

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

Question No. SBE15/111

Senator Siewert asked the following written question from the hearing on 20 October 2015:

1. How many complaints have been received from:
 - a. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
 - b. Older Australians
 - c. People with a disability
2. What proportion of complaints relate to employment?

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

1a. In the 2014-15 reporting year, where data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification was provided by complainants, 198 complainants across all federal human rights and anti-discrimination legislation identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. This equates to 12% of those who provided data and 9% of all complaints received in the relevant period.

1b. In the 2014-15 reporting year, where complainants provided information on their age group, the age of complainants across all federal human rights and anti-discrimination legislation was as follows:

Age group of complainant	Number	Percentage
0 - 12 years	75	6%
13 - 17 years	75	6%
18 - 24 years	126	11%
25 - 34 years	269	22%
35 – 44 years	227	19%
45 – 54 years	204	17%
55 – 64 years	156	13%
65 – 74 years	54	5%
75+ years	14	1%
Total	1,200	100%

1c. In the 2014-15 reporting year, where complainants provided data on disability, 916 complainants across all federal human rights and anti-discrimination legislation, said they had a disability. This equates to 55% of complainants who provided data and 42% of all complaints received in the relevant period.

2. In 2014-15 reporting year, 37% of all complaints the Commission received related to the area of employment. Complaints about employment made up 77% of complaints under the *Sex Discrimination Act, 1984* (Cth), 63% of complaints under the *Age Discrimination Act, 2004* (Cth), 34% of complaints under the *Disability Discrimination Act, 1992* (Cth), 18% of complaints under the *Racial Discrimination Act, 1975* (Cth) and 20% of complaints under the *Australian Human Rights Commission Act, 1986* (Cth).