

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

Question No. AE16/006

Senator Macdonald asked the following question at the hearing on 9 February 2016:

CHAIR: I am reluctant to do this, but Professor Triggs, I ask if you can give me on notice details for the last 12 months of all international travel taken by you and other commissioners, identifying what parts of that international travel were not taken up with official functions and also what the arrangements were for any travel that was not official functions to be reimbursed—more or less the same questions that Senator Collins has been asking of Mr Wilson but from all commissioners. I must say I am reluctant to do this, because I understand how these things work and that you can grab a headline by asking questions—

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Is there a question? This is commentary. I do not think it is appropriate that as chair you conduct commentary on my questions. Please behave as the chair.

CHAIR: I am not commenting on your questions; I am just saying—

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Yes, you were.

CHAIR: I am saying I am reluctant to have to ask the commission for these—

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Just ask your question.

CHAIR: I am indicating I am reluctant to do it.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Then don't. Either way, do it.

CHAIR: We will put the questions on notice that I indicated with some regret.

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

The attached schedule sets out the international travel undertaken by the Commissioners from 9 February 2015 to 9 February 2016 and indicating those parts of that international travel that were not taken up with official functions and payment arrangements for that part of the travel.

Travel Costs for Commissioners and President 9 February 2015 to 9 February 2016

Date	Destination	Event and payment arrangements for non-official part of travel	Portion of trip not related to official duties
President - Gillian Triggs			
7/3/15 17/3/15	Geneva, Paris	Geneva - Attended Bureau Meeting 9-13 March 2015, ICC 28 General Meeting and APF Forum Council Working Group Meeting Paris – personal travel	Paris - weekend of 13 –16 March 2015 paid for by Professor Triggs, no TA paid
17/6/15 27/6/15	Hong Kong	Centre for Comparative and Public Law seminar: Effective Engagement of Human Rights Apparatus and Machinery in the absence of an Independent Human Rights Commission in Hong Kong	
14/7/15 18/7/15	Beijing	HRTC Planning Mission	
24/8/15 29/8/15	Mongolia	Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutes Annual Meeting	
20/9/15 24/9/15	Manilla	Asia Development Bank Administrative Tribunal	
7/11/15 17/11/15	Geneva, London, Paris	Geneva - UPR and related events London - Law Council of Australia London Chapter re: Australia's asylum seeker policies: International Law and the Human Rights Council and Roundtable with Institute of Human Rights & Business re: What is the role of business in responding to the needs of migrants and refugees? Paris – personal travel. Geneva - United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights	Paris - weekend of 14 and 15 November 2015 paid for by Professor Triggs. TA paid as required to stay for attendance at forum in Geneva

Human Rights Commissioner - Tim Wilson

23/2/15 27/2/15	Bangkok	Regional SOGII dialogue	
26/9/15 12/10/15	San Francisco, New York, Washington, Salt Lake City, Dallas, Los Angeles	San Francisco – personal travel New York – Meetings with Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research to discuss affordable housing; International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission; Australian Ambassador and attended an event hosted by LGBT Core Group of the UN ‘Free and Equal’. Washington – speech on Property Rights Are Human Rights: Why and How Land Titles Matter to Indigenous People - Cato Institute and various meetings with Embassy and various Senators and Members. Provo – speaking at 22nd Annual International Law and Religion Symposium “Religion, Law, and Social Stability” Dallas – speaking at event hosted by Out & Equal Workplace Advocates Los Angeles – speaking at the Williams Institute on the work of the Commission	San Francisco - Sunday 27 September flight from LA to San Francisco and accommodation paid for by Commissioner Wilson. TA not paid for that day.
7/11/15 22/11/15	Dublin, Brussels, Paris, Istanbul, Strasbourg	London – guest speaker - Mark Hill QC of Nine St John Street Chambers- “Rights Cherished or Freedoms Perished?” Dublin - Brian Sheehan, Director, Gay and Lesbian Equality Network Brussels – speaking at European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung: Does the EU Need More Equality Laws? The Equal Treatment Directive on Goods and Services: A Critical Analysis. London – meeting with The Kaleidoscope Trust and Oxford University Australia New Zealand Society and Australian High Commissioner Paris – personal travel – Istanbul – G20 Interfaith Summit Strasbourg – speaking at World Forum for Democracy on Media Responsibility in the age of terror	Paris - weekend of 14 and 15 November 2015. Commissioner Wilson paid for his own transport from London to Paris. TA and accommodation paid by the Commission as Commissioner Wilson was required to be in Istanbul the following day.
11/12/15 15/12/15	Tel Aviv	Attendance at The Australia-Israel-UK Leadership Dialogue Annual Meeting	

Social Justice Commissioner - Mick Gooda			
5/11/15 11/11/15	Geneva, London, Geneva	Geneva – UPR – joint side event my between Australia and Vietnam on human rights arising out of the Human Rights Technical Cooperation program London – personal travel Geneva - UPR and Address to Universal Periodic Review Reception Address hosted by UN Ambassador Quinn on Constitutional Recognition	London Thursday 5 - Saturday 7 November 2015. Commissioner Gooda paid for his flight to London and back to Geneva. Accommodation and TA was paid by the Commission and reimbursed by the Department of Foreign Affairs as Commissioner Gooda was required back in Geneva on Monday to deliver his speech.
Race Discrimination Commissioner - Tim Soutphommasane			
12/6/15 15/06/15	Tokyo	Annual Conference of Australian Studies Association of Japan 2015- Keynote: “Forty Years of the Racial Discrimination Act: Its Impact on Australian Legal and Political Culture” and meeting with Australian Ambassador and morning tea hosted by Ambassador	
29/6/15 3/7/15	Vientiane, Bangkok	Vientiane – Official meetings with Ministers, INGOs and NGOs Luang Prabang - to learn about the traditional lifestyles of some of Laos’ 49 different ethnic groups Bangkok - Roundtable dinner with human rights NGOs and Meetings with Chair and other staff of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand and relevant Ministers	
Sex Discrimination Commissioner – Elizabeth Broderick			
10/02/15 13/2/15	Hong Kong	Commissioner Broderick was invited by McKinsey & Company as their special guest speaker at the annual gathering of their leadership from across Asia, known as "Asia Week". McKinsey paid for flights and accommodation.	
26/02/15	Santiago	Commissioner Broderick was invited by the Government of Chile and UN Women to participate in a High Level Event “Women in power and decision-making: Building a different world”. The meeting focused on mobilising support and political will for accelerating further progress on the implementation of women in decision making as one of the BPFA key priority areas in advance of Commission on the Status of Women 59.	

8/03/15 16/03/15	New York	Commission on the Status of Women 59 and related events and Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) (UN Global Compact and UN Women) annual meeting	
18/4/15 21/4/15	New York, Washington	World Bank and IMF Commissioner Broderick is a member of the World Bank Gender Advisory Council on Gender and Development.	
31/05/15 7/06/15	Brussels, Geneva	Brussels – NATO - Delivering on Women, Peace & Security: A Fifteen Year Study of NATO Geneva - Reception hosted by Australian High Commission and meeting with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy	
27/08/15 30/08/15	Tokyo	World Assembly for Women	