

Parliamentary Inquiries

March 2014

Committee inquiries provide an opportunity for organisations and individuals to participate in policy making and have their views placed on the public record and considered as part of the decision-making process.

This Occasional Paper provides a brief overview of the new and continuing Senate, House and Joint Committee inquiries in the 44th Parliament. These inquiries are either still accepting submissions or are no longer accepting submissions but are yet to report.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on Parliamentary Committees and inquiries is available [here](#).

The Hawker Britton guide to participating in Parliamentary inquiries is available [here](#).

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Senate Committees

Senate Community Affairs References Committee

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Costs of Healthcare

The Committee will examine out-of-pocket costs in Australian healthcare, with particular reference to the current and future trends in out-of-pocket expenditure by Australian health consumers, the impact of co-payments on consumers' ability to access health care and health outcomes and costs and the effects of co-payments on other parts of the health system.

The Committee will also inquire into the implications for the ongoing sustainability of the health system, key areas of expenditure, including pharmaceuticals, primary care visits, medical devices or supplies, and dental care and the role of private health insurance.

Finally the Committee will examine the appropriateness and effectiveness of safety nets and other offsets and market drivers for costs in the Australian healthcare system.

The terms of reference, due date for submissions and reporting date will be published when available.

Care and management of younger and older Australians living with dementia and behavioural and psychiatric symptoms of dementia (BPSD)

This inquiry will report on the scope and adequacy of the different models of community, residential and acute care for Australians living with dementia and BPSD, with particular reference services provided both by the Commonwealth, State and Territories, and also the non-government sector. It will examine the resourcing of care and report on scope for improving care and management, increasing access to care and reducing physical and chemical restraints.

Submissions closed 03 May 2013. The reporting date was originally 26 June 2013 and was subsequently extended to 12 August 2013.

On 14 November 2013 the matter was re-referred to the Committee by the Senate for inquiry.

The Committee is due to report by 28 February 2014.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

The Interim Report is available [here](#).

Grandparents who take primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren

The inquiry will examine Grandparents who take on the primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren when parents are unable or unwilling to do so, through a formal or informal care arrangement, including:

- the practical challenges facing grandparents raising grandchildren, and their support needs;
- recognising the role and contribution of grandparents raising their grandchildren;
- other challenges that grandparents raising their grandchildren face in undertaking their role, including in circumstances complicated by family conflict, mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness, child abuse or neglect, or family violence;
- legal barriers, including Legal Aid entitlements for grandparents seeking to formalise their custodial arrangements through the Family Law Courts;
- the practical measures that can be implemented by Federal, State and Territory governments and the community sector, including key priorities for action;
- the specific needs of particular groups within the caring population.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 14 March 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 30 September 2014.

Prevalence of different types of speech, language and communication disorders and speech pathology services in Australia

This inquiry will examine the prevalence and instances of different types of speech, language and communication disorders and swallowing difficulties in Australia, the availability and adequacy of speech pathology services provided by the Commonwealth, state and local governments and across Australia, and the social and economic cost of failing to treat communication and swallowing disorders.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 21 February 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 27 March 2014.

Senate Economics Affairs Legislation Committee

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Reserve Bank Amendment (Australian Reconstruction and Development Board) Bill 2013

The Committee will examine the Private Member's bill of Senator John Madigan (DLP) and Senator Nick Xenophon, [Reserve Bank Amendment \(Australian Reconstruction and Development Board\) Bill 2013](#), which creates a specific entity tasked with examining, reconstructing and improving the financial status of the Australian agricultural sector and its associated industries and infrastructures.

As such, the Bill establishes an 'Australian Reconstruction and Development Board' (ARDB) under the Reserve Bank, with the task of forming and implementing rural reconstruction and development policy.

The closing date for submissions is 10 February 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 26 March 2014.

Competition and Consumer Amendment (Misuse of Market Power) Bill 2014

The Committee will examine the [Competition and Consumer Amendment \(Misuse of Market Power\) Bill 2014](#).

In undertaking the inquiry, the Committee will consider the application of the [Competition and Consumer Act 2010](#) with particular reference to provisions relating to competition and market power. The Committee will also examine the remedies available to the Courts and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission regarding breaches of the Act and the current levels of competition in Australian markets and the impact on consumers and small businesses.

Submissions closing date has not yet been set.

The Committee is due to report by 24 June 2014.

Corporations Amendment (Streamlining of Future of Financial Advice) Bill 2014

The [Corporations Amendment \(Streamlining of Future of Financial Advice\) Bill 2014](#) implements the Coalition Government's election commitment to reduce compliance costs imposed on the financial services industry by amending Part 7.7A of the Corporations Act 2001 (Corporations Act). Part 7.7A is also referred to as Future of Financial Advice (FOFA).

The Future of Financial Advice (FoFA) legislation became mandatory for the financial services sector in July last year.

According to the Treasury website, the original objectives of the FoFA legislation was to ‘improve the trust and confidence of Australian retail investors in the financial services sector and improve access to advice’.

Submissions closing date has not yet been set.

The Committee is due to report by 16 June 2014.

Senate Economics Affairs References Committee

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Australia’s Innovation System

The Committee will examine challenges to Australian industries and jobs posed by increasing global competition in innovation, science, engineering, research and education. In particular, the Committee will examine

- The need to attract new investment in innovation to secure high skill, high wage jobs and industries in Australia, as well as the role of public policy in nurturing a culture of innovation and a healthy innovation ecosystem;
- The Government’s approach to innovation, especially with respect to the funding of education and research, the allocation of investment in industries, and the maintenance of capabilities across the economy;
- The importance of translating research output into social and economic benefits for Australians;
- The relationship between advanced manufacturing and a dynamic innovation culture;
- Potential governance and funding models for Australia’s research infrastructure and agencies, and policy options to diversify science and research financing;
- Policy actions to attract, train and retain a healthy research and innovation workforce; and
- Policy options to create a seamless innovation pipeline, including support for emerging industries, with a view to identifying key areas of future competitive advantage.

