



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Estimates 2022-23  
Wednesday, 15 February 2023  
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.58pm.

The Committee called:

- Department of Defence;
- Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force;
- Australian Signals Directorate;
- Australian War Memorial; and
- Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Office of the Director of Military Prosecutions and Defence Housing Australia were both released without questioning.

The Committee discussed a range of topics, including:

- Condolences for the late Senator Jim Molan;
- Recruitment of ADF personnel by foreign nations;
- ADF deployments under Operation Okra;
- Projects in the ANAO's 2021-22 Major Projects report;
- Hiring of US navy personnel in advisory roles;
- Potential release of details in the Defence Strategic Review;
- Security concerns over surveillance cameras manufactured by foreign companies;
- Rotation of US B-52 bombers through Australia;
- Upgrades to the Cocos (Keeling) airstrip;
- AUKUS taskforce reporting on future nuclear submarine capabilities and recommendations;
- ADF deployment to disaster zones and the measures in place which take into account the cultural and language needs of communities;
- Purchase of UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters;
- Acquisition of small, unmanned aircraft systems;
- Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicles sent to Ukraine;
- Budget expectations for the Hunter Class Frigate project;
- ADF's policy to address personnel fatigue;
- Australia's and international responses to unidentified aerial phenomena;
- Recruitment challenges faced by the ADF;
- Cyber actors targeting Australian organisations;
- Corporate sponsorship of the Australian War Memorial by arms manufacturing corporations;
- AWM Commemoration of frontier wars;
- Claims backlog in DVA; and
- Progress on Veterans' and Families' Hubs.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Thursday, 16 February in the Main Committee Room, for examination of the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio.