

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

The committee met on Tuesday, 25 February 2014 from 9.00 am to 10.41 pm.

The committee called the:

- department and agencies of the Immigration and Border Protection portfolio, including the Migration Review Tribunal, the Refugee Review Tribunal, the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and officers involved in Operation Sovereign Borders.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- public interest immunity claims made and related documents tabled by the Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection in response to various Senate orders
- the process for determining the age of asylum seekers
- the involvement of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service in the monitoring of Japanese whaling ships
- opium output from Afghanistan and the subsequent implications for the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service
- events that occurred on Manus Island between 16 and 19 February 2014, and the Government's involvement in and response to these events
- a comparison between Operation Sovereign Borders and embedded media in the defence forces
- the Government's response to recommendations in the Amnesty International report 'This is breaking people – Human Rights Violations at Australia's Asylum Seeker Processing Centre on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea'
- statistics relating to pregnant women in detention and hospital facilities in Nauru.