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The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

# Annual Report of Committee Activities 2006-2007

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

June 2007  
Canberra

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## Foreword

The Committee completed another full and productive year scrutinising terrorism legislation and aspects of the administration and expenditure of the intelligence agencies. As the work and volume of the intelligence agencies increase so too does the work of the Committee.

The fourth review of administration and expenditure focused on recruitment and training. The intelligence agencies have been rapidly recruiting staff in order to provide more security and counter-terrorism capability. The Committee found that, in a competitive market place, increasing and retaining staff was challenging and that timely security clearances remained an inhibition to recruitment.

A significant challenge for the agencies was the recruitment of sufficient numbers of people with necessary language skills. The Committee concluded that language training remains one of the most difficult and expensive areas of training for the intelligence agencies. The agencies demonstrated that various initiatives are being devised to lessen and, it is hoped, eventually overcome these difficulties. Overall, the committee was satisfied that the agencies were managing their expansion.

The other major inquiry of 2006 was the statutory review of the security and counter terrorism legislation. The Committee's review followed and took into account the report of the Security and Legislation Review Committee (the Sheller Committee). The Committee made 26 recommendations and, in particular, recommended the appointment of an independent reviewer of terrorism law in Australia. Under the recommendation, the Committee would examine the reports of the Independent Reviewer.

During the review period, the Committee tabled four reports on the listing of terrorist organisations. The four reports dealt with the re-listing of 14 organisations. Procedural issues relating to consultations with the States and

Territories and the nature of the information provided to the Committee remain a concern in all these reviews.

In addition to these reports, the Committee also commenced its inquiry into the operations, effectiveness and implications of the terrorist organisation listing provisions of the Criminal Code and the fifth review of administration and expenditure. The reports of these inquiries will be tabled in the next reporting period.

On behalf of the Committee, I take this opportunity to thank and commend Mrs Margaret Swieringa for her excellent support as Secretary of the Committee from 2002 to June 2007. Margaret provided professional advice and support of the highest standard and the Committee wishes her well in her future endeavours.

In addition, the Committee notes the passing of Mr Alan Taylor, AM, career diplomat and former Director-General of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service from 1998 to 2003. He was, until recently, Chairman of the Board of the Australia-Indonesia Institute, where he continued his career-long contribution to Australia's international relations. Mr Taylor was instrumental in advancing and implementing the *Intelligence Services Act 2001*. During this process, Mr Taylor appeared before the Joint Select Committee on the Intelligence Services where he gained the respect and acknowledgement of all members of the Committee.

I also take this opportunity to say a personal farewell. This will be my last annual report as Chairman of the committee as I will not be standing for re-election in the forthcoming 2007 election. I have enjoyed the work immensely and appreciate the contribution and support of my fellow committee members.

In conclusion, and on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the work of the Committee during the past year.

**THE HON DAVID JULL MP**

**Chair**



## Membership of the Committee

Chair            The Hon David Jull MP

Deputy Chair   Mr Anthony Byrne MP

Members        Mr Stewart McArthur

The Hon Duncan Kerr SC, MP

Mr Steven Ciobo MP

Senator Alan Ferguson

Senator the Hon Robert Ray

Senator the Hon John Faulkner

Senator Fiona Nash

## Committee Secretariat

Secretary            Ms Margaret Swieringa

Inquiry Secretary   Ms Jane Hearn

Research Officer    Dr Cathryn Ollif

Administration Officer   Mrs Donna Quintus-Bosz







## Terms of reference

This report is made under the Part 4 section 31 of the *Intelligence Services Act 2001*:

As soon as practicable after each year ending on 30 June, the Committee must give to the Parliament a report on the activities of the Committee during the year.

