

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

Question No. 3

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 8 February 2010:

On the AHRC website at

http://www.humanrights.gov.au/racial_discrimination/conferences/Durban2009/QA_Durban2009.html there is a document entitled Questions and answers regarding the Australian Human Rights Commission's attendance at the Durban Review and outcomes for the Commission". The answer to question 6: "What were the outcomes for the Australian Human Rights Commission in attending the Durban Review Conference?" begins by stating that "The Durban Review Conference Outcome document can be found at www.un.org/durbanreview2009/pdf/Durban_Review_outcome_document_En.pdf "

No further comment is made on this outcome document. Does the AHRC consider this is satisfactory when this document, in particular its point 1 which "*Reaffirms* the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), as it was adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001" has been widely criticised – including in its draft form by the Australian government - for its imbalance in singling out Israel for alleged racism?

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

The Durban Review Conference Outcome Document was an outcome of the Durban Review Conference and the Commission provided a link to the document to enable people to access information about the outcomes from the Durban Review Conference. Answer to question 6 on the Commission's website then goes on to explain the Commission's involvement.