

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

The committee met on Wednesday, 27 May 2015 from 9.03 am until 11.04 pm.

The committee called the Attorney-General's Department and agencies in the Arts portfolio, including the Australia Council, Screen Australia and the National Film and Sound Archive.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- the continued operation of the Australia Council, including questions of contestability and competitive funding,
- the administration and allocation of Arts funding, including regional funding of the Arts and the process of appointments to boards,
- the functions, capabilities, funding and powers of the Australian Crime Commission,
- remuneration for Royal Commissioners and Counsel Assisting Royal Commissions,
- measures to address domestic violence and violence against women,
- an inquiry into international surrogacy,
- the Attorney-General's response to correspondence received from the Sheik Haron Monis,
- reversal of the cuts to legal aid funding by the Department and extension of the Indigenous Legal and Native Title Assistance program, and
- the coordination of the counter terrorism measures by the Attorney-General's Department and the government's newly announced countering violent extremism strategy.