



## STATEMENT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY

*Review of Administration and Expenditure No. 18 (2018–19)—Australian Intelligence Agencies*

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (the Committee) is required under Section 29(1)(a) of the *Intelligence Services Act 2001*, to conduct an annual review of the administration, expenditure and financial statements of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, Australian Secret Intelligence Service, Australian Geospatial-Intelligence Organisation, Defence Intelligence Organisation, the Australian Signals Directorate and the Office of National Intelligence.

### Outline of review activities

#### Launch

The Committee launched its [Review of Administration and Expenditure No. 18 \(2018–19\)](#) in December 2019.

#### Submissions

Both classified and unclassified [submissions](#) were invited and received from the following agencies:

1. Office of National Intelligence
  - 1.1 Office of National Intelligence (Classified)
2. Department of Defence
  - 2.1 Department of Defence (Classified)
3. Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security
  - 3.1 Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security
4. Australian National Audit Office (Classified)
5. Australian Secret Intelligence Service (Classified)
6. Australian Signals Directorate (Classified)
  - 6.1 Australian Signals Directorate
7. Australian Geospatial Intelligence Organisation (Classified)
8. Defence Intelligence Organisation (Classified)
9. Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
  - 9.1 Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (Classified)

#### The impact of COVID-19: classified hearings and review outcomes

The Committee recognises the importance of its role in overseeing the administration and expenditure of agencies that are part of the National Intelligence Community. Carrying out this function enables the Committee to report on the administrative arrangements and expenditure of each agency and any changes to these activities that may affect an agency's ability to continue to meet its objectives.

Due to a number of circumstances over the past 6 months, in particular those presented by COVID-19, the Committee was only able to conduct private (classified) hearings with a very limited number of submitters.

Within this context, the Committee has considered the impact of these circumstances on the timeframe for review activities, including reporting. Consequently, the Committee will move forward by exploring in further detail any matters it may have identified through the evidence received from this review, as part of its next administration and expenditure review for 2019–20.