

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

Question No. AE16/007

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

Senator COLLINS: As you have indicated, in some parts the accommodation related to accommodation by a third party. Professor, it made me wonder, in terms of declarations of interest, what applies in relation to yourself and commissioners at the Human Rights Commission in relation to any benefits you receive as commissioners?

Prof. Triggs: We all have to declare any possible either conflict of interest or a gift or opportunity; that has to be properly recorded and reported. We are very careful to make sure that that is met, especially as so many of us do a lot of public speaking. We do get a lot of gifts, so we have to check that very carefully.

Senator COLLINS: Where are those reports made?

Prof. Triggs: They are within the commission. I think we report to the Attorney-General's Department, but again I can take that on notice and show you how frequently we report on what might be seen as advantages of one kind or another.

Senator COLLINS: Perhaps you could provide me with such reports for the last two years on notice.

Prof. Triggs: Certainly.

Senator COLLINS: Unless that is burdensome.

Prof. Triggs: No, not at all. We will be very pleased to do it. It is kept up as a matter of course. We keep full records of anything that might be—I forget the exact amount, but it is \$50 or something in that area.

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

The Commission has an internal gifts policy that applies to all staff of the Commission including Commissioners and the President. Any gift received with a value above AUD100 must be declared. Declarations are sent to the Chief Finance Officer and stored in a file titled 'Donations, gifts offered and/or received by the Commission or staff' kept by the Chief Finance Officer. A register has now been created from those records and an extract for the last 2 years is attached.

The Commission does not report gifts to the Attorney-General's Department.

Gifts and Benefits Received Register								
1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014								
Date given or Received	Recipient's Name	Name of donor	Description of gift or Benefit	Value \$ (AUD)	Was the gift retained by: a) Employee or b) Agency	If retained by Commission provide disposal method where applicable ¹	Name & Title of Accountable Officer or Approver	Date of Gift or Benefit Declaration
17/04/2014	L. BRODERICK	ASX	Café Sydney gift voucher	\$250.00	Employee	n/a	P. Raman Executive Director	17/04/2014
4/09/2014	L. BRODERICK	unknown	Swarovski tea lights x 2	\$100.00	Employee	n/a	P. Raman Executive Director	4/09/2014
4/09/2014	L. BRODERICK	Marie Claire	1 x 30ml La Prairie skin caviar luxe cream	\$300.00	Employee	n/a	P. Raman Executive Director	4/09/2014
4/09/2014	L. BRODERICK	ASX	Attending CEW Annual Dinner as guest	\$350.00	Employee	n/a	P. Raman Executive Director	4/09/2014
6/11/2014	L. BRODERICK		Waterford Crystal Jasper Cronan 28cm Strata Vase	\$273.00	Agency	Used in Commission Premises	P. Raman Executive Director	6/11/2014
6/11/2014	L. BRODERICK	Deloitte	1 x mixed case of wines (12 bottles)	\$720.00	Employee	n/a	P. Raman Executive Director	6/11/2014
1/12/2014	L. BRODERICK	AGSM Executive Education	UNSW Scholarship	\$5,000.00	Employee	n/a	P. Raman Executive Director	1/12/2014

