

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2016-17

Wednesday, 1 March 2017

Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee Estimates.

The committee met from 9.00am until 11.00pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Defence portfolio, including the Department of Defence, Defence Housing Australia and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The committee covered matters relating to:

**Defence**

- Opening statement by the Chief of the Defence Force
  - Updates on operations in the Middle East
  - Border Protection
- Secretary's opening statement
  - Staffing numbers, consultants/contractors
  - Cultural change program
  - Force Posture Agreement
  - Defence budget
- Daesh activities
- Operation OKRA
- Contributions to Iraq - Task Group Taji, Air Task Group
- Absorbed budget measures
- Dayr Al-Zawr bombing
- Indigenous trainees
- US administration, policy in relation to torture
- Washington delegation, representations
- Disposal of property
- Future Submarine Program, Intergovernmental Agreement with France
- SERCO contracts – naval architects, AURECON contracts – Estate and Infrastructure
- Media and communications
- Seaworthiness, navy capabilities/staffing
- Ration packs, procurement
- Iraq dossier
- Osborne power supply
- Outsourcing of IT services – Mr Jack Walker
- Naval Shipbuilding Plan
- Collins sustainment and extension
- Implementation of the recommendations of First Principle Review
- Leura community work

- Foxtrot Chinook program
- Female representation in the Army
- Contamination issues
- Cultural change program
- Anonymity of disclosures to the Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Office (SeMPRO), updates on statistics
- Air cooperation with US, nuclear capabilities
- Intellectual property rights, contract with DCNS
- Joint Strike Fighter issues
- Training combat vehicle requirements
- Incorporating Australian content in programs, Defence Industry Policy Statement
- Uniform manufacturing, Army RM Williams boots
- Credit and fast cards - procedures
- Consolidation of Defence bases
- Suicide prevention for ADF members

#### **DHA**

- Refurbishment of houses
- Local content in projects
- Toowoomba project

#### **AWM**

- Art as therapy for veterans
- Honest history article regarding visitor figures
- Spirit of ANZAC traveling exhibition
- National ANZAC Centre Albany
- Beersheba commemorations

#### **DVA**

- Suicide prevention services for veterans and figures for suicide deaths
- ICT upgrades
- Business case for veteran-centric reform
- Effect of incomplete service records on applications
- Use of companion dogs as medical treatment for mental health conditions
- Minister's rules for the Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Digital Readiness and Other Measures) Bill 2017
- Rejected claims appeals figures
- Non liability health path for mental health conditions
- Leading health conditions in applications
- Mefloquine claims
- Veterans employment
- Length of time for claims
- Figures related to radiation exposure
- Veterans Access Network offices
- Defence Abuse Response Taskforce (DART) communication and engagement
- Advocacy Training and Development Program