



Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
Supplementary Estimates 2022-23
Monday, 13 February 2023
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 11.00pm.

The committee called the:

- National Emergency Management Agency; Australian Security Intelligence Organisation; Department of Home Affairs (including Australian Border Force) for Cross-portfolio, corporate and general matters, and Outcomes 1, 2, and 3.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- the review of the 2022 New South Wales Floods Declaration under the National Emergency Declaration Act 2020;
- funding framework provided to the National Emergency Management Agency;
- floods in the Kimberley region of Western Australia;
- financial assistance available to small businesses and primary producers affected by natural disasters;
- the increase in issue motivated violent extremism during the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated lockdowns;
- foreign interference and espionage;
- matters relating to the designation of Nauru as a regional processing country under Operation Sovereign Borders;
- cybersecurity
- visa applications from Afghan nationals
- the contractual obligations of Management and Training Corporation in providing garrison services in regional processing centres in Nauru;
- visa processing matters, including the average wait time for the processing of visa applications;
- humanitarian visas with reference to Myanmar nationals and entry requirements;
- conversion of temporary protection visas to permanent protection visas;
- the Murugappan family from Biloela;
- repatriation of family members of Islamic State fighters; and
- surge capacity of Operation Sovereign Borders.

The committee called the:

- Australian Federal Police; Office of the Australian Information Commissioner; and the Office of the Special Investigator.
- Office of Parliamentary Counsel and Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security were released from the hearing.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- the Australian Federal Police investigation into media reporting around the repatriation of family members of Islamic State fighters;
- a national firearms registry;
- statistics related to the sexual exploitation of children and measures the Australian Federal Police is undertaking to counter the sexual exploitation of children via social media platforms;
- the investigation into the arrest of Mr Hamid Sotounzadeh;
- matters relating to the arrest of Mr Daniel Duggan

- modern slavery and human trafficking matters referred to the Australian Federal Police;
- the possibility of deploying Australian Federal Police Officers to Alice Springs or other parts of the Northern Territory;
- Australian Federal Police staff survey;
- the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner investigation into the use of facial recognition technology by Bunnings Group and Kmart Australia;
- number of outstanding matters before the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner;
- number of individuals under investigation by the Office of the Special Investigator; and
- access by the Special Investigator to third countries to conduct investigations and to collect evidence.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Tuesday, 14 February in the Main Committee Room, for examination of the Attorney-General's portfolio.