

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

Question No. 25

Senator Siewert asked the following question at the hearing on 12 February 2013:

Senator SIEWERT: I have another question around the new process for disability support pensions and the 18-month waiting period for access. It is not called that, but it is the period of time when people have to prove that they have tried to find work and cannot and then they can be assessed for the disability support pension. Are you aware of the change that came in last year?

Mr Innes: Yes.

Senator SIEWERT: We have talked about it before. Have you heard any complaints about this particular piece of legislation?

Mr Innes: Again, whether actual complaints have been lodged I would need to take notice. ...

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

The Commission is not aware of any formal complaints being lodged about this issue. It is noted that section 51 of the Disability Discrimination Act, 1992 (Cth) provides an exemption for discriminatory provisions relating to pensions, allowances or benefits in the Social Security Act, 1991 (Cth).