

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

The committee met on Tuesday, 2 June 2015 from 9 am until 10.42 pm.

The committee called the Department and agencies of the Defence portfolio, including the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO), and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- an update on Diggerworks,
- LAND 400, ASLAV, M113, Bushmaster and the Air Warfare Destroyer,
- shipbuilding, including the Future Submarines program,
- Defence abuse and mental health,
- drug testing processes,
- B1 bombers and F35 Joint Strike Fighters,
- the Martin Place siege,
- the handling of anthrax samples,
- preparedness for cyber threats,
- fraud and security issues,
- RM Williams army boots,
- upgrades to Williamtown and Tindal RAAF bases,
- the disposal of Defence estates/land,
- Darwin to Townsville tank movement,
- staff redundancies,
- with regard to DVA, the rehabilitation compensation mode, caseloads, suicide rates, homelessness, and mental health support and accommodation services,
- complementary employment to benefits payments,
- the Jet Fuel Exposure Syndrome Study,
- the Veterans' Counselling Service,
- commemorative centres,
- with regard to the AWM, official history publications for Iraq and East Timor and the war memorial histories program,
- collections relating to indigenous and settler conflicts,
- the last post ceremony, and
- the Menin Gate lions and the restoration of the war memorial gargoyles.