

OPENING STATEMENT

Budget Estimates May 2018

Talking Points

- *I am Ms Stephanie Foster, Deputy Secretary of the Governance Group in the Department.*

Witnesses

- The members of the Department's Executive in attendance for this session to answer your questions are:
 - Dr David Gruen, Deputy Secretary, Economic Group;
 - Ms Lin Hatfield-Dodds, Deputy Secretary, Social Policy;
 - Mr Barry Sterland, Deputy Secretary, Innovation and Transformation; and
 - Mr Allan McKinnon, Deputy Secretary, National Security.
- Other senior officers will be available to assist as required.
- Mr Andrew Tongue, Associate Secretary, Indigenous Affairs, and Professor Ian Anderson, Deputy Secretary, Indigenous Affairs, will attend with senior members of the Indigenous Affairs Group on Friday 25 May 2018.

Executive changes (since the last hearing)

- On 27 February 2018, Mr David Williamson, Deputy Secretary, joined the Department.
- On 28 February 2018, Mr Allan McKinnon, resumed responsibility as Deputy Secretary National Security.
- On 13 April 2018, Mr Simon Merrifield, returned to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade after heading the highly successful ASEAN Australia Special Summit.
- On 10 May 2018, changes were made to the Administrative Arrangements Order. As a result, the following functions and offices will move from the PM&C portfolio to the Attorney-General's portfolio:
 - Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security;
 - Office of the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor;
 - Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman; and

- responsibility for the Public Interest Disclosure Act and the Lobbying Code of Conduct.
- Given the proximity to Budget Estimate hearings representatives from these Offices appeared at yesterday's Finance and Public Administration Committee hearing. In the future they will appear with the Attorney-General's Department.
- I have the Department's organisational chart as at 17 May 2018 here for the Committee.
- I would like to inform the Committee, that a number of SES Band 2 appointments have recently been finalised:
 - Mary Wiley Smith will commence as First Assistant Secretary, APS Review, on 23 May;
 - Helen Wilson will commence as First Assistant Secretary, Industry, Infrastructure and Environment Division, on 29 May;
 - John Reid will commence as First Assistant Secretary, Government Division, in July; and
 - Ros Baxter will commence as First Assistant Secretary, Social Policy Division, in July.