

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

Question No. 11

Senator Siewert asked the following question at the hearing on 23 February 2009:

Provide details on the number of phone calls, emails and other correspondence the Commission has received from members of the community concerning the Northern Territory intervention.

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

There have been ongoing communications from the community, by phone, email and correspondence, with the Commissioners and staff concerning the Northern Territory Intervention since it commenced in June 2007. Communications have been predominantly with the Social Justice Commissioner and the Social Justice Unit in the Commission. The approximate number of communications the Commission has received since June 2007 are:

- an estimated 95 phone calls
- an estimated 265 emails
- 4 letters to the Social Justice Commissioner (dating back to March 2008)

During the period of 1 June 2007 until the date of Senate estimates on 23 February 2009 the Commission received a total of 544 enquiries via our national Complaint Information telephone service which were identified as originating from the Northern Territory. Of these calls, 88 callers raised an issue related to race in their enquiry. The information recorded about telephone enquiries is limited and the Commission can not confirm if these calls directly related to the NT intervention.

There have been approximately 8 visits by Commissioners and staff to the Northern Territory during this time, in which issues pertaining to the NT Intervention were raised.

In addition the Sex Discrimination Commissioner and her staff visited communities in the Northern Territory as part of the Listening Tour in March 2008, during which the NT Intervention was among the most prominent issues raised. For the Listening Tour Report visit:
http://www.humanrights.gov.au/sex_discrimination/listeningtour/index.html#about.