The full terms of reference are available [here](#).

Submissions closing date has not yet been set.

The Committee is due to report by the first sitting day of July 2014.

Affordable housing

This inquiry will examine government policies to encourage home ownership and residential property investment and increase housing supply, including current taxes and levies, and the operation, effect and future of the National Rental Affordability Scheme.

The inquiry will also look at the regulatory structures governing the roles of financial institutions and superannuation funds in the home lending and property sectors, and the operation and effectiveness of rent and housing assistance programs.

The inquiry is broad in scope, and will report on implications for other related changes to Commonwealth government policies and programs, including taxation policy, aged care, disability services, Indigenous affairs and for state and territory governments. Construction, building materials, sustainability and the availability of an appropriately skilled workforce will also form part of the inquiry.

The Committee will look to other countries, including the United Kingdom, United States of America, France, Canada, Austria and the Netherlands, that provide a stable and cost effective way of funding affordable rental and social housing.

Finally, the Committee will examine the impact of not having a long-term, national affordable housing plan.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 25 March 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 26 June 2014.

The performance of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission

This inquiry will examine aspects of the performance of ASIC. In particular, it will look at the effectiveness of ASIC's enabling legislation, the accountability framework to which ASIC is subject, the workings of ASIC's collaboration with other regulators and law enforcement bodies, its complaints management policies and practices and the protections afforded by ASIC to corporate and private whistleblowers.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 10 January 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 30 May 2014.

Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Fair Work Amendment Bill 2014

The [Fair Work Amendment Bill 2014](#) makes amendments to the Fair Work Act 2009 (Fair Work Act) to implement various elements of Government policy. Specifically, the Bill responds to a number of outstanding recommendations from the June 2012 review into the operation of the Fair Work Act by the Fair Work Review Panel. The Bill proposes to amend the Fair Work Act to respond to the following Fair Work Review Panel Recommendations:

- Recommendation 2 – employees do not accrue annual leave while absent from work and in receipt of workers' compensation payments)
- Recommendation – 3 (requires employers and employees hold a meeting to discuss a request for extended unpaid parental leave, unless the employer has agreed to the request)
- Recommendation 6 – annual leave loading is not payable on termination of employment unless a modern award or enterprise agreement expressly provides to that effect.
- Recommendation 9 – the better off overall test in s. 144(4)(c) and s. 203(4) be amended to expressly permit an individual flexibility arrangement to confer a non-monetary benefit on an employee in exchange for a monetary benefit
- Recommendation 11 –provides a defence to an alleged contravention of a flexibility term under s. 145(3) or s. 204(3) where an employer has complied with the notification requirements and believed, on reasonable grounds, that all other statutory requirements were met
- Recommendation 12 – increasing the maximum notice period from 28 days to 90 days in certain circumstances
- Recommendation 24 – permits individual flexibility arrangements to deal with all the matters listed in paragraph 1(a) of the model flexibility term in Schedule 2.2 of the FW Regulations
- Recommendation 28 – employers intending to negotiate a s. 172(2)(b) greenfields agreement to take all reasonable steps to notify all unions with eligibility to represent relevant employees
- Recommendation 31 – an application for a protected action ballot order may only be made
- when bargaining for a proposed agreement has commenced
- Recommendation 43 – FWA is not required to hold a hearing when exercising powers to dismiss an application under s. 587, nor when exercising the recommended powers to dismiss an application involving a settlement agreement or a failure by an applicant to attend a proceeding or comply with an FWA direction or order.

The Bill also proposes to establish a new process for negotiation of single enterprise greenfields agreements, amend the right of entry framework of the Fair Work Act, and provide for the Fair Work Ombudsman to pay interest on unclaimed monies.

The closing date for submissions is 24 April 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 5 June 2014.

Social Security Legislation Amendment (Green Army Programme) Bill 2014

The [Social Security Legislation Amendment \(Green Army Programme\) Bill 2014](#) proposes to amend the: [Social Security Act 1991](#) to specify that persons receiving a green army allowance under the Green Army Programme (GAP) cannot also receive a social security benefit or pension. The Bill also provides that certain participants in the GAP are not considered ‘workers or employees’ for the purposes of various laws and specifies the income testing arrangements to apply to a social security pensioner if their partner is receiving a green army allowance and [Social Security \(Administration\) Act 1999](#) to make consequential amendments.

The closing date for submissions is 17 April 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 13 May 2014.

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Amendment Bill 2014

The [Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Amendment Bill 2014](#) proposes to amend the [Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011](#) in relation to:

- quality assessments of higher education providers; the delegation of decisions;
- the appointment of commissioners;
- extending periods of accreditation or registration;
- the roles and responsibilities of the Chief Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer;
- notifying providers of decisions; the scope of ministerial directions; and
- Ministerial approval being required for legislative instruments which determine fees to be charged.

The closing date for submissions is 2 May 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 16 June 2014.

There is currently a separate House of Representatives Committee examining the TAFE system.

Senate Education and Employment References Committee

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

The immediate future of the childcare sector in Australia

This inquiry will examine the cost and availability of childcare for parents over the short term, including the effectiveness of the current government rebates, the administrative burden (including the impact of the introduction of the National Quality Framework) on childcare, the impact of the current regulatory environment, and methods to strengthen the sector in the short term to boost Australia’s productivity and workplace participation for parents.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

Submissions are currently open.

The Committee is due to report by 17 June 2014.

