

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

The committee met on Thursday 20 November 2014 from 9.01am until 11 pm.

The committee called the Department and agencies of the Attorney-General's portfolio, including the Australia Council, Screen Australia, the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia, the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), the Australian Financial Security Authority, the Australian Law Reform Commission, the Family Court and Federal Circuit Court, the Federal Court of Australia, the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity, the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP)

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- the return of the Shiva artefact to India
- the consolidation of the 'back office' functions of Canberra-based Arts agencies
- the restructure of the Australia Council and its impact on contractual arrangements
- the impact of National Security Legislation amendments and freedom of speech
- the introduction of Bills and the consultation period with AHRC
- the timing of the Human Rights Commissioner's inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention
- the KPMG Report on efficiencies of Australian courts and the implications of efficiency dividends
- the report of the Integrity Commissioner into the AFP raid on Seven West Media
- the impacts of methamphetamine ('ice'), the ACC's response and a common set of national/state laws to address the problem
- the extension for the Royal Commission on Union Corruption and the leaked questionnaire to Commonwealth agencies about union activities
- the investigation by the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce into serving members of Defence Force who may have committed abuse
- the conclusion of the AFP's Balibo Five investigation
- the AFP's use of control orders and preventative detention orders, and
- the burden of proof and the Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Foreign Fighters) Bill 2014.