**PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

**CHAIR'S TABLING STATEMENT**

**Tuesday, 12 February 2019**

I rise to speak to the tabling of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights' *Human Rights Scrutiny Report 1 of 2019* and the committee's annual report for 2018.

The report contains a credible technical examination of legislation with Australia's obligations under international human rights law. A number of the bills scheduled for debate this week have been considered by this committee in the current report, including in relation to:

* Australian citizenship;
* Electoral legislation; and
* Visa cancellation.

Of the new bills examined in this report, 16 have been assessed as not raising human rights concerns as they promote, permissibly limit, or do not engage, human rights. The committee is also seeking further information in relation to the human rights compatibility of a number of bills and instruments. Of these, a number engage the right to privacy as they allow for the collection of personal information. The report also contains the committee's concluded examination of four bills and instruments.

**Annual Report 2018**

I also speak to the tabling of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights' Annual Report 2018. This report covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018 and provides information about the work of the committee including major themes and scrutiny issues arising from the legislation examined by the committee. Major themes during the period range from human rights and technology to the human rights of vulnerable groups.

The annual report details the significant volume of work the committee has undertaken during the reporting period. In this respect, the committee tabled 13 scrutiny reports, examining a total of 238 bills and Acts and 1,850 legislative instruments. Of the bills considered in this period, the majority — 181 — were initially assessed as promoting, permissibly limiting, or not engaging human rights. The committee requested additional information in relation to 38 bills and 38 legislative instruments in the reporting period. The committee also provided 29 'advice only' comments to legislation proponents.

I encourage my fellow Members and others to examine the committee's annual report to inform their consideration of the committee's work during the relevant period.

With these comments, I commend the committee's *Report 1 of 2019* and Annual Report 2018 to the House.