

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Attorney-General's Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Commissioner powers used in cases

Senator: Senator Rhiannon

Question reference number: 174

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Do the Information and Privacy Commissioners intend to make greater use of the power to make formal determinations in complaint cases, considering that the previous Commissioner failed to make any such determinations in her entire term of office, and her predecessors only a handful between them?

Answer:

The OAIC's approach to complaint handling is to work with the parties to achieve an agreed remedy. However, should that not be successful, the Commissioners will assess on a case by case basis whether the other powers available to them, such as making a determination, should be used.