



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2022-23  
Thursday, 7 April 2022  
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.01am until 3.15pm.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

DFAT (non-trade)

- DFAT's engagement with the Solomon Islands since the release of the draft security agreement between China and the Solomon Islands;
- update on the situation in Ukraine and Australia's support to date;
- explosion of Russian diplomatic staff in a number of countries around the world;
- jurisdiction of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in relation to Russia's actions against the Ukraine;
- China's position on the conflict in Ukraine;
- Australia's humanitarian assistance to the Ukraine and measures in place to deliver assistance;
- Australia's position on using Magnitsky-style sanctions in the context of the situations in Ukraine and Myanmar;
- Australia's engagement with the current regime in Myanmar;
- changes to Australia's sanctions regime in relation to Myanmar;
- treatment and health of Australian citizen Dr Yang Hengjun detained in China and timing of trial;
- DFAT's updated bureaucratic architecture and cross-portfolio engagement in relation to Afghanistan;
- split in visa processing between DFAT and Home Affairs and an update on visas granted in relation to Afghanistan;
- Australia's commitment of \$40 million in Afghanistan aid at the UN pledging conference;
- update on the scale of the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, including the treatment of women and girls;
- COVAX and Australia's contribution to the regional distribution of COVID-19 vaccines;
- DFAT's response to the Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International's report "We will erase you from this land: crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing in Ethiopia's Western Tigray Zone", published in April 2022;
- update on the situation in Sudan;
- persecution of Christians in Algeria;
- update on jurisdictions which have moved away from the death penalty;
- estimates of the number of Pacific workers in Australia; and
- Minister for Foreign Affairs Marise Payne's announcement of the memorandum of understanding under the Australian Agriculture Visa Program with Vietnam.

AusTrade

- funding and arrangements for third round of the Consumer Travel Support Program;
- details on plans for the THRIVE 2030 strategy; and
- funding for Tourism Research Australia's data enhancement program.

### Tourism Australia

- details in relation to the \$45 million funding announced for Tourism Australia to get international tourists back in to key regional Australian destinations;
- Tourism Australia's partnerships within its international marketing strategy; and
- extension of Business Events Australia's bid fund.

DFAT (trade programs) and Export Finance Australia were released without examination.

The committee completed examination of the Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio.