



Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
Supplementary Estimates 2022-23
Tuesday, 14 February 2023
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.02am until 11.01pm.

The committee called the Attorney-General's Department for cross-portfolio, corporate and general matters.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- Matters relating to the case of Lendlease Building Contractors Pty Limited v Australian Building and Construction Commissioner [2022] FCA 192; and
- The inquiry conducted by the Hon Virginia Bell AC into the appointment of the former Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, into multiple government ministries.

The committee called the Justice and Communities Group in the Attorney-General's Department.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- First Nations issues in the Northern Territory including the rate of imprisonment and community legal services;
- The tripartite test of aboriginality; and
- The referendum on the Voice to Parliament.

The committee called the Integrity and International Group in the Attorney-General's Department.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- The inquiry into the Religious Discrimination Bill 2021 and the consultation provided by the Attorney-General's Department; and
- Matters relating to the review of the Privacy Act 1988.

The committee called the National Security and Criminal Justice Group in the Attorney-General's Department.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- Classification of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps in relation to the Criminal Code;
- Matters relating to tranche two anti-money laundering reforms; and
- Costs related to the prosecution of Mr David McBride and Mr Richard Boyle.

The committee called the Australian Government Solicitor Group in the Attorney-General's Department.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- Submissions that the Australian Government Solicitor makes in relation to parliamentary privilege; and
- The Commonwealth's model litigant obligations.

The Enabling Services Group in the Attorney-General's Department was released from the hearing.

The committee called the following agencies from the Attorney-General's portfolio:

- Australian Human Rights Commission;
- Administrative Appeals Tribunal;
- Independent National Security Legislation Monitor;
- Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre;
- Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions;
- Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide;
- Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and Australian Institute of Criminology; and
- Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- The Central Australian Regional Response;
- The role of the Australian Human Rights Commission in providing educational material in relation to the proposed Indigenous Voice to Parliament;
- Strategies the Australian Human Rights Commission has to address anti-Semitism;
- The amendment to the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 that introduced a positive duty on employers to address sexual harassment and guidance provided to employers in relation to that duty;
- The Australian Human Rights Commission's advice on COVID-19 vaccine mandates;
- User experience ratings reported by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in its annual report for 2021-22;
- Proportion of appeals against decisions made by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Immigration Assessment Authority that have been allowed by the courts since June 2022;
- The caseload of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal;
- Matters related to the proposed abolition of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal;
- An investigation into a complaint against Mr Michael Manetta, a member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal;
- The Australian Law Reform Commission's consultation process on religious educational institutions and anti-discrimination law;
- A report into the Violent Extremism Risk Assessment 2 Revised (VERA-2R) tool by Dr Emily Corner in relation to the trial of Mr Abdul Nacer Benbrika;
- Money laundering through real estate;
- Tranche two anti-money laundering reforms; and
- Briefs of evidence provided to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions by Australian Defence Force personnel.

The following agencies from the Attorney-General's portfolio were released from the hearing:

- Australian Financial Security Authority;
- Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia;
- Federal Court of Australia;
- Commonwealth Ombudsman;
- Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity;
- Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide;
- Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and Australian Institute of Criminology; and
- Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.