



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

Review of the National Security Legislation Amendment (Espionage and Foreign Interference) Bill 2017

Review of the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Bill 2017

Issue date: 29 January 2018

Public hearings on key foreign interference bills

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security will hold two days of public hearings this week for its review of two important bills targeting espionage and foreign interference:

- the **National Security Legislation Amendment (Espionage and Foreign Interference) Bill 2017**, which amends existing criminal laws for secrecy and espionage offences, and introduces new foreign interference and sabotage offences, and
- the **Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Bill 2017**, which establishes a scheme that requires registration by persons who undertake certain activities within Australia on behalf of foreign interests.

The Chair of the Committee, Mr Andrew Hastie MP, said that “Espionage and foreign interference in Australia has been described by ASIO as ‘extensive, unrelenting and increasingly sophisticated’. The proposed new laws are aimed at addressing gaps in current laws to enable authorities to more effectively respond to this threat.

“The Committee’s review will be aimed at ensuring the new laws are as effective as possible, and balanced with appropriate safeguards and oversight mechanisms.”

Public hearing details:

8.30am – 6.00pm, Tuesday 30 January 2018

8.30am – 5.00pm, Wednesday 31 January 2018

Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

A range of government and non-government witnesses have been invited to appear before the Committee. The hearing will be broadcast live at aph.gov.au/live

Detailed hearing programs and further information about the Committee’s reviews, including submissions received to date, can be obtained from the Committee’s [website](http://aph.gov.au).

Media enquiries:

Chair, Mr Andrew Hastie MP (Canning, WA) on 08 9534 8044 (Electorate office) or (02) 6277 4223 (Parliament House)

For background information:

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