

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

The committee met on Tuesday, 12 February 2013 from 9.00 am to 11.03 pm.

The committee called the:

- department and agencies of the Attorney-General's Portfolio, including the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), the Family Court of Australia, the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia, the Australian Crime Commission (ACC), the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, the CrimTrac Agency, the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions and the Australian Government Solicitor.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- staffing levels and corruption investigations in Customs
- potential relationships between corruption in Customs and the link between organised crime and drugs in sport
- handguns seized by Customs
- the resignation of the Disability Discrimination Commissioner from the Accessible Airlines Working Group
- activities undertaken by the AHRC to promote freedom of speech
- the treatment of asylum seekers and those found to be refugees
- community consultation and involvement in relation to alcohol restrictions on Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory
- the sensitivity of certain hearings and the category of persons subject of those hearings in the ACC's investigation into drug abuse in sport
- the growing availability of guns and gun violence and the effectiveness of the work of the Commonwealth Firearms Advisory Council
- administrative arrangements surrounding payments to people affected by natural disasters.