



Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2023-24
Tuesday, 24 October 2023
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.43pm.

The committee called the:

- Attorney-General's Department, including:
 - Cross-portfolio, corporate and general matters;
 - Justice and Communities Group;
 - Integrity and International Group;
 - National Security and Criminal Justice Group;
 - Enabling Services Group; and
 - Australian Government Solicitor.
- Australian Human Rights Commission;
- National Anti-Corruption Commission;
- Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia; and
- Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor were released from the hearing.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Attorney-General's Department – Cross-portfolio, corporate and general matters

- Departmental response to a request for documents ahead of the Budget Estimates 2023-24 hearing in May 2023;
- Appointment of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions and interim acting arrangements;
- Matters relating to freedom of information including requests for the Attorney-General's diary, advice to the Attorney-General's office on proactive disclosure, and the Attorney-General's Department's caseload; and
- Departmental resources provided to the Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP, Assistant Minister for the Republic.

Attorney-General's Department – Justice and Communities Group

- Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody;
- Commonwealth engagement on children in detention;
- Matters relating to justice reinvestment, including the implementation of the program and funding for community organisations;
- Makarrata Commission;
- Funding provided to the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency through the National Legal Assistance Partnership;
- Closing the Gap;
- Process for developing the Australian Law Reform Commission inquiry into justice responses to sexual violence terms of reference;

- Implementation of the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse;
- Matters relating to the suspension of the Queensland Human Rights Act, including briefings provided to the Attorney-General and discussions at the Standing Council of Attorneys-General; and
- Treasury Laws Amendment (Better Targeted Superannuation Concessions) Bill 2023.

Attorney-General's Department – Integrity and International Group

- Implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture;
- Transfer of asylum seekers to Nauru;
- Brett Cattle dispute;
- Lobbyist register;
- International Civil Aviation Organization proceedings on flight MH17;
- Reforms to the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013*;
- Review of the *Privacy Act 1988*; and
- Australian Law Reform Commission inquiry into religious educational institutions and anti-discrimination laws.

Attorney-General's Department – National Security and Criminal Justice Group

- Relisting of groups such as Islamic State and Boko Haram;
- Number of convictions of terrorism offences and releases from custody;
- Vacancies at the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and acting arrangements;
- Section 71 of the *Judiciary Act 1903*;
- Cameras used by the Attorney-General's Department that are manufactured by Dahua and Hikvision;
- Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Bill 2022 (ACT);
- Establishment of a Federal Parole Board; and
- Communication between the Australian Federal Police, Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, and authorities in the United States of America in relation to the Daniel Duggan and Julian Assange cases.

Attorney-General's Department – Enabling Services Group

- Statistics related to departmental freedom of information requests; and
- Litigation costs in the Rex Patrick matter.

Attorney-General's Department – Australian Government Solicitor

- Billing for legal services;
- Performance measures and key performance indicators; and
- Costs associated with the *LibertyWorks Inc v. Commonwealth of Australia* case.

Australian Human Rights Commission

- Budgetary matters relating to staffing and travel;
- Costs and funding associated with the National Summit of First Nations Women, held at the National Convention Centre, Canberra, from 9-11 May 2023;
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- The National Anti-Racism Framework and the Racism. It Stops With Me campaign;
- Vaccine mandates; and
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament and the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

National Anti-Corruption Commission

- Number of referrals made to the National Anti-Corruption Commission; and
- Budget setting arrangements.

Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia

- Performance of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia against its key performance indicators, particularly in relation to the timeliness of judgements; and
- Judicial immunity in relation to the Stradford v Vasta case.

Administrative Appeals Tribunal

- The design of the user experience rating survey outlined in the annual report; and
- Performance of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal against its key performance indicators.