

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

Question No. 3

Senator Wright asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:

Senator WRIGHT: Does the commission have dedicated staff who conduct these sorts of inspections or reviews in relation to detention?

Prof. Triggs: I would not say that they are dedicated staff, but we have used some of the same officers to undertake those monitoring visits.

Senator WRIGHT: Would you be able to provide information to me—I presume it would have to be on notice—about the total annual cost to the commission of carrying out those particular functions, those visits and that monitoring?

Prof. Triggs: I would be pleased to provide that on notice.

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

The Commission has a number of staff who have relevant expertise and experience in conducting monitoring visits of immigration detention facilities.

There is not a standard annual cost of visiting immigration detention facilities, as decisions about a program of visits is made each year according to demand and available Commission resources.

In the 2011-2012 financial year the cost to the Commission of visiting immigration detention facilities was approximately \$12,000.