

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

The committee met on Tuesday, 27 May 2014 from 9 am to 11 pm.

The committee called the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, including the Office for Women.

Among other issues, the following issues were discussed:

- staffing issues within the Department, including staff numbers, the staff attrition rate, redundancies and the spill-and-fill process
- lease arrangements for the house intended for the temporary accommodation of the Prime Minister
- the role of the hospitality officer on the Prime Minister's staff and costs and procurement issues related to hospitality expenditure
- overseas travel on official business by staff of the Prime Minister's Office independently of the Prime Minister
- the purchase of video and photographic equipment for the Prime Minister's Office
- the Prime Minister's website, including the division of responsibility for costs and content, and video messages concerning state elections
- the Prime Minister's decision not to attend an event at Deakin University and advice from Australian Federal Police
- security clearances for ministerial staff
- the functions, responsibilities and appointment process for the position of Cabinet Secretary
- the purpose of the order of precedence chosen by the Prime Minister and the explanation of the necessity for confidentiality of the document
- the process relating to the preparation of draft Executive Council papers by the Department prior to the swearing in of the government
- the Renewable Energy Target Review
- the terms of reference and staffing numbers for the Northern Australian Taskforce
- the progress of appointments to vacant positions on the panels for the SBS and ABC boards
- the application of the direction to use 'Burma' rather than 'Myanmar' across government
- the role, reporting obligations, staff numbers and budget of the Office for Women
- the involvement of the Office for Women in administering awards for women
- the division of responsibilities between the Office for Women and the Department of Social Services
- the recent release of the Report of the Australian Government Delegation to the 58th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
- Cross-departmental programs relating to violence against women and women's safety.