

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

Output 1.3

Question No. 67

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

With regard to the selection process for the appointment of the National Human Rights Consultation commissioners;

- a) Did the appointments go to Cabinet for consideration
- b) provide details on the process for selection,
- c) were the commissioners interviewed prior to their appointment,
- d) can the Committee be provided with the names of any other candidates and interviewees, and
- e) provide the number of officers, other than the Attorney-General, who were engaged in discussions to determine the appointments.

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

- (a) The Attorney-General has advised that as the Cabinet's deliberations are confidential, except to the extent announced by the Government, the Department should neither confirm nor deny whether a particular matter has been considered by the Cabinet.
- (b) The National Human Rights Consultation Committee members were appointed by the Attorney-General.
- (c) The Committee members were not interviewed by any member of the Department prior to their appointment.
- (d) No. As Mr Govey advised at Senate Estimates on 23 February 2009, the Attorney-General and his office considered a range of names. The Department provided a list of possible names to the Attorney-General in September 2008.
- (e) See answer to (b).