

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2019-20

PA-Australian Human Rights Commission

LCC-AE20-37 - Annual value of National Anti-Racism Strategy programs

Senator Murray Watt asked the following question on 03 March 2020:

Senator WATT: Thank you. In the 2018 report of the commission entitled Anti-racism in 2018 and beyond, the former Race Discrimination Commissioner made various comments about the National Anti-Racism Strategy and its objectives. He ended by saying that this project and campaign work behind this strategy have only grown in importance and urgency. Do you have any idea how much these antiracism programs cost?

Prof. Croucher: The funding that we had ended in June 2015. The second phase was not externally funded except for some minor grants that we received from strategy partners. So we have undertaken to continue that within our existing appropriation.

Senator WATT: When those programs were being run, what was their annual value?

Prof. Croucher: I would have to get the precise answer to that question. I'll take that one on notice.

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

In 2015, the Commission decided to embark on a 'second phase' of the National Anti-Racism Partnerships Strategy through to 2018, funded out of the Commission's ongoing budget. There was no additional, dedicated funding of the Strategy and costs for the second phase were absorbed by the Commission from that time.

Project funding of \$90,000 per year was allocated to the Strategy by the Commission and related staff costs and on-costs/overheads were approximately \$246,000 per year. In the 2015-18 phase of the Strategy the Commission received support from some National Anti-Racism Partnership members. This support was the secondment of staff from the Department of Human Services to work on the Strategy in 2017, and grants by the Department of Social Services in 2016-17 and 2017-18 amounting to a total of \$130,000. In this phase of the Strategy pro-bono support was also provided by the Banjo advertising agency.