



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2019-20
Wednesday, 10 April 2019
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.00am until 9.27pm.

The committee called:

- Department of Defence;
- Australian Signals Directorate; and
- Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Department of Defence

- instances of fraud;
- achievement of KPIs for recruitment targets in the annual report;
- update on the level of engagement of local industry for Defence contracts in regional Australia;
- future submarine program, including local content requirements in contracts, progress on infrastructure build in Adelaide, staffing profile of officers working in the project office in Cherbourg and their conditions of service;
- processes for appointments to Defence related boards;
- Operation OKRA and progress in relation to the mission to combat Daesh in Syria and Iraq;
- Operation HIGHROAD in Afghanistan;
- use of VIP aircraft during election campaigns;
- credit card and fuel card usage;
- Defence enhanced engagement in the Pacific under the Pacific Step Up program;
- Future Frigate Program, including expenditure to date and local content requirements in contracts; and
- submariner training.

Australian Signals Directorate

- Certified Gateways; and
- Cyber Security Strategy 2016.

Department of Veterans' Affairs

- budget savings;
- staffing, including redundancies and redeployments;
- budget for consultants in 2019-20;
- budget measures to implement the Veteran Centric Reforms;
- changes to Allied Health treatment model and feedback processes for veterans' organisations;
- progress on implementation of the Veterans' Card; and
- independent review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Defence/DVA Inquiry into the Jesse Bird case.

Defence Housing Australia and the Australian War Memorial were released without examination.
The committee completed examination of the Defence Portfolio.