



Our Ref: 2009/113

15 January 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
E-mail: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Inquiry into Hearing Health in Australia: Follow-Up Information

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee's public hearing in Sydney on 11 November 2009, for the Committee's Inquiry into Hearing Health in Australia. During the hearing the following 3 questions were taken on notice:

1. How many complaints received by the Commission are on the grounds of hearing impairment and deafness?
2. How many tenders were received by the Commission for its research consultancy on hearing impairment and deafness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?
3. Has NACCHO undertaken any further recent research on the impact of hearing impairment and deafness on the education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children?

Below is the additional information provided in response to these questions:

1) How many complaints received by the Commission are on the grounds of hearing impairment and deafness?

Information extracted from the Commission's Annual Report 2008-09 indicates:

- of the 20,188 telephone, email, in person and written enquiries received by the Commission for the 2008/09 year, 12 enquiries were received via the Commission's TTY facility
- Of the 980 complaints received under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* for the 2008/09 year, 46 complainants (i.e. 3% of total complaints)

under this Act) identified that they had a sensory disability (hearing impairment) while 85 complainants identified they had a sensory disability (deaf) (ie 6% of total complaints under this Act).

2) How many tenders were received by the Commission for its research consultancy on hearing impairment and deafness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?

The Commission widely advertised its request for tenders for its research project examining the impact of hearing impairment and deafness in Indigenous communities. This included advertising through the Commission's own list serves and networks.

A pleasing level of response was received to the Commission's request for tenders, including approximately 50 requests for information packages, and 9 tenders were received in total.

3) Has NACCHO undertaken any further recent research on the impact of hearing impairment and deafness on the education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children?

Further to the NACCHO research referenced in the Commission's submission, NACCHO confirmed that they have been unable to do any further research in this area.

Please feel free to contact Cristina Ricci, Senior Policy Officer, Disability Rights Unit (Tel 02 9284 9767; email cristina.ricci@humanrights.gov.au) for any further information.

Yours sincerely



Graeme Innes AM
**Disability Discrimination Commissioner
and Race Discrimination Commissioner**

T +61 2 9284 9692
F +61 2 9284 9797
E graeme.innes@humanrights.gov.au