

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

Question No. 15

Senator Ryan asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:

Please provide any information you have about the source of the funds for the consultation on protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and sex and/or gender identity. Please indicate if any questions you asked about these funds were not answered by the Asia-Pacific Forum.

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

On 8 February 2010, the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) invited all member institutions across the Asia-Pacific region to submit proposals for projects that could be conducted by a national human rights institution to advance the implementation of the outcomes of "The role of NHRIs in the Promotion and Implementation of the Yogyakarta Principles" Workshop, held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, May 2009 relating to the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

The APF announced on 28 June 2010 that it had awarded funding to the following five national human rights institutions:

1. Australian Human Rights Commission
2. National Human Rights Institutions of Indonesia
3. National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia
4. New Zealand Human Rights Commission
5. Philippines Commission on Human Rights.

The funding provided by APF to the Australian Human Rights Commission is \$11,000 GST inclusive. The APF indicated to the Commission that the overall funds were provided by an American philanthropist. The Commission has not sought further information about the identity of the donor as:

- the APF relies on grants and donor funding to operate and has strict governance procedures in place relating to when it accepts funding – the Commission is satisfied with the veracity of the APF's processes in this regard; and
- as the APF regularly conducts activities, including through providing funding assistance to member institutions, that there is nothing unusual about this particular funding process.

The funding agreement for this activity only required completion of activities identified by the Commission to meet the outcomes of the Yogyakarta Principles workshop and to report back to the APF on completion.