

## **Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

The committee met on Monday, 26 May 2014 from 9.03 am to 10.45 pm.

The committee called the:

- Department of the Senate, the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) and the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS); and
- agencies of the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio, including the COAG Reform Council Secretariat, the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General, the National Australia Day Council, the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), the Australian Public Service Commission, the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor, the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman, the Office of National Assessments, and the Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS).

Among other issues, the following issues were discussed:

- the CCTV system Code of Practice; the use of CCTV footage in Parliament House by DPS for a staff code of conduct matter, and the Parliamentary privilege implications of this
- the impact of efficiency dividends on the work of Senators and on the functioning of the Parliamentary Departments
- the new IT platform for the generation of the Senate Red
- the Senate Occasional Lecture series
- statistics on, and processes for, costing requests in the PBO
- the trial of new security measures in Parliament House
- staffing issues in Hansard
- the commissioning of official portraits
- the Queen's crockery set and the gift of crockery purchased by Senators Madigan and Xenophon
- the consequences of the abolition of the COAG Reform Council Secretariat, including office leases, staffing, reporting arrangements, reports produced and the appointment of the Chair
- in relation to the office of the Governor-General, farewell functions for the former Governor-General, refurbishment work at the Governor-General's residence, the first Executive Council meeting and the Order of Australia Council
- procurement procedures for the Australian flag
- in relation to ANAO, the impact of efficiency dividends on staff and services, the process for appointment of the Head of the Commission of Audit, and the Building Better Regional Cities Program

- in relation to the Australian Public Service Commission, job losses within the Australian public service, the redeployment register and monitoring of employee assistance programs
- the consequences of the abolition of the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor, including reasons for not filling a current vacancy and the timing of the tabling of annual reports
- additional functions and resourcing in relation to the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman, and performance against office KPIs
- the impact of efficiency dividends and savings measures on the Office of National Assessments, and the open source centre
- in relation to IGIS, the statement by Mr Collaery to the inquiry by the Privileges Committee and whether IGIS intended to undertake further action as a result; an upgrade to the IT network and complaints processes and trends).