

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

Question No. 49

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

With regard to the Commission's project (Freedom of Religion and Belief in the 21st Century):

- a) provide a breakdown of the total budget, including expenditure to date
- b) provide the date the Commission decided to proceed with the enquiry, and
- c) provide the date the Commission advised the Attorney-General of its intention to proceed with the enquiry

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

- a) A total budget of \$190,000 (ex GST) was allocated in 2006-07. \$190,000 (ex GST) has been expensed on the project.
- b) The Commission commenced the project (it is not an inquiry) after receiving funding in the 2006-07 Additional Estimates as part of the previous Government's initiative to combat extremism through human rights education. The project was announced by the former Attorney-General, the Hon Philip Ruddock MP on 18 June 2007.
<http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/21248/20070722-0007/www.ag.gov.au/agd/www/ministerruddockhome.nsf/Page/Media_Releases_2007_Second_Quarter_1122007_-_18_June_2007_-_Attorney-General_welcomes_HREOC_plan_to_combat_extremism.html>
- c) The Commission advised the former Attorney-General, the Hon Philip Ruddock MP, of the project in May 2007.