The delivery of quality and affordable early childhood education and care services

This inquiry will look at the outcomes for children in early childhood education and care services, including workforce factors such as stability, qualifications and wage rates, quality regulation (including staff-to-child ratios), participation and access to services, and environments for learning.

The Inquiry will also produce a progress report into the implementation of the National Quality Framework (NQF), including parents' experiences of the outcomes of the NQF, the impacts of the announced government amendments to the NQF, and the outcomes for children and early childhood education and care services.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

Submissions are currently open.

The Committee is due to report by 17 June 2014.

Technical and further education (TAFE) in Australia

The inquiry will examine the role of TAFEs in linking with secondary and higher education, developing skills in the Australian economy, and enabling Australians to improve themselves and increase their life, education and employment prospects, and the delivery of services and programs to support regions, communities and disadvantaged individuals to access education, training and skills and, through them, a pathway to further education and employment.

More specifically, the inquiry will examine the effect of a competitive training market on TAFE and the level and allocation of public funding for TAFE and its accessibility, including the application and effect of additional charges to TAFE students.

The inquiry is required to consider any public information provided to the 2013 House of Representatives inquiry by the Standing Committee on Education and Employment on the [role of the technical and further education system and its operation](#); and to public hearings in all capital cities, with a minimum of Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and Brisbane, as well as a major regional centre in either New South Wales or Victoria.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

The Committee is due to report by 13 May 2014.

A [separate inquiry into the role of the Technical and Further Education system](#) and its operation is currently being undertaken by the House Standing Committee on Education and Employment.

The Government's approach to re-establishing the Australian Building and Construction Commission

The inquiry will examine the potential impact of the re-establishment of the Australian Building and Construction Commission on the building and construction industry. In particular, it will look at the need or otherwise for a specialist industrial regulator in the industry, the impact of the Bill, whether it is consistent with Australia's obligations under international law;

The inquiry will also examine the potential impact of the bills on employees, employers, employer bodies, trade and labour councils, unions and union members.

The proposed powers of the Australian Building and Construction Commission will also be reviewed, including coercive powers, conduct of compulsory interviews (including the absence of a guarantee to a right to silence), and imprisonment for those who do not co-operate.

The particular provisions of the bills that introduce the law of conspiracy into the industrial regulation of the building and construction industry will also be a focus for the inquiry.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

Submissions are open until 17 January 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 27 March 2014.

Provisions of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment Bill 2013

The Inquiry will examine the potential impact of the amendments to interfere with the ongoing operation of registered organisations in Australia and the potential of the amendments to impede the ability of employees of registered organisations to carry out their duties.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

Submissions are open until 17 January 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 27 March 2014.

Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Australia Post in Australian communities

The inquiry was established on 14 November 2013 and will report on the overall performance, importance and role of Australia Post in Australian communities, and the challenges it faces in the immediate and longer term. It will also examine the operations of Australia Post in relation to Licensed Post Offices (LPOs), with particular reference to regional LPOs, the licensing and trading conditions applicable to LPOs and the marketing, retail and trading arrangements between Australia Post and LPOs and other entities.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 25 November 2013.

The Committee was due to report by 11 December 2013. On 11 December 2013, the Senate granted an extension to the reporting date until 31 March 2014.

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Submarine Cable Protection) Bill 2013

The inquiry will examine the [Telecommunications Legislation Amendment \(Submarine Cable Protection\) Bill 2013](#) with regards to the vulnerability of Australia's telecommunications cables carrying international and domestic traffic to interception has been the subject of recent reporting.

It is unclear whether the oversight mechanisms proposed are sufficient and whether the streamlining of permits processes outlined improve the security of this telecommunications infrastructure.

Schedule 3A to the Act currently sets out a regulatory scheme that only captures cables that enter Australia's territorial sea and land in Australia. The aim of the regime is to minimise the risk to submarine cables from human activity, particularly some kinds of fishing, anchoring of vessels and dredging.

Schedule 3A gives the industry regulator, ACMA, the power to establish protection zones around existing or planned submarine cables of national significance and regulate activities of vessels and persons within protection zones.

Schedule 3A also establishes an installation permit system for international submarine cables connecting to Australia.

The closing date for submissions is 15 February 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 31 March 2014.

Senate Environment and Communications References Committee

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Environmental Offsets

The Committee will examine the history, appropriateness and effectiveness of the use of environmental offsets in federal environmental approvals in Australia. It will have particular regard to the principles that underpin the use of offsets, the processes used to develop and assess proposed offsets and the adequacy of monitoring and evaluation of approved offsets arrangements to determine whether promised environmental outcomes are achieved over the short and long term.

It will have specific regard to, but not be restricted to, the following projects: Whitehaven Coal's Maules Creek Project; Waratah Coal's Galilee Coal Project; QGC's Queensland Curtis LNG project; North Queensland Bulk Port's Abbot Point Coal Terminal Capital Dredging Project; and Jandakot Airport developments.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 4 April 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 16 June 2014.

Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

The Committee will inquire and report on the natural world heritage values of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area minor boundary extension passed by the World Heritage Committee in June 2013. It will examine the interaction between the Department of the Environment and the Prime Minister and other ministers' offices, and the process followed in the department's review of the 2013 extension that led to a lesser minor boundary extension being submitted for consideration at the 2014 World Heritage Committee meeting.

It will also report on any action the Department of the Environment has funded, directed and overseen to rehabilitate any degraded areas within the World Heritage Area identified in the department's 2013 review, as per the requirements of the World Heritage Convention and the extent and description of any areas of degraded forest included in the 2013 boundary adjustment and the World Heritage Committee's rationale for including them.

