

## Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

The committee met on Monday, 25 May 2015 from 9 am until 10.57 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 Independent National Security Legislation Monitor (INSLM), the Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS), the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) and the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- the operation of the Senate carpark, including recent changes in usage and the presence of security personnel at the entrance,
- the implications for the Department of the Senate of the new leadership structure of the Australian Greens,
- high workload levels in the Senate Committee Office and additional resourcing and funding,
- Comcare premiums for the Senate,
- security issues at Parliament House, including the role of the Usher of the Black Rod in the decision to introduce Australian Federal Police patrols in the Senate wing, the role of the Senate Department in current security upgrade works, and the Parliament House Security Taskforce and its relationship with the Security Management Board,
- the work of the PBO, including an update on agency response times, the tender for a new system to track workflows, timeframes used for costing policies, work plans and additional funding in the Budget,
- the ORIMA Research survey of stakeholders for the PBO, including its cost, the provision of senators and staffers emails, the anonymity of respondents, and the application of, and compliance with, the *Privacy Act 1988*,
- processes around the termination of the former Secretary of DPS,
- car parking arrangements at Parliament House, including capacity, recent changes in parking numbers in the Senate car park, paid parking in the public car park, pricing policy, revenue raised and expenditure,
- the Parliament House security upgrade works,
- the DPS cleaning contract with Limro Cleaning Services,
- an update on the Central Reference Document and the Conservation Management Plan,
- staffing matters, including the location of switchboard staff, details of Comcare claims and staff turnover,
- with regard to the INSLM, the status of the Monitor's security clearance, staffing and funding arrangements and an update on the inquiry into section 35P of the *Australian Security Organisation Act 1979*,

- with regard to IGIS, concerns around the organisation's independence, the role of IGIS under the *Archives Act 1983* in relation to the provision of evidence to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Information Commissioner concerning exemptions from document disclosure, and the Australian government agreement to return documents seized during an ASIO raid on the office of lawyer Bernard Collaery,
- with regard to ANAO, the transition process for the new Auditor-General, the audit program on government advertising, the timing of the release and findings of performance audit entitled *Management of Smart Centres' Centrelink Telephone Services* and the status of enterprise bargaining at the ANAO,
- with regard to the APSC, the pay offer to Department of Human Services employees in comparison to the living cost index, the average level of pay offers, claims made by the CPSU which appeared to be inaccurate, and the status of the investigation into the leaking of information concerning military pay, and
- with regard to the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman, the amendment to the agency's outcome statement, expenditure on travel and accommodation, and the transition of tax complaints to the Inspector-General of Taxation.