



Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2016-17
Tuesday, 28 February 2017
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Estimates.

The committee met from 9.00am until 11.05pm.

The committee called the department and agencies of the Attorney-General's portfolio, including:

- Australian Human Rights Commission
- Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (no questions asked)
- Federal Court of Australia, Family Court of Australia and Federal Circuit Court of Australia
- Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
- Administrative Appeals Tribunal
- Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and Australian Institute of Criminology
- Australian Law Reform Commission
- Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
- Australian Federal Police

Areas of interest covered today by the committee include:

- the role of the Australian Human Rights Commission in relation to the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*, including complaints management, the application of sections 18C and 18D, and recommendations for amendment;
- levels of funding for community legal services, including services for victims of domestic violence;
- staffing arrangements in the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner;
- funding for the Administrative Appeals Tribunal following the amalgamation with the Migration Review Tribunal, the Refugee Review Tribunal and the Social Security Appeals Tribunals;
- the ongoing Australian Federal Police investigation into the explosion outside Eternity House, Deakin ACT, in December 2016; and
- the Bell Group of companies matter.