The Committee will also examine the implications for the World Heritage status of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area of the Government's request to withdraw the 74 000 hectares for logging.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

Additional documents relevant to the topic of inquiry from the Department of the Environment are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 7 March 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 15 May 2014.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Flags Amendment Bill 2014

The Committee will examine the [Flags Amendment Bill 2014](#), which aims to ensure that Australian flags flown, used or supplied by the Commonwealth are only manufactured in Australia from Australian materials.

The closing date for submissions is 17 April 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 16 June 2014.

Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Commonwealth procedures for procurement

The inquiry was established on established on 14 November 2013 and will report on the current ratio of Australian goods and services versus imported goods and services utilised by the Commonwealth through procurement procedures.

In particular, it will examine the effectiveness of current policies and procedures for procurement in Commonwealth departments and agencies, including oversight and scrutiny, cost, and requirements relating to transparency and information-sharing. It will also look at the economic, social and environmental benefits of utilising Australian goods and services

The closing date for submissions is 31 December 2013.

The Committee is due to report by 30 June 2014.

Senate order for departmental and agency contracts

The Committee will examine the operation of the Senate order for departmental and agency contracts, including developments in the online reporting on contracts (including Austender) which

may be relevant enabling departments and agencies to meet the requirements of the order and the role of, and reporting by, the Auditor-General under the order.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

Submissions are currently open.

The Committee is due to report by 14 May 2014

Senate Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Abuse in defence

With reference to the Committee's [earlier report into the review of allegations of sexual and other abuse in Defence](#), the Committee will examine the accessibility and adequacy of current mechanisms and processes to provide support to victims of sexual and other abuse in Defence.

The Committee will take into account the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce (DART) process to date, Defence's response to the DLA Piper Review and the work of DART, successive governments' responses to the DLA Piper Review and the work of DART and the desirability of releasing a true reflection of volume two of the DLA Piper report in a redacted form or by way of a summary; and

The terms of reference and due date for submissions will be published when available.

The Committee is due to report by 28 August 2014

Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA)

The Committee will examine the proposed agreement with particular reference to its impact on Australia's economy, and our trade, investment, social, cultural and environmental policies.

The Committee will be asked to consider whether the proposed agreement is in Australia's national interest.

The terms of reference, due date for submissions and reporting date will be published when available.

Implementation of the Defence Trade Controls Legislation

The [Defence Trade Controls Bill 2011](#) was introduced to give effect to the 2007 Australia-United States Defence Trade Co-operation Treaty, which aims to reduce administrative burdens on Australian-US defence trade.

During the 24 month transition period for the bill, the Committee is conducting a six-monthly examination of progress of the implementation of the provisions of the bill and report to the Senate. This decision was made in response to [ongoing concerns held by stakeholders](#).

The *Defence Trade Controls Bill 2011 [Provisions] Final Report (October 2012)* is available [here](#).

The First Progress Report is available [here](#).

Trade and Foreign Investment (Protecting the Public Interest) Bill 2014

The [Trade and Foreign Investment \(Protecting the Public Interest\) Bill 2014](#) seeks to prevent the Commonwealth from entering into agreements with foreign countries that include investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) clauses.

ISDS clauses are designed to allow foreign corporations to sue governments if their business activities and interests are impinged on by the policy and legislative decisions of the government.

There are ISDS clauses in a number of Australia's agreements with other countries, including in the recently signed Korea Australia Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA), the Singapore FTA, the Chile FTA, the ASEAN FTA and the Thai FTA. It is believed that the Trans-Pacific partnership agreement which is currently under negotiation has ISDS clauses on the table as well.

The Australian Government is currently being sued under ISDS clauses over plain packaging.

The Committee is currently accepting submissions.

The Committee is due to report by 16 June 2014.

Senate Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade References Committee

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Australia's overseas aid and development assistance program

In light of the Government's \$4.5 billion cut to international development assistance, the inquiry will examine Australia's overseas aid and development assistance program with particular reference to Australia's ability to deliver aid against stated policy objectives and international commitments, our ability to maintain our international development priorities, including sectoral, regional, bilateral and

multilateral international relationships, and the integration of AusAID into the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the freeze in international development assistance funding.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 7 February 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 27 March 2014.

Breach of Indonesian Territorial Waters

The Committee will inquire into the breach of Indonesian territorial waters between 1 December 2013 and 20 January 2014 by Royal Australian Navy and/or Customs vessels in connection with Operation Sovereign Borders (the incidents). In so doing, the Committee will examine a range of issues including the operational protocols and procedures observed by the Royal Australian Navy, Customs and Border Protection and by other relevant Commonwealth agencies during the incidents, compliance with international law, prevention of similar occurrences in the future, interdepartmental communication, and any other matters relating to Operation Sovereign Borders.

The full terms of reference are available [here](#).

The committee will be holding a public hearing at Parliament House, Canberra, on Friday 21 March 2014

Australia's future activities and responsibilities in the Southern Ocean and Antarctic waters

The Committee will inquire into Australia's future activities and responsibilities in the Southern Ocean and Antarctic waters, including Australia's management and monitoring of the Southern Ocean in relation to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, cooperation with international partners on management and research under international treaties and agreements and appropriate resourcing in the Southern Ocean and Antarctic territory for research and governance.

The full Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

Submissions closing date has not yet been set.

The Committee is due to report by 15 May 2014.

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Crimes Legislation Amendment (Unexplained Wealth and Other Measures) Bill 2014

The Committee will examine the [Crimes Legislation Amendment \(Unexplained Wealth and Other Measures\) Bill 2014](#), which responds to eight of the recommendations of the [Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement report INQUIRY INTO COMMONWEALTH UNEXPLAINED WEALTH LEGISLATION AND ARRANGEMENTS](#). According to the Minister, the measures in the bill are designed to:

- ensure the most effective framework for law enforcement to investigate and take action to target unexplained wealth
- streamline the processes for obtaining unexplained wealth orders while ensuring appropriate safeguards, and
- close loopholes in the Proceeds of Crime Act that potentially make it easier to escape unexplained wealth actions and frustrate court processes.

