

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Question No. SBE15/099

Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2015:

1. How has the decision to combine the roles of Age and Disability Discrimination Commissioners impacted the Commission's capacity to respond to complaints?
2. What percentage of the complaints made to the commission are made under the Disability Discrimination Act?
3. Please provide the number of disability complaints resolved by the Commission in each month since January 2014.

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

1. Under federal anti-discrimination law the Commission's function in relation to complaints is vested in the President. Commissioners do not have any complaint related powers under the law. Therefore, the decision to combine the roles of the Age and Disability Discrimination Commissioners has had no direct impact on the Commission's capacity to respond to complaints.
2. In 2014-15, 31% of complaints received by the Commission were lodged under the *Disability Discrimination Act, 1992 (Cth)*.
3. The number of complaints under the *Disability Discrimination Act, 1992 (Cth)* finalised and resolved each month for the period 1 January 2014 – 31 October 2015 are as follows:

Month	Number of complaints under the <i>Disability Discrimination Act, 1992 (Cth)</i> finalised by the Commission	Number of complaints under the <i>Disability Discrimination Act, 1992 (Cth)</i> resolved by conciliation
January 2014	68	46
February 2014	45	21
March 2014	63	25
April 2014	44	24
May 2014	80	40
June 2014	65	53
July 2014	72	24
August 2014	61	28
September 2014	65	27

Month	Number of complaints under the <i>Disability Discrimination Act, 1992</i> (Cth) finalised by the Commission	Number of complaints under the <i>Disability Discrimination Act, 1992</i> (Cth) resolved by conciliation
October 2014	82	34
November 2014	62	26
December 2014	61	33
January 2015	46	24
February 2015	55	31
March 2015	70	37
April 2015	69	36
May 2015	81	35
June 2015	47	40
July 2015	77	34
August 2015	57	30
September 2015	80	46
October 2015	58	28