

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

The committee met on Monday, 18 November 2013 from 9.00 am to 11.00 pm.

The committee called:

- the Parliamentary Departments, including the Department of the Senate, the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO), and the Department of Parliamentary Services;
- the Department and agencies of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC) portfolio, including the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Council Secretariat, the Australian Public Service Commission, and the Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- casual vacancies in the Senate and the procedure for filling them;
- the PBO's Post-Election Report of Election Commitments;
- the maintenance and refurbishment of the Prime Minister's office;
- the portrait of the Queen, borrowed from the National Museum of Australia, to hang in the Prime Minister's office;
- the relocation of switchboard staff to basement offices in Parliament House;
- IT security at Parliament House;
- the recent work, particularly in the area of community outreach, of the Governor-General;
- the processes for the termination of three departmental secretaries after the election;
- the lease of alternative accommodation for the Prime Minister while the Lodge is being refurbished;
- the work of the Government Staffing Committee and the processes for recruiting ministerial staff;
- new arrangements for the Office of Women following its move to the PMC portfolio;
- a review of interceptions undertaken by the Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation.