not be minuted, but we have six-weekly, formally minuted meetings with all the commissioners, and I will certainly check our minutes to see at what stage we were starting to discuss it in the minutes. In other words, we have informal discussions in the early part of the year as to whether this is a good idea or not, but, by about the middle of the year—and I am advised now it was June—we would have a decision.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: These discussions in the February are informal?

Prof. Triggs: Yes, I think I was discussing with the executive staff and also with the legal department and with those who were handling our detention centre visits as to whether it was appropriate, whether we had the resources to do it, what we were committed to and so on.

Senator Brandis: Senator O'Sullivan, I will ask the commission to check its minutes in January and February 2013.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Please.

Senator Brandis: If there is any reference in those minutes to this prospect of and inquiry, they will be produced to you, and, if there is no reference in them, we will provide you that answer on notice.

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

There is no reference in the Commission Meeting minutes from January and February 2013 to an inquiry into children in detention.