

## Parliamentary Inquiries

September 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](#).

### Parliamentary Inquiries

<b>Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Amendment (A Stronger Land Account) Bill 2014 .....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority Amendment Bill 2014 .....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Social Services and Other Legislation Amendments .....</i>	<i>6</i>
<b>Senate Community Affairs References Committee .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<i>Grandparents who take primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren .....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Extent of income inequality in Australia.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Out of home care.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<b>Senate Economics Affairs Legislation Committee.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>Reserve Bank Amendment (Australian Reconstruction and Development Board) Bill 2013 .....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Competition and Consumer Amendment (Misuse of Market Power) Bill 2014.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Corporations Amendment (Streamlining of Future of Financial Advice) Bill 2014 .....</i>	<i>9</i>
<b>Senate Economics Affairs References Committee .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>Australia's Innovation System .....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Affordable housing .....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Forestry managed investment schemes.....</i>	<i>10</i>



<i>Future of Australia’s naval shipbuilding industry</i> .....	10
<i>Need for a national approach to retail leasing arrangements</i> .....	11
<i>Implications of financial advice reforms</i> .....	11
<b>Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<i>Fair Entitlements Guarantee Amendment Bill 2014</i> .....	11
<i>Higher Education and Research Reform Amendment Bill 2014</i> .....	12
<b>Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<i>Performance, importance and role of Australia Post in Australian communities and its operations in relation to licensed post offices</i> .....	12
<b>Senate Environment and Communications References Committee</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<i>Australia's environment</i> .....	12
<i>Environmental Biosecurity</i> .....	13
<i>National Landcare Program</i> .....	13
<b>Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<i>Department of Parliamentary Services</i> .....	13
<b>Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<i>Domestic Violence in Australia</i> .....	14
<b>Senate Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade References Committee</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<i>Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA)</i> .....	14
<i>Abuse in defence</i> .....	15
<i>Australia’s future activities and responsibilities in the Southern Ocean and Antarctic waters</i> .....	15
<b>Senate Select Committee on Health</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<i>Criminal Code Amendment (Harming Australians) Bill 2013</i> .....	16
<i>Criminal Code Amendment (Misrepresentation of Age to a Minor) Bill 2013</i> .....	16
<i>Migration Amendment (Protecting Babies Born in Australia) Bill 2014</i> .....	16
<i>Migration Amendment (Protection and Other Measures) Bill 2014</i> .....	16
<i>Recognition of Foreign Marriages Bill 2014</i> .....	17
<i>Customs Amendment (Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation) Bill 2014 and the Customs Tariff Amendment (Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation) Bill 2014</i> .....	17
<i>Customs Amendment Bill 2014</i> .....	17



<i>Exposure draft of the Medical Services (Dying with Dignity) Bill 2014</i> .....	18
<i>Guardian for Unaccompanied Children Bill 2014</i> .....	18
<b>Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<i>Comprehensive revision of Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979</i> .....	18
<i>Incident at the Manus Island Detention Centre from 16 February to 18 February 2014</i> .....	18
<i>The ability of Australian law enforcement authorities to eliminate gun-related violence in the community</i> .....	19
<i>Work undertaken by the Australian Federal Police's Oil for Food Taskforce</i> .....	19
<b>Senate Standing Committee on Privileges</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<i>Possible imposition of a penalty on a witness before the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee</i> .....	19
<i>Use of CCTV material in Parliament House</i> .....	19
<b>Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<i>Australian Grain Networks</i> .....	20
<i>Current and future arrangements for the marketing of Australian sugar</i> .....	20
<i>Industry structures and systems governing the imposition of and disbursement of marketing and research and development (R&amp;D) levies in the agricultural sector</i> .....	20
<i>Australia's transport energy resilience and sustainability</i> .....	21
<i>Role of public transport in delivering productivity outcomes</i> .....	21
<i>Industry structures and systems governing levies on grass-fed cattle</i> .....	21
<i>Review of the citrus industry in Australia</i> .....	22
<b>Senate Select Committee on the National Broadband Network</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Industry</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<i>Country of Origin Food Labelling</i> .....	23
<b>House Standing Committee on Economics</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<i>Inquiry into foreign investment in residential real estate</i> .....	23
<i>Review of the Reserve Bank Annual Report 2013</i> .....	23
<i>Review of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority Annual Report 2013</i> .....	24
<b>House Standing Committee on Education and Employment</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<i>Inquiry into the role of the Technical and Further Education system and its operation</i> .....	24
<b>House Standing Committee on the Environment</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<i>Inquiry into streamlining environmental regulation, 'green tape', and one stop shops</i> .....	24

