

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

Question No.14

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2009:

In relation to the Commission's attendance at the 2009 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras,

- a) what was the cost,
- b) did members of the Commission attend, and was the decision surrounding Mr Innes' participation made by himself or the Commission?

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

- a) The total cost for the Commission's participation in the 2009 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras was \$2,424.08 (GST inclusive). Additional costs were met by voluntary staff contributions towards their participation in the parade.
- b) In addition to staff, Graeme Innes (Human Rights Commissioner and Disability Discrimination Commissioner) and Tom Calma (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and Race Discrimination Commissioner) participated in the parade. Commissioner Innes made the decision to participate, as it fell within his area of responsibility. The other members of the Commission were informed of the decision but the matter did not go to the Commission for a decision.