



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Supplementary Estimates 2022-23
Thursday, 16 February 2023
Daily summary

The Committee met from 9:00am until 11.02pm

The Committee called:

- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade);
- Export Finance Australia; and
- Tourism Australia.

The Committee discussed a range of topics, including:

- Australians impacted by the recent earthquakes in Syria and Turkey;
- Assistance provided to New Zealand in response to Cyclone Gabrielle;
- Meetings and relationship-building with China;
- Role and work of the Gender Equality Ambassador;
- Strengthening engagement with India;
- Work with Pacific Island nations to combat the effects of climate change;
- Added sanctions on Iranian officials;
- Establishment and role of an Ambassador for First Nations People;
- Departmental travel budget;
- Reactions from Pacific nations to the AUKUS agreement;
- Recruitment of workers through the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme;
- Hong Kong democracy activists subject to a mass trial;
- Response to concerns regarding China's use of forced labour;
- Contact between DFAT and Prime Minister Netanyahu since his election in December 2022;
- Attendance of the Myanmar military junta at ASEAN meetings;
- Consular access to Julian Assange;
- Australia's Ambassador to Iraq;
- Forced labour concerns regarding Tibetans;
- Monitoring of Chinese government-run 'Confucius Institutes';
- The Myanmar military junta revoking Professor Sean Turnell's prison pardon, following his release in November 2022;
- Australia's approach to addressing hostage diplomacy and arbitrary detention;
- Backlog in passport renewals following a surge as pandemic restrictions eased;
- Impacts of domestic policy on international trade relationships;
- Progression on various trade agreements with other nations;
- Increased trade with India;
- Capacity building for First Nations businesses; and
- Rollout of the 'Come and Say G'day' campaign.