



Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2024–25
Friday, 31 May 2024
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 10:15pm

The committee called the:

- Australian Human Rights Commission;
- Administrative Appeals Tribunal;
- National Anti-Corruption Commission;
- Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security;
- Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions;
- Australian Federal Police; and
- Attorney-General's Department.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Australian Human Rights Commission:

- AHRC statement on the 7 October 2023 attack on Israel;
- Antisemitism on university campuses;
- Framework around doxing;
- Standards of conduct for staff members of the Commission;
- Social cohesion grants;
- Discrimination experienced by disabled people in airline travel;
- Disability access at cultural events; and
- Application of unlawful discrimination under section 18C of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*.

Administrative Appeals Tribunal:

- Determinations made by the AAT in relation to the cancellation of visas and the application of Direction 99 issued by the Minister for Immigration;
- The process of transition from the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to the Administrative Review Tribunal;
- Accessibility of Tribunal services;
- The Administrative Review Council; and
- Recent media coverage of AAT decisions.

National Anti-Corruption Commission:

- Comparisons between the NACC and state-based anti-corruption bodies;
- The jurisdiction of the NACC and its ability to request information from agencies; and
- Circumstances under which the NACC might conduct a public hearing.

Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security:

- Involvement with ASIO and investigations into the conduct of ASIO; and
- Statements made by the Director-General of ASIO in 2021 describing a network of foreign intelligence operatives working in Australia.

Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions:

- Decisions in relation to the bail conditions of Mr Majid Jamshidi Doukoshkan, released from immigration detention as a result of the High Court's NZYQ decision; and
- Actions by the CDPP in relation to proceedings against Mr David McBride.

Australian Federal Police:

- Cooperation by the Australian Federal Police with the Ministry of Public Security (China), including a 2019 incident in which MPS officers entered Australia to speak with Australian residents who subsequently returned to China;
- Staff retention in the Australian Federal Police and ACT Policing;
- Financial resources allocated under the 2024-25 Budget;
- Cybercrime including ransomware and crimes using artificial intelligence;
- The progress of Operation Alesia and the investigation into PwC;
- Organised crime entities operating in Australia;
- Media reports concerning the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London, UK;
- Threats to the security of parliamentarians and electorate offices;
- Mr Miles Mehta;
- The cohort of former immigration detainees released as a result of the High Court's NZYQ decision;
- The AFP's role in charges against Mr Majid Jamshidi Doukoshkan; and
- Advice provided to the CDPP in relation to Mr Doukoshkan's bail conditions.

Integrity and International Group, Attorney-General's Department:

- A resolution passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 May 2024 in relation to the admission of Palestine as a full member state;
- Funding for the office of the Anti-Slavery Commissioner;
- Whistleblowing reforms;
- Privacy law reforms;
- The Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme;
- Australia's obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and funding to establish National Preventative Mechanisms;
- Australia's obligation International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- Australia's position on recognising a state of Palestine; and
- Australia's obligations in the event an arrest warrant is issued by the International Criminal Court.