



**Australian Government**

**Australian Law Reform Commission**

**Professor Rosalind Croucher  
President**

Senator Barnett (*Chair*), Senator Crossin (*Deputy Chair*)  
Senate Standing Committees on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

9 March 2011

Dear Senators,

I refer to the draft Hansard of the second public hearing on 3 March 2011 in the Inquiry into the Australian Law Reform Commission and would like to note for the record that a statement made by Senator Crossin during her questioning of Justice Hammond was inaccurate, as follows:

**CROSSIN**—Thanks, Chair. Justice, thanks for your contribution and your submission. In New Zealand, if you are actually dealing with a specific area of law reform, is there a capacity to appoint temporary, full-time commissioners? Let me just give you an example. **Here in Australia, the Law Reform Commission has undertaken some work in relation to family law, so the government provided the capacity for a full-time commissioner to be based with the Law Reform Commission during that period of work, because of that person's expertise. Does something similar happen in New Zealand?**

In fact the government did not provide for a full-time Commissioner to be based with the ALRC during the family violence inquiry. There was only one ALRC full-time Commissioner for that inquiry, and that was myself. Only a part-time Commissioner was appointed specifically for that inquiry—Magistrate Ann Goldsbrough, from Victoria. However, as the ALRC has explained in evidence, and in its submission to the Inquiry, there is a significant difference between the role of a full-time and part-time Commissioner and the support that they can give to any inquiry.

Since December 2009 there has only been one full-time Commissioner—and that is me. There has been no other full-time Commissioner since then.

I would appreciate it if you could note this correction formally for the record.

Yours sincerely,

Rosalind Croucher

Australian Law Reform Commission  
Level 25, 135 King Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Postal Address:  
GPO Box 3708  
Sydney NSW 2001

Web [www.alrc.gov.au](http://www.alrc.gov.au)