Submissions should be received by 3 April 2014.

The reporting date is 15 May 2014

Criminal Code Amendment (Harming Australians) Bill 2013

The [Criminal Code Amendment \(Harming Australians\) Bill 2013](#) extends existing provisions under the Criminal Code Act 1995 that make it an offence to harm Australians overseas. The original provisions were introduced in October 2002, following the Bali bombings. The aim of these provisions was to allow for prosecution of individuals who harm Australians outside Australia (either through murder or manslaughter, or through intentional or reckless behaviour) to be brought to justice.

These provisions commenced on 1 October 2002, and apply only to offences committed after this date. This Bill gives the Act retrospective operation.

The closing date for submissions is 21 January 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 4 March 2014.

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Comprehensive revision of Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979

The Committee will undertake a comprehensive revision of the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979, with regard to: the recommendations of the Australian Law Reform Commission For [Your Information: Australian Privacy Law and Practice report](#), particularly recommendation 71.2, and

recommendations relating to the Act from the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security Inquiry into [the potential reforms of Australia's National Security Legislation report](#), May 2013.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 27 February 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 10 June 2014.

Current investigative processes and powers of the Australian Federal Police in relation to non-criminal matters

The Committee will examine issues including: the required thresholds for making production orders and search warrants; procedures for seeking and executing search warrants; safeguards in relation to freedom of speech and the protection of confidential information; telecommunications interception powers available to the Australian Federal Police; and the deployment of the Serious and Organised Crime Division in relation to non-criminal matters.

The full Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

A public hearing will be held at Parliament House, Canberra, on 7 April 2014.

The closing date for submissions is 28 March 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 15 May 2014.

Incident at the Manus Island Detention Centre from 16 February to 18 February 2014

The Committee will inquire into the incident at the Manus Island Detention Centre from 16 February to 18 February 2014. The Committee will have particular reference to the events and factors that gave cause to the incident and that led to, and the cause of, Reza Berati's death, the Departmental, contractor, subcontractor and service provider involvement and response, the Papua New Guinean police, military and civilian involvement and response, the conduct of the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, communications surrounding the incident, the Australian Government's duty of care obligations and responsibilities, and refugee status determination processing and resettlement arrangements in Papua New Guinea.

The full Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

The Inquiry does not commence until 1 April 2014.

The closing date for submissions is 26 June 2014.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Qantas' future as a strong national carrier supporting jobs in Australia

The Committee will consider what initiatives can be taken by Government to ensure Qantas remains a strong national carrier supporting aviation jobs in Australia, including a debt guarantee, an equity stake and other forms of support consistent with wider policy settings.

In conducting the inquiry the Committee will consider national security, skills, marketing, tourism, emergency assistance or other benefits provided by a majority Australian-owned Qantas, other international airlines' government support, ownership structures and the impact on Australian jobs of any repeal of Part 3 of the Qantas Sale Act 1992.

The full Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

The Committee is due to report by 27 March 2014.

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment (Removing Re-approval and Re-registration) Bill 2014

The Committee will inquire into the [Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment \(Removing Re-approval and Re-registration\) Bill 2014](#), which removes the requirement for agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines re-registration by removing end dates for approvals and law renewal dates for registrations so that approvals will no longer end after a particular period and registrations may be renewed perpetually.

The closing date for submissions is 18 April 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 16 June 2014.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Role of public transport in delivering productivity outcomes

The Committee will examine the need for an integrated approach across road and rail in addressing congestion in cities, including Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth, the social and environmental benefits of public transport projects compared to road infrastructure projects such as WestConnex and the East-West Link and the national significance of public transport.

The Committee will also look at the relationship between public transport and building well-functioning cities, the decision of the Federal Government to refuse to fund public transport projects and the impact on user charges arising from requiring states to fund public transport projects.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 30 January 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 30 June 2014.

Future of the beekeeping and pollination service industries in Australia

The Committee will look at the importance of beekeeping and pollination service industries from a food security, environmental and financial point of view. It will have regard to the current challenges facing the beekeeping industry domestically and internationally, and its future sustainability and will examine the adequacy of the current biosecurity arrangements for imported and exported honey, apiary products, package bees and queen bees. The Committee will also examine Australia's food labelling requirements, and how these affect the beekeeping industry.

In its inquiry, the Committee will have regard to the recommendations from the House Standing Committee on Primary Industries and Resources 2008 report [More than Honey; the future of the Australian honey bee and pollination industries](#), and the Rural Affairs and Transport References Committee 2011 report [Science underpinning the inability to eradicate the Asian honey bee](#).

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 7 February 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 19 June 2014.

Industry structures and systems governing levies on grass-fed cattle

The Committee is tasked with an examination of the industry structures and systems governing the collection and disbursement of marketing and research and development levies pertaining to the sale of grass-fed cattle set out in subsections 6(1)(a), 6(1)(b), 6(2)(a) and 6(2)(b) of Schedule 3 (Cattle transactions) of the [Primary Industries \(Excise\) Levies Act 1999](#).

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 30 January 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 30 June 2014.

Implications of the use of Fenthion on Australia's horticultural industry

The implications of the restriction on the use of Fenthion on Australia's horticultural industry, including the roles and responsibilities of relevant departments and agencies of Commonwealth, State and Territory governments in relation to the regulation of pesticides and veterinary chemicals, the short- and long-term impact of the decision on stakeholders, the effectiveness and sustainability of chemicals other than Fenthion to manage fruit fly and transition arrangements following the restriction on the use of Fenthion, including Area Wide Management.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 28 January 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 25 June 2014.

