

## **Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee**

The committee met on Wednesday, 28 May 2014 from 9.01 am to 11.02 pm.

The committee called the Attorney-General's Department and agencies of the Attorney-General's portfolio, including Creative Partnerships Australia, the Australia Council, Screen Australia, the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia, the National Gallery of Australia, the National Library of Australia, the National Museum of Australia, the National Portrait Gallery of Australia and Old Parliament House.

Among other issues, the following issues were discussed:

- the funding of the arts in Australia, including reductions in the arts budget and their effect on arts communities, cultural agencies and organisations, and artists
- ASIO raids on the offices of Mr Bernard Collaery and their influence on Australia's international standing
- the redirection of funding for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- the appearance by the former Prime Minister, Mr Kevin Rudd, before the Royal Commission into the Home Insulation Program and related issues regarding cabinet confidentiality
- exposure draft amendments to Section 18C of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*
- funding levels for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, including the impact of budget savings measures
- the proposed amalgamation of Migration Review Tribunal, the Refugee Review Tribunal, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Classification Review Board
- funding arrangements and payments made under the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.