<b>House Standing Committee on Health .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<i>Inquiry into skin cancer in Australia .....</i>	<i>25</i>
<b>House Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<i>Inquiry into the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities .....</i>	<i>25</i>
<b>House Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<i>Inquiry into High Speed Rail Planning Authority Bill 2013.....</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Inquiry into the use of subsection 313(3) of the Telecommunications Act 1997 by government agencies to disrupt the operation of illegal online services .....</i>	<i>26</i>
<b>Standing Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<i>Inquiry into whether the former Member for Dobell deliberately misled the House .....</i>	<i>26</i>
<b>House Standing Committee on Procedure .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<i>Inquiry into the use of electronic devices in the House of Representatives Chamber and Federation Chamber .....</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Inquiry into the maintenance of the Standing and Sessional Orders .....</i>	<i>27</i>
<b>House Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<i>Parliamentary Inquiry into the Child Support Program .....</i>	<i>27</i>
<b>House Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<i>Inquiry into the 2013 Annual Report of the Australian Taxation Office .....</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Inquiry into Tax Disputes .....</i>	<i>28</i>
<b>Joint Committee on the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<i>Inquiry into the jurisdiction of the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity .....</i>	<i>28</i>
<b>Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<i>Oversight of ASIC and the Takeovers Panel 2014.....</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Inquiry into proposals to lift the professional, ethical and education standards in the financial services industry</i>	<i>29</i>
<b>Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<i>Inquiry into Australia's trade and investment relationships with countries of the Middle East.....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Review of the Defence Annual Report 2012-2013.....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Inquiry into the human right issues confronting women and girls in the Indian Ocean – Asia Pacific region.....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Inquiry into the role of the private sector in promoting economic growth and reducing poverty in the Indo-Pacific region .....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Inquiry into Government Support for Australian Defence Industry Exports .....</i>	<i>30</i>



<b>Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence and Security .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<i>Review of Administration and Expenditure No. 12 (2012 - 2013) - Australian Intelligence Agencies .....</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Inquiry into the National Security Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2014 .....</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Review of the listing of Boko Haram as a terrorist organisation.....</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Review of the Re-Listing of The Islamic State.....</i>	<i>31</i>
<b>Joint Committee on Law Enforcement .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<i>Inquiry into financial related crime .....</i>	<i>32</i>
<b>Joint Standing Committee on Migration .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<i>Inquiry into the Business Innovation and Investment Programme (BIIP).....</i>	<i>32</i>
<b>Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<i>Review of the National Capital Authority: Biannual Public Briefings .....</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Inquiry into economic development on Norfolk Island.....</i>	<i>33</i>
<b>Joint Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Audit.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<i>Review of Auditor General's Reports 10-31 (2013-14).....</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Inquiry into the Parliamentary Budget Office .....</i>	<i>33</i>
<b>Joint Standing Committee on Public Works .....</b>	<b>34</b>

## Senate Committees

### Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

#### ***Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Amendment (A Stronger Land Account) Bill 2014***

Indigenous Land Corporation was set up with the Land Account ‘to enable Indigenous people to acquire land and maintain it in a sustainable way to provide economic, social and cultural benefits for themselves and for future generations of their people’. The [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Amendment \(A Stronger Land Account\) Bill 2014](#) seeks to strengthen the account by clarifying the purpose of the Land Account; provide for excess returns from Land Account investments to be equally shared between the Account and the ILC, among other measures.

The closing date for submissions was 29 August 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 29 October 2014.

#### ***Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority Amendment Bill 2014***

The [Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority Amendment Bill 2014](#) aligns Australia’s anti-doping legislation with the revised World Anti-Doping Code and International Standards that come into force on 1 January 2015.

The closing date for submissions is 3 October 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 27 October 2014.

#### ***Social Services and Other Legislation Amendments***

The [Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment \(2014 Budget Measures No. 1\) Bill 2014](#) and the [Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment \(2014 Budget Measures No. 2\) Bill 2014](#) amend Social Security legislation to place various restrictions on access to benefits for students, pensioners, families and veterans by:

- pausing indexation on certain income and assets test free areas and thresholds;
- indexing pensions to the CPI;
- include tax-free superannuation income in the assessment of income for qualification for the seniors health card;
- increasing the age pension qualifying age from 67 to 70 years;
- restricting qualification for relocation scholarship payments;
- replacing newstart or sickness allowance with the lower youth allowance for 22 to 24 year olds;
- creating a 26-week waiting periods and non-payment periods;
- limiting the large family supplement; and

- reducing the primary earner income limit; limiting family tax benefit Part B.

