



## Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee Supplementary Budget Estimates 2019-20 Wednesday, 23 October 2019 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 9.00am until 11.00pm.

The committee called the following departments (some areas of interest by the committee are listed):

### Department of Defence

- audit of flammable cladding on Defence estate buildings;
- shipbuilding jobs;
- climate change risk mitigation;
- limited tender process for the awarding of an IT contract to Sinapse Pty Ltd;
- PFAS contamination, including compensation claims and payments;
- Government position on the 2016 PCA Tribunal ruling on the South China Sea Arbitration;
- Defence Team Australia international delegations, particularly in relation to the inclusion of Mr Michael Kauter;
- Ministers' charter letters and division of portfolio responsibilities;
- Special Purpose Aircraft Guidelines; and
- Navy personnel numbers.

### Australian Signals Directorate

- cancellation of speakers from CyberCon; and
- Slack messaging service.

### Defence Housing Australia

- Governance arrangements as a GBE and balance in providing services to ADF members while delivering commercial returns.

### Australian War Memorial

- recruitment process for new Director and selection process for new council members;
- update on the redevelopment project to expand gallery space; and
- donations from weapons manufacturers.

### Department of Veterans' Affairs

- assistance dogs program;
- claims processing timeliness;
- use of legal panel providers for AAT litigation;
- homelessness in the veteran community;
- staffing reduction;
- budget savings;
- claims through MyService;
- changes to the allied health referral treatment cycle;
- assistance to incarcerated veterans; and
- maintaining records on veteran suicide.

Opposition Senators indicated they would be seeking to hold a spill over hearing to continue examination of the Department of Defence.

The committee will commence examination of the Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio on 24 October 2019.