

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

The committee met on Monday, 11 February 2013 from 9.00 am to 10.58 pm.

The committee called the:

- Department of the Senate
- Parliamentary Budget Office
- Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS)
- Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General
- department and agencies of the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio, including the National Mental Health Commission, the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) and the Australian Public Service Commission.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- the status of a code of conduct for senators
- decisions surrounding responses to the report of the Committee on the Performance of the DPS
- the impact of advanced announcement of the proposed election date
- the workload of the PBO
- access to information by the PBO
- an investigation into the use of the parliamentary computer network to post political material online using false names
- new appointments to DPS
- matters surrounding the recent visit by the Governor-General to Antarctica
- application of the caretaker conventions
- freedom of information processes and applications
- the national security strategy
- establishment of the Australian Cyber Security Centre
- the 2012 National Report Card on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
- own motion work at the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman and issues surrounding the outsourcing of work to a former Government staffer
- the report of the ANAO into the design and implementation of the Energy Efficiency Information Grants Program
- unscheduled absences within the Australian Public Service.