Inquiries on imported food products

The three inquiries below were all referred to the Committee within a three-month period, and shared similar reporting dates. However, the Committee resolved to conduct hearings for each of the inquiries separately.

The Committee has now made the decision to amalgamate the three reports and table them together as a single report. The committee noted that this approach would enable the recurring theme common to each of these inquiries (the operation of [DAFF Biosecurity's Risk Estimation Matrix](#)) to be a central focus, whilst at the same time allowing for detailed consideration of the significant and specific issues relevant to each separate inquiry.

The effect on Australian ginger growers of importing fresh ginger from Fiji

The inquiry reports on the effect on Australian ginger growers of importing fresh ginger from Fiji, in particular the scientific basis for and the adequacy of the current pest risk assessments, the adequacy of the quarantine conditions and the risk and consequences of the importation resulting possibly in the introduction of pest species or diseases and soil-borne disease.

On 14 November 2013 the Senate agreed to the Committee's recommendation that this inquiry be re-adopted in the 44th Parliament.

The Committee is due to report by 31 March 2014.

The terms of reference are available [here](#).

The First Interim Report is available [here](#). The Second Interim Report is available [here](#). The Third Interim Report is available [here](#).

The effect on Australian pineapple growers of importing fresh pineapple from Malaysia

This inquiry examines the effect on Australian pineapple growers of importing fresh pineapple from Malaysia, in particular the scientific basis on which the provisional final import risk analysis report regarding the importation of fresh, decrowned pineapple has been developed, the risk and consequences of the importation possibly resulting in the introduction of pest species and the adequacy of the current quarantine conditions.

The First Interim Report is available [here](#). The Second Interim Report is available [here](#). The Third Interim Report is available [here](#). The Fourth Interim Report is available [here](#).

The proposed importation of potatoes from New Zealand

The Committee will report on the validity and supporting scientific evidence underpinning the Pest Risk Analysis included in the New Zealand Potatoes Import Risk Analysis 2009 and the extent of scientific knowledge and understanding of the Tomato/Potato Psyllid and other pests identified in the Draft Review of Import Conditions.

The First Interim Report is available [here](#). The Second Interim Report is available [here](#). The Third Interim Report is available [here](#).

House Committees

House Standing Committee on Economics

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Inquiry into foreign investment in residential real estate

The Committee will examine the economic benefits of foreign investment in residential property, whether such foreign investment is directly increasing the supply of new housing and bringing benefits to the local building industry and its suppliers, how Australia's foreign investment framework compares with international experience; and whether the administration of Australia's foreign investment policy relating to residential property can be enhanced.

The full Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 9 May 2014.

The Committee is to report by 10 October 2014.

House Standing Committee on Education and Employment

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Inquiry into the role of the Technical and Further Education system and its operation

The Committee will inquire into and report on the role played by TAFEs in the development of skills in the Australian economy, the provision of pathways for Australians to access employment, the provision of pathways for Australians to access University education and the operation of a competitive training market.

The full Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 9 April 2014.

A [separate inquiry into the role of the Technical and Further Education](#) is being undertaken by the Senate Economics Affairs References Committee.

House Standing Committee on the Environment

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Inquiry into streamlining environmental regulation, 'green tape', and one stop shops

The Committee will examine environmental regulation, specifically jurisdictional arrangements, regulatory requirements and the potential for deregulation, the balance between regulatory burdens and environmental benefits areas for improved efficiency and effectiveness of the regulatory framework and legislation governing environmental regulation, and the potential for deregulation.

The full Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 11 April 2014.

House Standing Committee on Health

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Inquiry into skin cancer in Australia

The Committee on Health will inquire into melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers and report on options to improve implementation of evidence-based best practice treatment and management, strategies to enhance early diagnosis, effective strategies for prevention and the need to increase levels of awareness in the community and among healthcare professionals.

The full Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 28 March 2014.

House Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Inquiry into the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

The Committee will inquire into and report on the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The inquiry will focus on patterns of supply of, and demand for alcohol in different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, age groups and genders, the social and economic determinants of harmful alcohol use across Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, trends and prevalence of alcohol related harm, including alcohol-fuelled violence and impacts on newborns e.g. Foetal Alcohol Syndrome and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

The Committee will also examine best practice strategies, treatments and support for minimising alcohol misuse and alcohol-related harm, best practice strategies to minimise alcohol misuse and alcohol-related harm, and in so doing will include international and domestic comparisons.

The full Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 17 April 2014.

House Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Inquiry into High Speed Rail Planning Authority Bill 2013

On Thursday 12 December 2013, the House Selection Committee referred a private member's bill to the Committee for inquiry and report - *the High Speed Rail Planning Authority Bill 2013*.

On 9 December 2013 Shadow Minister for Infrastructure the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP introduced a private member's bill to protect the 1 748 kilometre rail corridor for the HSR project.

The Bill would establish the High-Speed Rail Planning Authority as a vehicle for long-term Commonwealth leadership to progress this project, made up of federal, state and industry stakeholders. The body would be similar to the High Speed Rail Advisory Group established by the former Labor Government which was abolished by the Coalition Government.

The terms of reference are the text of the bill, which can be accessed, together with the explanatory memorandum and the second reading speech, are available [here](#).

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on High Speed Rail is available [here](#).

Inquiry into foreign investment in residential real estate

The Committee will consider initiatives operating around Australia at local and state government levels that might lower the cost of planning approvals and reduce timeframes for delivery of projects and whether any of those initiatives could be implemented on a broader basis, including at Federal level. The Committee will also examine whether local, state and federal governments are adequately considering the infrastructure challenges, and of those governments that are engaging in long term planning for future infrastructure investment, whether they are taking steps to protect the land and corridors that are needed to deliver those infrastructure projects in the future.

