

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

The committee met on Wednesday, 27 May 2015 from 9 am until 10.07 pm.

The committee called:

- the Department and agencies of the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio including the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor General, and
- the Department and agencies of the Finance portfolio including ASC Pty Ltd, ComSuper and Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC),

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- capital measure Budget allocation for the preservation and maintenance of vice-regal properties,
- an update on the tender process for new kitchen equipment for the Governor-General's residence,
- hospitality expenditure concerning the Governor-General,
- the Order of Australia, including the increase in nominations and awards and the number of women nominated and receiving awards,
- staff turnover in the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General,
- in relation to ASC Pty Ltd, the Air Warfare Destroyer program, including the leaking of the forensic audit report and the briefing of ASC in relation to its findings; the announcement of a limited tender process to either insert a managing contractor into ASC or to further enhance ASC capability through a partnering arrangement; reforms implemented, and the extent of cost overruns in the program attributable to factors beyond ASC control,
- the future submarine project, including the timeframe for delivery of submarines and the visit by a Japanese delegation to ASC,
- in relation to public sector superannuation, work being done to facilitate the merger of ComSuper and CSC and amounts held in the funds and membership levels,
- changes in the Finance Department's outcome structure, graduate program, enterprise bargaining process and staffing levels,
- assumptions underpinning the costings in the families child care package and small business package announced in the Budget,
- the accounting treatment of Future Fund earnings in the budget papers (inclusion in the medium term projections),
- Budget 'glossies' and Departmental involvement in their preparation,
- the treatment of provisions in the contingency reserve for policies not proceeded with,
- particular Budget measures, including Developing Northern Australia – Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility; Growing Jobs and Small Business – Youth Employment

Strategy; the revised waiting period for youth income support; removing double-dipping from parental leave pay; Rationalising and Streamlining Health Program; Smaller Government – Education and Training Portfolio, and reduced funding for Industry Grant Programs,

- modelling which underpins the parameter and other variations incorporated into the Budget,
- agencies exempt from the efficiency dividend, and
- the Central Budget Management System.