

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

The committee met on Monday 23 February 2015 from 9 am until 11 pm.

The committee called:

- the Department of the Senate, the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) and the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS), and
- the Department and agencies of the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio including the Office of Women, the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor (INSLM), the Australian National Audit Office, the Australian Public Service Commission and the Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS).

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- consultation processes regarding recent changes to security arrangements in Parliament House,
- the introduction of paid parking in the Parliament House public car park and the possible introduction of paid parking for staff at Parliament House, including consultation processes undertaken by the Senate Department and DPS,
- an update on the process for filling the Senate vacancy created by the resignation of Senator Faulkner,
- the timeliness of completed responses by agencies to requests for information from the PBO,
- actions taken by DPS in response to the 160th Report of the Privileges Committee: *The use of CCTV material in Parliament House*,
- the Library internship program,
- recent changes to cabinet processes and procedures including to the Cabinet Handbook,
- recent changes to government staff appointment processes and the Government Staffing Committee,
- processes around the appointment of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, as a knight in the Order in Australia,
- the appointment process for the new Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet,
- the Department's non-compliance with the Senate Order regarding outstanding estimates questions on notice,
- the role of the Department in the procurement process for the future submarine program,
- the impact of cuts to community legal services on the implementation of the second action plan to reduce violence towards women,
- the restoration of the women's impact budget statement,
- the partnership with the Australian Institute of Company Directors regarding the National Diversity Scholarship program,

- current referrals before the INSLM, and its proposed work plan for the review of impacts on journalists of section 35P provisions of the *National Security Legislation Amendment Act (No.1) 2014*,
- the process for the replacement of the Auditor-General,
- the ANAO's view on the procurement process for the future submarine program,
- the level of public service pay rises,
- the process for appointing the new Public Service Commissioner, and
- whether IGIS has inquired into allegations of illegal activity of the Australian Security and Intelligence Service concerning the covert recording of the East Timorese cabinet members.