



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence
and Security report:

Review of Administration and Expenditure No. 17
(2017-2018) - Australian Intelligence Agencies

May 2020

Response to Recommendations

Recommendation 1.

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government ensure that the Office of National Intelligence is adequately resourced to facilitate national intelligence community-wide learning and development programs with a focus on:

- **enhancing leadership;**
- **fostering a shared understanding of the community and increased staff mobility across agencies; and**
- **strengthening fundamental skills and capabilities.**

Noted

The Government notes the Committee's recommendation. The Office of National Intelligence (ONI) was established in 2018 and given additional resources to undertake its leadership role in the National Intelligence Community.

Agency resourcing is subject to Government consideration through the standard budget processes.

Recommendation 2.

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government review the application of the efficiency dividend to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the Australian Secret Intelligence Service and the Office of National Intelligence with a view to safeguarding their operational budgets.

Noted

The Government notes the Committee's recommendation.

The efficiency dividend is applied to the departmental funding of Commonwealth general government sector entities to encourage the efficient use of resources. Where appropriate to do so, the Government has exempted entities from the efficiency dividend. In conjunction with the efficiency dividend, the Government provides annual indexation of departmental funding, reflecting annual cost and wage movements that impact on agency operations.

Agency resourcing, including application of the efficiency dividend, is subject to Government consideration through the standard budget processes.