Finally, the Committee will consider what industry is doing to reduce the regulatory and other costs that it faces in competing for infrastructure projects and how Australia can increase or deepen the competitive market for infrastructure provision and funding in Australia.

The full Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 11 April 2014.

House Standing Committee on Procedure

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Inquiry into the use of electronic devices in the House of Representatives Chamber and Federation Chamber

The Committee is considering whether there is currently sufficient regulation and guidance on the use of electronic devices in the Chamber or whether there needs to be additional guidance or restriction.

The full Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

Inquiry into the maintenance of the Standing and Sessional Orders

The Committee will inquire into and report on the maintenance of the standing and sessional orders of the House of Representatives.

House Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Roundtable on Drones and Privacy

The Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee held three Roundtable on Drones and Privacy to investigate three main themes around the increasing civilian use of aerial drones in Australia:

- Airspace regulation
- Practical applications
- Privacy implications

On Monday 17 March 2014, the Committee Chair, Mr George Christensen MP, updated the House by oral statement. A copy of the statement can be found [here](#).

House Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Inquiry into the 2013 Annual Report of the Australian Taxation Office

The Committee will inquire into and report on the 2013 Annual Report of the Australian Taxation Office.

The 2013 ATO Annual Report is available [here](#).

Joint Committees

a) Joint Committees Administered by the Senate

Joint Committee on the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Inquiry into the jurisdiction of the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity

The Committee will inquire into the jurisdiction of the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI).

The Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 14 May 2014.

Joint Committee on Law Enforcement

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Inquiry into financial related crime

The Committee will examine the effectiveness of current Commonwealth law enforcement legislation and administrative arrangements that target serious and organised financial related crime including money laundering and identity fraud.

The Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 9 May 2014.

Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

The committee is tasked with:

- a) reviewing the implementation of the NDIS;
- b) reviewing the administration and expenditure of the NDIS;
- c) reviewing any matter in relation to the NDIS referred to the committee by a resolution of either House of the Parliament;

The committee's focus is therefore on the implementation and administration of the scheme.

Unless otherwise stated, the committee will only accept submissions and correspondence that are directly and principally related to the implementation and administration of the NDIS. The case for the NDIS was already examined by the Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs [inquiry into the National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill 2012](#).

The Committee is currently accepting submissions.

The Committee is reports by 30 June each year.

Joint Standing Committee on Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services
[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Oversight of ASIC and the Takeovers Panel 2014

Section 243 of the *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001* sets out the Committee's duties. These duties include oversight of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). In fulfillment of this statutory duty, the committee holds regular public hearings with ASIC and reports its findings to parliament.

A hearing will be heard at Parliament House, Canberra, on 28 March 2014.

The Committee is currently accepting submissions.

b) Joint Committees Administered by the House of Representatives

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Inquiry into and report on all aspects of the conduct of the 2013 Federal Election and matters related thereto.

The Committee will inquire into and report on all aspects of the conduct of the 2013 Federal Election and matters related thereto.

The closing date for submissions is 7 March 2014.

The Inquiry website is available [here](#).

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Inquiry into Australia's trade and investment relationships with countries of the Middle East

The Committee will consider the nature of Australia's existing trade and investment relationships with countries of the Middle East and emerging and possible future trends in these relationships.

The Committee will also examine barriers and impediments to trade and investment with Middle Eastern countries for Australian businesses, including examination of supply chain costs and opportunities for deepening existing commercial and cultural links, and developing new ones, with the countries of the Middle East.

Finally, the Committee will consider the role of government, including DFAT and Austrade, in identifying new opportunities and assisting Australian companies to access existing and potential opportunities in the Middle East.

The full Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 15 March 2014.

Review of the Defence Annual Report 2012-2013

The Committee will review the to review the [Department of Defence Annual Report 2012-2013](#) , having particular regard to submarine capability, the Defence Materiel Organisation and Capability Development Group, asset management, the Defence Cooperation Program and a air combat capability.

The closing date for submissions is 1 May 2014.

Inquiry into the human right issues confronting women and girls in the Indian Ocean – Asia Pacific region

The Committee will examine the barriers and impediments to enhancing the human rights of women and girls in the Indian Ocean - Asia Pacific region, especially regarding the impact of family and sexual violence, women's leadership and economic opportunities.

The Committee will also review the achievements to date in advancing women and girls' human rights in these key areas and will consider the implications for economic and social development in the Indian Ocean - Asia Pacific region of promoting women and girls' human rights.

Finally the Committee will also examine the effectiveness of Australian programs to support efforts to improve the human rights of women and girls in the Indian Ocean - Asia Pacific region.

The closing date for submissions is 22 May 2014.

Inquiry into the role of the private sector in promoting economic growth and reducing poverty in the Indo-Pacific region

The Committee will examine the current role of the private sector in accelerating the pace of economic growth and in reducing poverty in poor countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

It will look at current Australian Government support for private sector development through bilateral and multilateral investments, any legislative, institutional, social and policy constraints that may reduce the ability of private sector agencies to engage in development and additional partnerships, activities or financial instruments the Australian government could use to enhance the role of the private sector in development in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Committee will also examine the role of public-private partnerships in leveraging private sector investment in developing countries and the role Australian and international businesses could play to support development and inclusive growth in partner countries.

The full Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 8 May 2014.

Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence and Security

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Review of Administration and Expenditure No. 12 (2012 - 2013) - Australian Intelligence Agencies

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security 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 (ASIO), Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS), Defence Signals Directorate (DSD), Defence Intelligence Organisation (DIO), Defence Imagery Geospatial Organisation (DIGO) and the Office of National Assessments (ONA).

The closing date for submissions is 21 February 2014.

