

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

**Sub Program 1.1.2**

**Question No. 6**

**Senators Barnett and Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2009:**

Can the Committee be provided with a copy of the letter from the Commission to the Attorney-General first advising of Mr Calma's travel to attend the Durban Review Conference? Is such correspondence general practice within the Attorney-General's Portfolio?

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

On 14 January 2009, the President of the Commission wrote to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who has responsibility for Australia's involvement in the Durban Review Conference. A copy of this letter was tabled by the President at the hearing on 25 May 2009.

The Commission did not write separately to the Attorney-General.

The Commission included a reference to Mr Calma's attendance at the Durban Review Conference in a regular circular which is issued as a media release. A copy of the circular is also provided to the Attorney-General's office and the Department. A copy of this release is attached.

In accordance with the departmental guidelines for overseas visits by statutory office holders and heads of agencies within the Attorney-General's portfolio, the normal practice within the portfolio is that heads of agencies are required to seek permission from the Attorney-General or Minister for Home Affairs, as appropriate, for any international travel, but other statutory office holders in the agencies obtain their approval from the head of their agency.

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What's Happening at the Commission: 16 - 22 April 2009  
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What's Happening at the Commission?

16 - 22 April 2009

Following is an update on what the Australian Human Rights Commission and its President (The Hon. Catherine Branson QC) and Commissioners (Graeme Innes AM, Liz Broderick and Tom Calma) will be doing over the next week.

This information is intended as a guide only. Issues or events may arise during the week, which aren't covered in this document. Please keep an eye on the news, media release and speeches sections of the Commission's website ([www.humanrights.gov.au](http://www.humanrights.gov.au)) for the latest updates.

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Thursday, 16 April

- \* President Branson - conducting Human Rights Act consultation workshops in Adelaide.
- \* President Branson - attending lunch at the Adelaide Day Centre for Homelessness in Adelaide.
- \* Commissioner Calma - attending the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre Board Meeting in Canberra.
- \* Commissioner Innes - 14-20 April - taking annual leave.
- \* Commissioner Broderick - speaking at the Australian Local Government Women's Association Biennial National Conference in Adelaide.

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Friday, 17 April

- \* Commissioner Calma - meeting with Cape York representatives in relation to Wild Rivers legislation in Sydney.

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Monday, 20 April

- \* Commissioner Calma - 20-24 April - attending the 2009 Durban Review Conference in Geneva.
- \* Commissioner Broderick - meeting with Gail Kelly, CEO, Westpac Banking Corporation in Sydney.

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Tuesday, 21 April

- \* Commissioner Innes - 21-22 April - conducting Human Rights Act consultation workshops in Tasmania.

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Wednesday, 22 April

\* Commissioner Broderick - meeting with Ms Grace Portolesi, Member for Hartley, South Australia in Sydney.

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\* Speeches will be available at [www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/speeches/index.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/speeches/index.html) following delivery.

\* Media releases/alerts are available at [www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media\\_releases/index.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/index.html)

\* Opinion pieces are available at [www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media\\_releases/op\\_ed/index.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/op_ed/index.html) following publication.

\* Legal submissions are available at [www.humanrights.gov.au/legal/submissions/index.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/legal/submissions/index.html)

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