

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO**

**Program: 1.9 Royal Commissions**

**Question No. AE17/050**

**Senator Siewert asked the following question at the hearing on 28 February 2017:**

1. Have you seen the article 'Royal Commission: Fair Go, not Fair Game' written by John B Lawrence SC published in *Land Rights News* in January 2017?
  - a) Are you concerned about negative media directed towards the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory?
  - b) Have you made any comment in response to negative media?
  - c) If yes, please provide a copy of the response.
  - d) If no, do you intend to make a response?

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

1. Yes.
  - a) The Royal Commission is independent from Government and is responsible for determining how it will fulfil its Terms of Reference. The Government will not compromise the Royal Commission's independence by commenting on this type of media coverage.
  - b) No.
  - c) See answer to b).
  - d) See answer to a).