THE SENATE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INTERFERENCE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

MEDIA RELEASE

26 February 2020

Senate Committee to examine risk posed to Australia's democracy by foreign interference through social media

In its review of 97 national elections and 37 referendums, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute identified foreign interference in 20 countries including Australia.[1]

On 5 December 2019, the Senate established the Select Committee on Foreign Interference through Social Media to inquire into and report on the risk posed to Australia's democracy by foreign interference through social media, with particular reference to:

   a. use of social media for purposes that undermine Australia's democracy and values, including the spread of misinformation;
   b. responses to mitigate the risk posed to Australia's democracy and values, including by the Australian Government and social media platforms;
   c. international policy responses to cyber-enabled foreign interference and misinformation;
   d. the extent of compliance with Australian laws; and
   e. any related matters.

The committee invites submissions addressing the terms of reference from interested individuals and organisations by **13 March 2020**.

Information about the inquiry, including the full terms of reference, is available at https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign_Interference_through_Social_Media/ForeignInterference

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For media comment contact the office of Senator Jenny McAllister, Committee Chair, on 0436 632 388

For information about the inquiry process, please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 3585.

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[1] The Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Policy Brief, Report No. 16/2019 *Hacking democracies: cataloguing cyber-enabled attacks on elections*, available https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ad-aspi/2019-05/Hacking%20democracies_0.pdf?.RKLLc8uKm1wobfWH1VvC.C88xGWYY29 (accessed 18 February 2020)