

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

Sub Program 1.1.2

Question No. 45

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 19 October 2009:

Provide the dates and times of discussions between the Consultation Committee and/or the Department and the Australian Human Rights Commission on the report and recommendations arising from the National Human Rights Consultation, either before or after the tabling of the report.

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

Father Brennan has advised that he met informally on two occasions (19 February 2009 and 19 September 2009) with the President and/or officers of the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), and that the President met formally with the whole Committee on 12 June 2009 to present the Commission's submission report to the Committee. Father Brennan also advised that on one other occasion he met with legal officers of the AHRC to discuss technical details of their submission to the Committee and talked with AHRC commissioners and staff periodically during the three days of public hearings in Parliament House Canberra in July 2009. There was also a meeting between Father Brennan and AHRC officers on 19 August 2009.

The Committee also provided extracts of the Report's text and recommendations about the AHRC to the Commission on 17 September 2009.

Departmental officers have regular discussions with the AHRC on a range of issues. The consultation process and report were raised from time to time during these discussions.