

Economics Legislation Committee

The committee met on Monday, 3 June 2013 from 9.00 am until 10.57 pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio, including the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Australian Research Council the Office of the Chief Scientist, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency and the Australian Skills Quality Authority, and
- the department and agencies of the Resources, Energy and Tourism portfolio, including Geoscience Australia.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- staffing levels and court cases involving current/former employees of ANSTO
- the reappointment of CSIRO Chief Executive Dr Megan Clark
- the internal investigation into the matter of chemicals sold to Novartis
- allegations of workplace bullying and harassment at CSIRO
- the impact of red tape on the higher education system
- Youth Allowance
- issues facing regional students
- the Asia Bound scheme
- the situation of technical and further education (TAFE) campuses in various states
- international science collaboration
- Science and Innovation counsellors
- the Square Kilometre Array radio telescope project, including benefits and funding commitments
- the coal mining industry
- the impact of 457 visas on resource industry projects
- money outstanding from energy efficiency programs.