

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that upon the commissioning of any future White Paper, the Minister for Foreign Affairs shall refer the proposal to the parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT). The Joint Committee shall undertake broad public consultations regarding the proposed content of the White Paper, and shall report its findings to the parliament. The report shall inform the development, by government, of the White Paper, and shall be published along with the White Paper as an accompanying document.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that in the event of a ministerial statement by the Foreign Minister, or other major government announcement dealing with Australia's foreign or trade policies, the Senate shall refer that statement or announcement to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee for examination and report.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade prepare an annual Foreign Policy Outlook Statement containing a succinct account of issues arising in the preceding twelve months and any adjustments to policy arising from them. The statement should be tabled in the parliament by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the Australian Bureau of Statistics develop mechanisms for accurately enumerating the numbers of Australian citizens living overseas, with a view to facilitating their full participation in the Australian Census.

