



Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2017-18
Thursday, 25 May 2017
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in Legal and Constitutional Affairs Estimates.

The committee met from 9.00 am until 11.00 pm.

The committee called agencies of the Attorney-General's portfolio, including:

- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Human Rights Commission
- Administrative Appeals Tribunal
- Australian Security Intelligence Organisation

The following agencies were also called, but were excused by the committee without questions:

- Australian Law Reform Commission
- Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions
- Australian Transactions Reports and Analysis Centre
- Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
- Family Court of Australia, Federal Circuit Court of Australia and Federal Court of Australia
- Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and Australian Institute of Criminology
- Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity

The committee has not scheduled any further hearings for Budget Estimates 2017-18 at this stage.

Areas of interest covered today included:

- Budget measures for the Australian Federal Police (AFP);
- AFP's involvement in prosecution of multiple-voting charges from the 2016 Federal Election;
- metadata breach in which a journalist's call data was accessed without a warrant;
- preliminary investigations relating to a referral to the AFP regarding Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party;
- whether drug dependence is considered to be a disability in relation to disability discrimination law;
- funding to the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC);
- appointment of a new president to the AHRC following the end of Professor Gillian Triggs' term in July 2017;
- procedures within the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) for publishing decisions of the tribunal online;
- statistics related to the caseload of the AAT; and
- an update on national security from the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation.