



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: ACT Human Rights Commission

In relation to: Human Rights and Data on racial vilification

Hearing: 22 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 8

Transcript provided: 23 July 2026

Answer Due: 30 July 2026

Ms Toohey took on notice the following question(s):

THE CHAIR: Do you have data on the increase in racial vilification, especially in schools? Do you collect that data?

Ms Toohey: We do collect that data. I would have to take it on notice, because I did not bring it with me. And we are in this process of—

MR EMERSON: Should we just get everything in the last three to five years?

THE CHAIR: Yes, over the last three to five years—five years would be useful.

MR EMERSON: In, kind of, categories.

Karen Toohey: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

I have reviewed all racial vilification complaints for the five year period requested and the Commission has not received any complaints regarding racial vilification regarding schools. This is not unexpected as complaints of racial vilification are generally made against individuals and in our experience it is unlikely a student would make a racial vilification complaint under the Discrimination Act against another student.

HRC has received complaints of alleged racial bullying and racial discrimination in education settings but they are generally made against the education provider and often relate to behaviour or comments by staff or, where they involve alleged bullying or racism by other students on the basis

of race, are about what steps have been taken to prevent or respond to claims of bullying or other unfavourable treatment on the basis of race.

The common areas of racial vilification complaints are employment, public spaces such as neighbours, sport and online settings.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26*
All vilification cts	13	6	21	22	51**
Racial vilification cts	7	3	10	10	19
Race discrimination cts	50	42	45	65	72
Race disc in education	2	2	2	7	7

*This data is estimated as has not been verified for annual report purposes at this time.

** There was an increase in disability related vilification complaints related to one individual

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates



Signature:

Date: 29 July 2026

By the Discrimination, Health Services, Disability & Community Services Commissioner, Karen Toohey