

Economics Legislation Committee

The committee met on Wednesday, 13 February 2013 from 9.00 am until 10.27 pm.

The committee called the:

- the department and agencies of the Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio, including the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Australian Research Council (ARC), Office of the Chief Scientist, the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency, the National Advisory for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency and the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)
- agencies of the Treasury portfolio, including the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, the Australian Office of Financial Management, the Commonwealth Grants Commission and the Productivity Commission.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- the Australian Government Competitive Neutrality Complaints Office investigation of ANSTO subsidiary PETNET Australia Pty Limited, the subsequent report and related matters
- the handling of harassment and bullying claims by the CSIRO, and a related Comcare report
- the Science and Industry Endowment Fund
- CSIRO's 5-year community engagement strategy
- ARC grants, including linkage projects grants
- the Future Fellowships program
- the Health of Australian Science report
- the automotive manufacturing sector and expenditure on government grants in the automotive industry
- Enterprise Connect's Researchers in Business program
- the terms of appointment and work areas covered by the Australian Small Business Commissioner
- the National Research Investment Plan
- diversity and numbers of postgraduate research degrees, and corresponding numbers of completion rates
- Cooperative Research Centres funding, including for bushfires research
- funding of the TAFE system in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales
- undergraduate applications, offers and acceptances
- National Partnership Schools reform in Queensland

- the collection of educational institutions' data in relation to quality of services provided
- audits performed by ASQA to date
- supermarkets and shopper dockets at petrol stations
- the ongoing review of the GST
- productivity policies and current priorities of the Productivity Commission.