

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION

Question No. 92

Senator Fisher asked the following question at the hearing on 19 October 2009:

Does the ALRC engage consultants to assist in any aspects of its duties? If yes:

- a) how many consultants have been engaged this year,
 - b) how many consultants have been engaged since November 2007, and
 - c) please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement and the method of procurement for each consultant engaged.
- Please also include the total value of all consultancies.

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

The ALRC has not engaged any consultants since November 2007. While the ALRC's Annual Report for 2007-08 did state that the ALRC employed three consultancies, these were in effect service providers and should not have been considered as 'consultancies'. The ALRC engages some external service providers to provide IT, web-hosting and project assistance, where these services cannot be provided within existing ALRC staff resources. However, the services provided do not involve 'the development of an intellectual output that assists with agency decision-making', nor do they 'produce an output that reflects the independent views of the service provider' — and as such the ALRC has determined that they are not consultancies and has amended its reporting in this regard, in its Annual Report for 2008-09.