The closing date for submissions is 25 July 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 10 September 2014.

### **Senate Community Affairs References Committee**

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

#### ***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 was 14 March 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 30 September 2014.

#### ***Extent of income inequality in Australia***

This inquiry will examine the extent of income inequality in Australia and the rate at which income inequality is increasing in our community and the likely impact of Government policies on current and future rates of inequality particularly the changes proposed in the 2014-15 Budget.

The inquiry will look at the impact of income inequality on access to health, housing, education and work in Australia, and on the quality of the outcomes achieved. It will also examine the specific impacts of inequality on disadvantaged groups within the community, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, older job seekers, people living with a disability or mental illness, refugees, single parents, those on a low income, people at risk of poverty in retirement as well as the relationship between gender and inequality.

The Committee will report on the principles that should underpin the provision of social security payments in Australia and the practical measures that could be implemented by Governments to address inequality, particularly appropriate and adequate income support payments.

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

The closing date for submissions is 22 August 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 26 November 2014.

### ***Out of home care***

The Committee will examine out of home care, specifically the drivers of the increase in the number of children placed in out of home care, types of care that are increasing and demographics of the children in care, and the outcomes for children in out of home care versus staying in the home. The Committee will consider current models for out of home care, the current cost of Australia's approach to care and protection and the consistency of approach to out of home care around Australia.

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

The closing date for submissions is 31 October 2014.

The Committee is due to report by the second sitting week in February 2015.

### **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 was 10 February 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 4 December 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.

The closing date for submissions is 30 June 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 4 December 2014.

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

The [Corporations Amendment \(Streamlining of Future of Financial Advice\) Bill 2014](#) among other things amends the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) to remove the seventh step (the “catch all” provision) from the steps an advice provider may take in order to satisfy best interest obligations, removes the renewal notice obligations for fee recipients, and removes the requirement to provide yearly fee disclosure statements to certain clients.

The closing date for submissions is 15 September 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 30 September 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.

It will also examine 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. It will report on the relationship between advanced manufacturing and a dynamic innovation culture and suggest policy actions to attract, train and retain a healthy research and innovation workforce and create a seamless innovation pipeline.

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

The closing date for submissions is 31 July 2014.

The Committee is due to report by the first sitting day of July 2015.

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

The closing date for submissions was 25 March 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 27 November 2014.

### ***Forestry managed investment schemes***

The Committee will examine the structure and development of forestry managed investment schemes (MIS), including the motivation and drivers that established the framework for the schemes, and the role of government, regulation and the financial services industry in MIS.

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

The closing date for submissions is 15 December 2014.

The Committee is due to report by March 2015.

### ***Future of Australia's naval shipbuilding industry***

The Committee was asked to inquire into the future sustainability of Australia's strategically vital naval shipbuilding industry. The closing date for submissions for this part of the inquiry was 17 July 2014 and the Committee reported by 27 August 2014.

Part II: Broader inquiry into the future of Australia's shipbuilding industry



During the first stage, the Committee also resolved to inquire into the tender process for the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN) new supply ships as its first order of business, as part of its broader inquiry into Australia's naval shipbuilding industry.

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

The closing date for submissions is 1 December 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 1 July 2015.

### ***Need for a national approach to retail leasing arrangements***

The Committee will inquire into the need for a national approach to retail leasing arrangements to create a fairer system and reduce the burden on small to medium businesses with associated benefits to landlords.

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

The closing date for submissions was 28 August 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 30 October 2014.

### ***Implications of financial advice reforms***

The Committee will examine the current level of consumer protections, the role of, and oversight by, regulatory agencies in preventing the provision of unethical and misleading financial advice, whether existing mechanisms are appropriate in any compensation process relating to unethical or misleading financial advice and instances where these mechanisms may have failed, mechanisms, including a centralised register, that would ensure financial planners found to have breached any law or professional standards in their employment are transparent, for both the sector and consumers, how financial services providers and companies have responded to misconduct in the industry and any other regulatory or legislative reforms that would prevent misconduct.

Submission and reporting dates have not yet been announced.

