

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

The committee met on Monday, 15 October 2012 from 9.00 am to 11.04 pm.

The committee called the:

- department and agencies of the Immigration and Citizenship portfolio, including the Migration Review Tribunal, the Refugee Review Tribunal, and the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- the criteria by which assessments are made to grant various visas, including working holiday, skilled labour and student visas
- the country of origin of various asylum-seekers and the success rate of their applications
- the types of agreements between the Australian government and their overseas counterparts in the establishment of offshore detention facilities in Nauru and Manus Island
- the treatment and availability of facilities for detention centre residents
- whether there is a difference in the processing of asylum applications depending on the method of arrival
- the cost-effectiveness of police and ambulance services to the Pontville Detention Centre in Tasmania.