

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates Hearing October 2015
Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency:	Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security
Outcome/Program:	Outcome 1
Topic:	Staffing, oversight and overhaul
Senator:	Xenophon
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Question:	

Margaret Stone was quoted in a recent Australian article as saying the past year required an overhaul of the agencies oversight programs to focus on the expanded powers and higher risk activities of the security agencies.

What do you propose such an overhaul would include?

Answer:

A review of OIGIS inspection activities has already occurred, with existing inspection programs modified and new inspection activities established as necessary to take account of recent national security legislative reform.

The quote referred to above is from the IGIS 2014-15 Annual Report, which states (at page 3):

The office had to design and implement new oversight programs as a result of this new legislation. The changes required a re-prioritisation of our work program and a comprehensive revision of existing inspection methodology to focus on the use of the new powers and higher risk activities. By the end of the reporting period the office had new programs in place and had inspected the agencies' use of new and amended powers.