## **Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee**

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

### ***Fair Entitlements Guarantee Amendment Bill 2014***

The [Fair Entitlements Guarantee Amendment Bill 2014](#) implements the Government's 2014–15 Budget announcement to align the maximum redundancy pay entitlement under the Fair Entitlements Guarantee scheme (the Scheme) with the maximum set by the National Employment Standards

contained in the Fair Work Act 2009. The new maximum redundancy pay entitlement will be 16 weeks' pay.

The closing date for submissions is 12 September 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 24 September 2014.

### **Higher Education and Research Reform Amendment Bill 2014**

The [Higher Education and Research Reform Amendment Bill 2014](#) implements the Government's higher education reform agenda, including demand-driven funding, removal of maximum student contribution amounts, merging of the FEE-HELP and HECS-HELP loan schemes, including the removal of the FEE-HELP loan fee and lifetime limits, amongst other changes.

The closing date for submissions has not yet been set.

The Committee is due to report by 28 October 2014.

### **Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee**

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

#### ***Performance, importance and role of Australia Post in Australian communities and its operations in relation to licensed post offices***

The Committee will examine the overall performance, importance and role of Australia Post in Australian communities, and the challenges it faces in the immediate and longer term. In particular it will examine the importance and role of the Licensed Post Office (LPO) network in the Australian postal system, with particular reference to regional and remote areas, the licensing and trading conditions applicable to LPOs, including the Community Service Obligations, and any effects these may have on operating an LPO business, and marketing, retail and trading arrangements between Australia Post and LPOs and other entities.

The closing date for submissions was 25 November 2013.

The Committee is due to report by 24 September 2014.

### **Senate Environment and Communications References Committee**

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

#### ***Australia's environment***

The Committee will examine "the Abbott Government's attacks on Australia's environment, and their effects on our natural heritage and future prosperity."



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

The closing date for submissions is 1 September 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 10 October 2014.

### ***Environmental Biosecurity***

The Committee will examine and report on the adequacy of arrangements to prevent the entry and establishment of invasive species likely to harm Australia's natural environment. It will focus on both recent biosecurity performance with respect to exotic organisms with the potential to harm the natural environment detected since 2000 and resulting from accidental or illegal introductions from overseas and Australia's state of preparedness for new environmental incursions.

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

The closing date for submissions is was 2 August 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 3 December 2014.

### ***National Landcare Program***

The Committee will inquire and report on the history, effectiveness, performance and future of the National Landcare Program. The Committee will also examine the implications of the 2014-15 Budget for land care programs, in particular, on contracts, scope, structure, outcomes of programs and long-term impact on natural resource management.

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

The closing date for submissions was 8 August 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 29 October 2014.

### **Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

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

### ***Department of Parliamentary Services***

The Committee will examine progress in implementing the recommendations of the committee's 2012 reports into the performance of the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS), including workplace culture and employment issues, heritage management, building maintenance and asset management issues, and contract management, the senior management structure of DPS and arrangements to maintain the independence of the Parliamentary Librarian and oversight arrangements for security in the parliamentary precincts and security policies.



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

The closing date for submissions was 5 September 2014.

The Committee is due to report by the seventh sitting day in March 2015.

**Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee**

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

***Domestic Violence in Australia***

The Committee will examine and report on the prevalence and impact of domestic violence in Australia as it affects all Australians and, in particular, as it affects women living with a disability and women from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. The Committee will also examine the factors contributing to the present levels of domestic violence, the adequacy of policy and community responses to domestic violence, and the effects of policy decisions regarding housing, legal services, and women's economic independence on the ability of women to escape domestic violence. Finally the Committee will report on how the Federal Government can best support, contribute to and drive the social, cultural and behavioural shifts required to eliminate violence against women and their children.

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

The closing date for submissions was 31 July 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 2 March 2015.

**Senate Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade References Committee**

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

***Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA)***

The Committee will examine the agreement with particular reference to its impact on Australia's economy, and our trade, investment, social, cultural and environmental policies. Further information about the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties may be found on that [committee's website](#), as well as the full text of the Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement and related resources.

The closing date for submissions was 29 August 2014.

### *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. '

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

The Committee was due to report by 30 October 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 closed on 1 July 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 29 October 2014.

### **Senate Select Committee on Health**

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

The Select Committee into Health will inquire into and report on health policy, administration and expenditure.

The closing date for submissions is 19 September 2014.

The Committee is due to report by June 2016.

## Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

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

### ***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 was 21 January 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 4 December 2014.

