



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2018-19  
Tuesday, 22 May 2018  
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.00am to 10.56pm.

The committee called:

- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- Government negotiations with One Nation in relation to company tax cuts;
- establishment of the Aged Care Taskforce, Terms of Reference and budget measures;
- Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry;
- tax integrity measures contained in the 2018–19 Budget;
- Freedom of Information claim in relation to the Australian Public Service Commissioner and alleged investigation by the Merit Protection Commissioner;
- department's role in the establishment of the Department of Home Affairs and the Office of National Intelligence (currently the Office of National Assessments);
- independent review of the Australian Public Service including panel arrangements and timelines;
- Open Government Partnership Commitment and implementation of the National Action Plan;
- Beneficial Ownership Scheme delays;
- finalisation of the report of the expert panel's Religious Freedom Review, chaired by the Hon Philip Ruddock;
- responsibility for the Ministerial Staff Statement of Standards;
- media reports on proposals by Home Affairs and Defence to expand the powers of surveillance of Australian citizens and the department's response;
- Australia's relationship with China;
- implementation of the Guidelines for gender identity;
- stakeholder engagement with the Voluntary National Review concerning the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- Governor-General's role in ADF participation in domestic national security and legislative powers;
- future use of Lithium in Australia;
- department's involvement in the decision to establish the Energy Security Board and the energy guarantee;
- cost of the visit to Australia by staff of the Prince of Wales in advance of the recent Royal visit;
- gifts to the Prime Minister and other declarations under the Statement of Ministerial Standards; and
- engagement of Mr John Garnaut as a specialist speech writer.

The committee will next meet at **9.00am** on Wednesday 23 May 2018, in Senate Committee room 2S1 calling ASC Pty Ltd, Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd, Future Fund Management Agency, Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation, and the Department of Finance.