



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS**

Inquiry into and report on all aspects of the conduct of the 2016 Federal Election and matters related thereto

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Issue date: 19 November 2018

## **Combatting cyber interference in elections**

The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters will hold a public hearing on cyber interference in elections. The hearing is part of the Committee's inquiry into the 2016 Federal Election.

"Although there has been no evidence of cyber manipulation or 'fake news' interference in Australia's elections to date, from international events, it is important that the Electoral Matters Committee takes the initiative and is at the forefront of investigating ways to tackle this issue before it is of concern to future elections in Australia," said Committee Chair, Senator the Hon James McGrath.

The Committee will hear from a range of experts on the use of intentional dissemination of disinformation and micro targeting to influence voters; the use of data harvesting by social media platforms and associated apps and measures to bring more transparency to social media, particularly during elections.

"This Committee is just one of many parliamentary committees around the world grappling with this issue. The Committee is watching events in other jurisdictions closely and will be making recommendations in its final report aimed at safeguarding the integrity of Australia's electoral system," noted Senator McGrath.

### **Public Hearing Details:**

Date: Tuesday, 20 November 2018

Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Location: Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

### **Media enquiries, contact the Chair's office:**

Media Contact: Sam Jackson - 0439 477 005

### **For background:**

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

(02) 6277 2374 or [em@aph.gov.au](mailto:em@aph.gov.au)