### ***Criminal Code Amendment (Misrepresentation of Age to a Minor) Bill 2013***

The inquiry will examine the [Criminal Code Amendment \(Misrepresentation of Age to a Minor\) Bill 2013](#), which makes it an offence for a person who is over 18 years of age to misrepresent their age to a person they reasonably believe to be under 16 years of age and applies to online communication.

The Committee is due to report by 4 December 2014.

### ***Migration Amendment (Protecting Babies Born in Australia) Bill 2014***

The [Migration Amendment \(Protecting Babies Born in Australia\) Bill 2014](#) amends the *Migration Act 1958* to provide that a person will have been deemed not to have entered Australia by sea if they entered the migration zone and landed in an aircraft or if the person was born in the migration zone.

The closing date for submissions is 29 August 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 28 October 2014.

### ***Migration Amendment (Protection and Other Measures) Bill 2014***

The [Migration Amendment \(Protection and Other Measures\) Bill 2014](#) amends the *Migration Act* to:

- clarify the responsibilities of asylum seekers to provide and substantiate claims in relation to protection visas;
- enable the Refugee Review Tribunal to draw an unfavourable inference about the credibility of claims or evidence raised by a protection visa applicant for the first time at the review stage;
- create grounds to refuse a protection visa application when an applicant refuses or fails to establish their identity, nationality or citizenship; provide that a protection visa will not be



granted to a family applicant unless the visa was applied for before the family visa holder was granted their visa;

- define the risk threshold for assessing Australia's non-refoulement obligations under certain treaties;
- amend the framework in relation to unauthorised maritime arrivals and transitory persons who can make a valid application for a visa;
- provide for changes to the processes and administration of the Migration Review Tribunal and the Refugee Review Tribunal; and
- clarify when a review of a decision in relation to an application is 'finally determined'.

The Committee is due to report by 22 September 2014.

### ***Recognition of Foreign Marriages Bill 2014***

The [Recognition of Foreign Marriages Bill 2014](#) amends the Marriage Act 1961 to remove the prohibition of the recognition of same sex marriages solemnised in a foreign country and provide that these marriages are recognised under the laws of Australia.

The closing date for submissions is 31 July 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 10 September 2014.

### ***Customs Amendment (Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation) Bill 2014 and the Customs Tariff Amendment (Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation) Bill 2014***

The [Customs Amendment \(Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation\) Bill 2014](#) amend the Customs Act 1901 (the Customs Act) to introduce new rules of origin for goods that are imported into Australia from Korea to give effect to the Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement. The Customs Act amendments will enable goods that satisfy the rules of origin to enter Australia at preferential rates of customs duty.

The closing date for submissions is 15 September 2014

The Committee is due to report by 2 October 2014

### ***Customs Amendment Bill 2014***

The [Customs Amendment Bill 2014](#) amends the Customs Act 1901 to, among other things, extend customs control to goods on board a ship or aircraft arriving at non-proclaimed areas of the Australian coastline, amend reporting timeframes for ships and standardise the application process for permissions to load and unload ships' and aircraft's stores.

The closing date for submissions is 8 September 2014

The Committee is due to report by 30 September 2014

### ***Exposure draft of the Medical Services (Dying with Dignity) Bill 2014***

The Senate will examine the exposure draft of the [Medical Services \(Dying with Dignity\) Bill 2014](#), with particular reference to the rights of terminally ill people to seek assistance in ending their lives, and an appropriate framework and safeguards with which to do so

The Committee is due to report by 27 October 2014

### ***Guardian for Unaccompanied Children Bill 2014***

The [Guardian For Unaccompanied Children Bill 2014](#) establishes the Office of the Guardian for Unaccompanied Non-citizen Children; provides for the appointment, functions and powers of the guardian; provides for staff, consultants and reporting requirements; and amends the *Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act 1946* and *Migration Act 1958* to make consequential amendments.

The Committee is due to report by 23 October 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 was 27 February 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 29 October 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 Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

The Committee is due to report by 27 October 2014.

***The ability of Australian law enforcement authorities to eliminate gun-related violence in the community***

The Committee will examine the ability of Australian law enforcement authorities to eliminate gun-related violence in the community, with reference to the estimated number of illegal guns in Australia, the operation and consequences of the illicit firearms trade and the adequacy of current laws and resourcing to enable authorities to respond to technological advances in gun technology.

The closing date for submissions was 15 August 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 2 December 2014.

