



Mr Timothy Watling
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100
CANBERRA ACT 2600

3 April 2018

Dear Mr Watling

Clarifications to Hansard

I write to you concerning evidence provided to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs at the Senate Estimates on February 27 2018.

The Australian Human Rights Commission has identified the following clarification:

Evidence of Professor Rosalind Croucher, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission

On page 67, in an exchange with Senator Hume, Professor Croucher stated:

Prof. Croucher: Terminated means a decision was made about them. Finalised includes things like administrative closure—for example, if someone's already lodged a complaint in another place or resolves it themselves and withdraws it. Finalised is a nicer word; terminated is the technical one. I can break down the 27 terminated complaints further: 12 were terminated as out of time; eight were terminated as **lacking in substance, which is one of the more particular grounds that were introduced**; five were terminated on the basis that there was a more appropriate remedy reasonably available to the complainant or that the complaint had already been adequately dealt with; and one complaint was terminated as not unlawful. The idea is it gives an opportunity to streamline and to have a pre-inquiry assessment.

The correction is as follows, with respect to the highlighted passage above:

'Lacking in substance' is not a new ground introduced by the changes. The new requirement is to consider substance upon receipt of a complaint and terminate a complaint without inquiry if satisfied that the complaint is lacking in substance.

Please contact
information.

if you require further

Yours sincerely,

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