

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

The committee met on Thursday, 4 June 2015 from 9 am until 11 pm.

The committee called the Department and agencies of the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio, including the Australian Trade Commission, the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC) and Tourism Australia.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- staffing for Budget-night drinks in office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs,
- ministerial travel and the Foreign Minister's visit to Iran,
- assistance concerning the Rohingya refugee crisis,
- the heads-of-government meeting Malta,
- polio eradication,
- the aid response after Haiyan,
- the case of Mr Morison in Thailand,
- assistance to Kurdish forces,
- counter-terrorism financing,
- honorary consuls and conflicts of interest,
- in relation to Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Bougainville diplomatic mission, mining and aid,
- reductions to the aid budget, and aid for sub-Saharan Africa including South Sudan,
- the ambassador for counter-terrorism and Mr Moriarty as former ambassador to Iran,
- the discussion paper on citizenship,
- events in the South China sea,
- the gender equality fund and women's economic empowerment in Pakistan,
- the effects of CPI indexation changes on official development assistance contributions,
- the World Heritage application for the Great Barrier Reef,
- the trade deficit,
- the delay in signing-off on answers to questions on notice,
- free trade agreements (FTA) and the new 'online dashboard',
- the Chinese FTA, including the translation of documents, declaration of intent and most favoured nation provisions,
- the Trans-Pacific Partnership and confidentiality agreements,
- the significant investment visa scheme,
- sporting events and the Minister for Trade hosting investors,
- specialist recruitment processes, NGS Global and conflicts of interest,

- the OECD export credit group meeting,
- PNG/LNG project,
- the Productivity Commission review of EFIC,
- export contract loans,
- drivers of international travel in relation to tourism,
- tourism advertising, including types of media used,
- the upcoming Australia Week in China,
- the taxation treatment of holiday workers,
- the Asian business engagement plan, and
- the Cadbury factory.