

Community Relations Commission

For a multicultural NSW

Your Ref:
Our Ref: DM6745
File Ref: 12/0349

Mr Jonathan O'Dea MP
Chair
Legislative Assembly Public Accounts Committee
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr O'Dea

I have been informed by the Director General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) that he wrote to you on 11 November 2013 suggesting that the Community Relations Commission (CRC) has provided misleading information in our recent submission to the Legislative Assembly Public Accounts Committee (Public Accounts Committee) regarding the Auditor General's 2012 Performance Audit Report *Settling Humanitarian Entrants in NSW* (the Report).

Mr Eccles' assertion that CRC has 'misled' the Public Accounts Committee by 'accepting' or providing a status update against several recommendations in the Report is inappropriate and misinformed. If the use of 'accepted' in the CRC's *Implementation of Recommendations* table has been interpreted by the Public Accounts Committee as the CRC agreeing to recommendations retrospectively, as Mr Eccles suggests, this is a misunderstanding.

As you are aware, CRC and DPC developed a joint response to the Report's findings which emphasised that both agencies did not support the general direction of the Report's recommendations. This was re-iterated in the cover letter that accompanied our submission to the Public Accounts Committee of 16 October 2013. The CRC's position on this matter remains unchanged and our recent update does not constitute any variation in our views.

The CRC is an independent statutory authority with regulatory functions that require it to report on the state of community relations in New South Wales as affected by cultural diversity. While the CRC and DPC did not explicitly 'accept' any recommendations in its joint response, a number of the CRC's recent initiatives have progressed the intention of some of the original recommendations. To overlook these achievements in the context of the Report would be perceived as withholding relevant information from the public record.

I hope this has clarified any uncertainty that correspondence from the Department of Premier and Cabinet may have caused. I am available should you require further information.

Yours sincerely


Stepan Kerkyasharian AO
Chairperson

Head Office
Level 8
175 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box A2618
Sydney South NSW 1235
Tel: (02) 8255 6767
TTY: (02) 8255 6758
Fax: (02) 8255 6868

Wollongong Office
84 Crown Street
Wollongong NSW 2500
PO Box 363
Wollongong NSW 2520
Tel: (02) 4224 9922
Fax: (02) 4224 9933

Newcastle Office
Government Office Block
117 Bull Street
Newcastle NSW 2300
Tel: (02) 4929 4191
Fax: (02) 4929 7369

Website
www.crc.nsw.gov.au
ABN 79 863 510 875

