

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

The committee met on Thursday, 28 May 2015 from 9.02 am until 6.35 pm.

The committee called the Department and agencies in the Attorney-General's portfolio, including the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC), National Archives of Australia, the Family Court and Federal Circuit Court, the Federal Court of Australia, the Australian Institute of Criminology, CrimTrac, the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO).

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- in relation to the AHRC, work done to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the *Racial Discrimination Act*; consultation and work done to promote indigenous land rights; work regarding LGBTI discrimination and the current role of the Human Rights Commissioner,
- in relation to the OAIC, its role in managing and streamlining Freedom of Information matters; procedures for the appointment of the Freedom of Information commissioner and the agency's ongoing funding arrangements,
- steps being taken by the National Archives to declassify and make readily available government documents,
- the current workload of the Federal Courts and fees for litigants,
- the events leading up to the arrest and execution of Mr Andrew Chan and Mr Myuran Sukumaran and role of the Australian Federal Police,
- development of a National Facial Recognition database,
- measures being taken by ASIO to counter terrorist threats and new groups prescribed as terrorist organisations; foreign fighters (including the number of returnees and dual citizens); ISIL sympathisers in Australia; the National Terrorism Public Alert System and the use of the terms Daesh/ISIL, and
- ASIO's response to correspondence received from Man Haron Monis.