

OPENING STATEMENT

*After being asked to state your name and the capacity in which you appear, you may be invited to make a brief opening statement.
Some suggested wording for an opening statement is included for your consideration below.*

Thank you Chair, I do have a very short opening statement.

As there has been a period of time since my Office has last appeared before this Committee at an Estimates hearing, I thought a very brief snapshot of what my Office does may be of assistance to the Committee.

The role of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security is to assist Ministers in overseeing and reviewing the activities of the agencies within IGIS jurisdiction for legality, propriety and consistency with human rights. It also has a role to assist the Government and the Parliament and the public that intelligence and security matters of these agencies are open to scrutiny. We are a statutory agency, which is governed by the *Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security Act 1986*.

The agencies that this Office oversees are:

- ONI
- ASIO
- ASIS
- ASD
- AGO
- DIO

The Office also has limited jurisdiction for the use and management of network activity warrants executed by the AFP and ACIC.

In undertaking our oversight and assurance work, our key activities are:

- Inquiries and preliminary inquiries
- Risk based proactive inspections
- Complaints and public interest disclosures

We are a small agency, with a current forecast ASL of 57 and an operating budget of approximately \$12.56 million and a capital budget of approximately \$3.7 million. We have a talented workforce, with a diverse range of backgrounds and skillsets, and a key focus for our agency over the course of this year and following years is recruitment and retention of our staff.

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In terms of my position, I was substantively appointed to the position of Inspector-General (after a period of acting) on 8 February 2021 for a period of five years. Prior to my appointment, I was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia from 2006-2017 and practiced at the Victorian Bar before that.

I am assisting in leading the Office by members of my Executive team, who are with me at the table today.

We would be pleased to answer any questions the Committee may have for us.

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