

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

Question No. 15

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

For the last 12 months, provide details of each church, multi-faith, and Christian activity Mr Calma has participated in on behalf of the Commission.

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

In his roles as both the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, and the national Race Discrimination Commissioner, Tom Calma maintains a busy schedule. Mr Calma has been involved in the following faith based events on behalf of the Commission:

- 8 July 2008- Australian Partnership of Religious Organisations meeting, Sydney; attended by representative Conrad Gershevitch (Director, Education and Partnerships Section).
- 24 August 2008- attended multi-faith music event, Papatoetoe NZ, as part of the New Zealand human rights commission diversity action program.
- 28 August 2008- Religious Diversity in the Asia Pacific meeting, Auckland, New Zealand; attended by representative Conrad Gershevitch (Director, Education and Partnerships Section).
- 7 December 2008- Bahai community function, speech given by representative Conrad Gershevitch (Director, Education and Partnerships Section).
- 8 February 2009- gave speech at Parliament of World Religions event at Melbourne Town Hall.
- 16 June 2009- Australian Partnership of Religious Organisations forum, Adelaide, attended by representative Conrad Gershevitch (Director, Education and Partnerships Section).

Mr Calma has also met with Indigenous representatives from Christian churches through broader consultative processes, such as the consultations for the new National Indigenous Representative Body.