

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

**Output 1.3**

**Question No. 18**

**Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2008:**

In terms of Departmental staffing for the national community consultation into the protection of human rights in Australia:

- a) Identify staff working on the project and their position in the Department
- b) Outline future plans for staffing within the Department for the consultation process, and
- c) Has the Department considered appointing consultants? If so, will consultants be appointed and if so, nominate the areas in which they will be working and the purpose of their consultation.

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

- a) There are four full time staff whose work primarily relates to the national community consultation. The Section currently comprises a Principal Legal Officer, a Senior Legal Officer and two Legal Officers. A Graduate has recently commenced their final rotation, and is working on the consultation. An Executive Level 1 Officer has been engaged in the Department's Public Affairs Branch to assist in implementing and coordinating any media and communications matters relating to the consultation.
- b) Further staff to provide administrative assistance to the consultation may be appointed.
- c) The Government is currently considering the scope and process of the consultation. Subject to that consideration, consultants may be engaged to assist in carrying out research into the community's view on human rights and to conduct the consultation. Subsequent to the Committee hearing, the Department has entered into a contract with a design firm to provide design and branding services for the consultation.