



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security**

Review of the National Security Legislation Amendment (Espionage and Foreign Interference) Bill 2017

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Issue date: 8 June 2018

## **Proposed amendments to Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Bill**

The Attorney-General, the Hon Christian Porter MP, has provided the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security with range of proposed amendments to the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Bill 2017.

The Committee invites written submissions on the proposed amendments by 12.00pm Friday, 15 June 2018. If you intend to make a submission, please contact the Secretariat at [pjcis@aph.gov.au](mailto:pjcis@aph.gov.au) by Tuesday, 12 June to assist with planning.

The proposed amendments have been published on the Committee's [website](#) (see Submission 84).

In summary, the amendments propose to:

- amend the scope of the scheme by limiting the definition of 'foreign principal' to foreign governments, foreign political organisations and other persons who are closely related to those governments and organisations;
- amend certain definitions including 'on behalf of' and 'activity for the purpose of political or governmental influence'
- introduce new exemptions for industry representative bodies, and individuals making personal representations
- increase the period within which former Cabinet Ministers bear additional obligations from three years to ten years
- extend the additional registration requirements for former senior officials to specifically cover former Ambassadors and High Commissioners
- increase the period within which former Ministers, members of Parliament and senior officials bear additional obligations from 18 months to seven years
- introduce a transparency notice scheme, allowing the Secretary of the Attorney-General's Department to issue a notice that a particular entity or individual is related to a foreign government, and
- introduce new criminal offences and amending applicable penalties.

The Committee is continuing its inquiry into the Bill and its proposed amendments.

#### **Media enquiries:**

Chair, Mr Andrew Hastie MP (Canning, WA) on 08 9534 8044 (Electorate office) or (02) 6277 4223 (Parliament House)



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