



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Inquiry based on Auditor-General's Report No.5 (2017–18) *Protecting Australia's Missions and Staff Overseas: Follow-on*

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Issue date: Tuesday, 6 February 2018

## Overseas security arrangements under scrutiny

Parliament's [Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit](#) will hear from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) tomorrow at a public hearing for its inquiry into Protecting Australia's Missions and Staff Overseas. The Committee's inquiry is based on Auditor-General's Report No.5 (2017–18) which is a follow-on from an audit released more than 12 years prior—[Auditor-General's Report No.28 \(2004–05\)](#).

The recent audit examines DFAT's management of security at its 104 overseas posts, including its security framework, training program, deployment of security measures and monitoring and reporting.

Committee Chair [Senator Dean Smith](#) noted that good planning and project management are critical to ensuring Australian staff and missions are protected overseas.

"The Committee will be following up with DFAT about its progress strengthening its overseas security arrangements, including implementing recommendations from the ANAO and previous reviews," Senator Smith said.

"The Committee takes risks to our overseas posts seriously and has therefore selected this audit report for further inquiry. It would be expected that DFAT has made considerable improvements to its security management, following the previous audit in 2005."

The JCPAA is the Parliament's joint public administration committee. The Committee scrutinises the governance, performance and accountability of Commonwealth agencies and has the power to inquire into all expenditure of Commonwealth money.

Further information about the inquiry can be accessed via the Committee's [website](#).

**Public hearing: Wednesday, 7 February 2018, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra  
9.15 to 10.15am** [ANAO Report No.5 \(2017–18\) \*Protecting Australia's Missions and Staff Overseas: Follow-on\*](#)

Australian National Audit Office  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The hearing will be broadcast live at [aph.gov.au/live](http://aph.gov.au/live). The hearing program is available from the Committee [website](#).

**Media enquiries:**



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Chair, Senator Dean Smith, Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, on (08) 9481 0349 (Electorate office) or (02) 6277 3707 (Parliament House)

**For background:**

Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4615 or email [jcpaa@aph.gov.au](mailto:jcpaa@aph.gov.au)

Interested members of the public may wish to track the Committee via the [website](#).