Review of the re-listing of Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security resolved to inquire into and report on the Review of the re-listing of Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula.

Section 102.1A of [the Criminal Code Act 1995](#) provides that the Committee may review a regulation which lists an organisation as a terrorist organisation and report its comments and recommendations to each House of the Parliament before the end of the applicable disallowance period for the House. The disallowance period is 15 sitting days from the day the regulation is tabled.

The closing date for submissions is 10 January 2014.

Review of the listing of Jabhat al-Nusra and the re-listing of six terrorist organisations

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security resolved to inquire into and report on the Review of the listing of Jabhat al-Nusra and the re-listing of six terrorist organisations: Abu Sayyaf Group, Al-Qa'ida, Al-Qa'ida in Iraq, Al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb, Jamiat ul-Ansar and Jemaah Islamiyah.

The statements of reason for each organisation can be accessed [here](#).

As mentioned above, Section 102.1A of [the Criminal Code Act 1995](#) provides that the Committee may review a regulation which lists an organisation as a terrorist organisation and report its comments and recommendations to each House of the Parliament before the end of the applicable disallowance period for the House. The disallowance period is 15 sitting days from the day the regulation is tabled.

The closing date for submissions is 10 January 2014.

Joint Standing Committee on Migration

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Inquiry into the Business Innovation and Investment Programme (BIIP)

Joint Standing Committee on Migration

The inquiry will assess whether the BIIP is meeting its intended objectives and if any adjustments are necessary, consider the conditions involved in the decline in rates of application for the BIIP, in light of rates of application for the previous Business Skills Program and evaluate the current eligibility criteria, with particular regard to the operation of the BIIP points test, and its effectiveness in selecting suitable migrants.

The inquiry will also weigh the size of the current BIIP programme against the emphasis placed on other elements of the skilled stream of the migration programme in generating economic growth.

The full Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 2 May 2014.

Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Review of the National Capital Authority: Biannual Public Briefings

The Committee is empowered to inquire into the National Capital Authority (NCA) through its Resolution of Appointment which provides for the Annual Reports of the NCA to stand referred to the Committee for any inquiry the Committee may resolve to adopt. The committee is committed to holding a public hearing with the NCA every six months to canvass matters of interest.

The most recent briefing was held on 13 February 2014.

Inquiry into economic development on Norfolk Island

The Committee will inquire into and report on redressing barriers to tourism, with particular regard to air services, facilities for cruise ships, roads and other infrastructure, complements to tourism, such as agriculture, other industry or small-medium enterprises and proposals and opportunities for niche industries.

The full Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

The closing date for submissions is 17 April 2014.

Joint Standing Committee on Northern Australia

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

The Committee will consider policies for developing the parts of Australia which lie north of the Tropic of Capricorn, spanning Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland.

In its inquiry, the Committee will examine the potential for development of the region's mineral, energy, agricultural, tourism, defence and other industries. It will also provide recommendations to enhance trade and other investment links with the Asia-Pacific, establish a conducive regulatory, taxation and economic environment, address impediments to growth and set conditions for private investment and innovation.

The Committee will also identify the critical economic and social infrastructure needed to support the long term growth of the region, and ways to support planning and investment in that infrastructure.

White Paper

The Committee to also present to the Parliament its recommendation for a white paper to detail government action needed to be taken to implement the its recommendations, setting out how the

recommendations were to be implemented, by which government entity they should be implemented, a timetable for implementation and how and when any government funding would be sourced.

The closing date for submissions is 17 February 2014.

Public hearings will be held across Northern Australia.

The Committee is due to present an interim report as soon as practicable after 30 May 2014.

The Committee is due to deliver its final report and recommendations to the Parliament on or before 6 July 2014.

Joint Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Audit

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Review of the 2012-13 Defence Materiel Organisation Major Projects Report

The Committee will report on the 2012-13 Defence Materiel Organisation Major Projects Report (MPR) by the Australian National Audit Office. The objective of the MPR is to provide the Auditor-General's independent assurance over the status of selected Major Projects, as reflected in the Project Data Summary Sheets (PDSSs) prepared by the DMO, and the Statement by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) DMO.

The MPR is available [here](#).

A public hearing will be held Thursday 20 March 2014, 10:45am - 12:30 pm at Canberra: Parliament House, Committee Room 2R1.

Report No. 53 (2012-13) on Agencies Implementation of Performance Audit Recommendations, together with Report No. 25 (2012-13) Defence's Implementation of Audit Recommendations; and Report No. 6 (2013-14) on Capability Development Reform (Current)

Committee will review the following ANAO audit reports in detail:

- [Audit Report No.53 \(2012–13\) Agencies' Implementation of Performance Audit Recommendations](#)
- [Audit Report No.25 \(2012–13\) Defence's Implementation of Audit Recommendations](#)
- [Audit Report No. 6 \(2013–14\) on Capability Development Reform](#)

A public hearing will be held Thursday 6 March 2014, 10:45am - 12:30pm Canberra: Parliament House, Committee Room 2R1.

Joint Standing Committee on Public Works

[Committee homepage](#) | [Committee membership](#)

Defence Terrestrial Communications Network Facilities and Infrastructure Project

Committee to inquire into and report on *Defence Terrestrial Communications Network Facilities and Infrastructure Project*.

Submissions are due by 8 May 2014.

AIR 9000 Phase 5C Replacement Chinook Facilities Project, Townsville, Queensland

The Committee consider and report on the AIR 9000 Phase 5C Replacement Chinook Facilities Project, Townsville, Queensland.

Submissions are due by 8 May 2014.

Further information

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on Parliamentary Committees and inquiries is available [here](#).

The Hawker Britton guide to participating in Parliamentary inquiries is available [here](#).

The Senate Committee homepage can be accessed [here](#).