

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

Question No. 1

Senator Wright asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:

Senator WRIGHT: Can I broaden the question out. Professor Triggs, are you aware of any opinion, advice or discussions that have been had with the commission about incorporating justice targets into the Closing the Gap strategy?

Prof. Triggs: I am not aware of any advice being sought [by the government] but, if I may, I will take it on notice and see whether I can discover whether we have been consulted.

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

The former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Dr Tom Calma in his *Social Justice Report 2009* recommended that the Australian Government, through COAG, set criminal justice targets that are integrated into the Closing the Gap agenda. This recommendation has been reiterated by the current Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda in his forthcoming *Social Justice Report 2012*. In 2010 the Commission also reiterated this recommendation to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Inquiry into Indigenous youth and the criminal justice system.

Both Social Justice Commissioners have discussed the need for justice targets to be integrated into the Closing the Gap strategy as part of their advocacy work in relation to justice reinvestment.

There have been no formal discussions between the Australian Government and the Commission in relation to justice targets.