



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

Inquiry into Security of Overseas Missions

Issue date: 9 May 2018

Report on diplomatic security

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit today released its [report](#) on the Security of Overseas Missions.

The Committee drew on [findings](#) from an Australian National Audit Office report published in August last year. Prior to this, the security of Australia's overseas missions was last audited in 2005.

The Committee's report highlighted that rigorous planning and monitoring, supported by sound capability, are essential for protecting Australia's missions and staff overseas.

Committee [Chair Senator Dean Smith](#) said greater consistency, coordination, monitoring and assurance were required to ensure effective management of security at overseas posts.

"The Committee has noted a number of areas in which the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade can improve its processes for the ultimate purpose of maximising physical, operational and cyber security," Senator Smith said.

The Committee's report makes eight recommendations aimed at improving the department's governance of post security and aspects of staff training, recommending that the department:

- provide details on the effectiveness of the Departmental Security Framework
- report back on the department's progress in implementing recommendations from previous audit and review coverage
- review current independent assurance arrangements and take action accordingly
- ensure consequences for non-compliance are adequate to embed a strong security compliance culture
- update the Committee on the status of the department's cyber resilience and compliance with the 'Essential Eight'
- provide further information on systems improvements to facilitate assurance that staff receive the required security training
- review the level of support provided to staff regarding post security, particularly the security training program, implementing improvements as necessary
- mandate cyber security training for locally engaged staff and provide further information on how the security communications program addresses cybersecurity

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's diplomatic network comprises 106 posts across more than 80 countries which are staffed by several thousand personnel.



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Interested members of the public may wish to track the committee via the [website](#). Click on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right hand corner and use the forms to login to My Parliament or to register for a My Parliament account.

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