

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

The committee met on Wednesday, 3 June 2015 from 9 am until 10.41 pm.

The committee called the Department and agencies of the Foreign Affairs portfolio.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- travel by the Prime Minister, including the incident involving Ambassador Brady,
- the position of the Rohingya in Myanmar and Australian involvement with the Institute of Organised Migration,
- humanitarian assistance, including funding to Burma and relief efforts in Vanuatu,
- Port Vila hospital,
- the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade April Fool's Day joke email,
- matters concerning the Republic of Nauru and Manus Island,
- the process of budget review and cuts, Official Development Assistance funding and multilateral replenishments,
- aid negotiations and cuts in aid to Africa,
- aid cuts to Israel and Palestine,
- the costs of new posts in Papua New Guinea,
- department issues, including staffing, the enterprise bargaining agreement, redundancies and the staffing selection process (merit-based vs operational requirements),
- Australia's view on events in Maldives,
- consolidated aid figures in Estimates statements and Budget papers,
- 'koala' diplomacy and 'digital diplomacy',
- Bespoke/Arbury Pty Ltd,
- allegations of sexual assault within the Department,
- the Indonesia-Australia case before the International Court of Justice,
- Mr Anwar Ibrahim,
- aid to Buka and Manus Island,
- procurement-related contract training,
- innovation exchange,
- the mistreatment of minors in Israeli detention and multilateral peacekeeping forces,
- ministerial travel,
- the G20 privacy breach, and
- international properties, including their value and maintenance.