***Work undertaken by the Australian Federal Police's Oil for Food Taskforce***

The Committee will examine and report on the work undertaken by the Australian Federal Police's Oil for Food Taskforce and the level of resourcing that was provided and used by the taskforce.

The Committee is due to report by 26 November 2014.

**Senate Standing Committee on Privileges**

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

***Possible imposition of a penalty on a witness before the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee***

In the context of an inquiry by the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee into aviation accident investigations and Budget estimates hearings of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee in May 2013, the Committee will examine whether disciplinary action was taken against either a witness before the committee or a person providing information to the committee and if so, whether any contempt was committed in respect of those matters.

***Use of CCTV material in Parliament House***

In relation to the use of closed circuit television footage by officers of the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) for internal investigations involving DPS staff, the Committee will examine whether there was any improper interference, or attempted improper interference, with the free performance by Senator Faulkner or any other senator of their duties as a senator and whether disciplinary action was taken against any person in connection with the provision of information to Senator Faulkner or any other senator. If so, the Committee will examine whether any contempts were committed in respect of those matters.

## **Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee**

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

### ***Australian Grain Networks***

The Committee will inquire into grain export networks, including the on- and off-farm storage, transport, handling and export of Australian grain, with particular reference to the principles and practices underpinning an efficient grain supply chain from farm-gate to port, grain marketing and export arrangements and their impact on farm-gate returns, competition constraints on grain transport, storage and handling services and the extent to which transport, storage and handling arrangements are transparent and accountable

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

The closing date for submissions was 31 July 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 3 December 2014.

### ***Current and future arrangements for the marketing of Australian sugar***

The Committee will examine the impact of proposed changes on the local sugar industry, including the effect on grower economic interest sugar. It will inquire into equitable access to essential infrastructure, foreign ownership levels in the industry and the potential to impact on the interests of the Australian sugar industry. The committee will report on whether there is an emerging need for formal powers under Commonwealth competition and consumer laws, in particular, whether there are adequate protections for grower-producers against market imbalances.

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

The closing date for submissions is 13 October 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 27 November 2014.

### ***Industry structures and systems governing the imposition of and disbursement of marketing and research and development (R&D) levies in the agricultural sector***

The Committee will inquire into industry structures and systems governing the imposition of and disbursement of marketing and research and development (R&D) levies in the agricultural sector, with particular reference to the basis on which levies are imposed, collected and used, competing pressures for finite R&D funds, the opportunities levy payers have to influence the investment of the levies and the opportunities levy payers have to approve and reapprove the imposition of levies.

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

The closing date for submissions is 20 October 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 24 November 2014.

### ***Australia's transport energy resilience and sustainability***

The Committee will examine options for introducing mandatory oil stockholdings, the role of Government in ensuring Australian energy for Australians, including maintaining refinery capability and Australia's role and responsibility regarding energy security as a member of various multilateral fora.

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

The closing date for submissions is 10 November 2014.

The Committee is due to report by the first sitting day in March 2015.

### ***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 was 30 January 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 4 December 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 was 30 January 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 23 September 2014.

### *The current requirements for labelling of seafood and seafood products*

The Committee will examine whether the current requirements provide consumers with sufficient information to make informed choices, allow for best-practice traceability of product chain-of-custody and allow domestic seafood producers to compete on even terms with imported seafood products.

The Committee will have regard to the regulations in other jurisdictions and the need for consistent definitions and use of terms in product labelling, and will take into account Food and Agriculture Organisation guidelines and the need for labelling for cooked or pre-prepared seafood products and recommendations for the provision of consumer information.

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

The closing date for submissions was 1 August 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 27 September 2014.

### *Review of the citrus industry in Australia*

The review of the citrus industry in Australia will examine the scale and structure of the industry opportunities and inhibitors for growth of the Australian industry, competition issues in the Australian market, the adequacy and efficiency of supply chains in the Australian market and opportunities and inhibitors for export and export growth.

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

The Committee is due to report by 16 December 2014.

### **Senate Select Committee on the National Broadband Network**

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

On 14 November 2013 the Senate established a Select Committee on the National Broadband Network to inquire into and report on the Government's reviews of the National Broadband Network (NBN) and the governance of NBN Co, with interim reports as the committee sees fit and a final report on or before 10 June 2014.

On 14 May 2014, the Senate agreed to extend the date for the presentation of the final report to the last sitting day of the 44th Parliament. The committee has subsequently agreed to continue accepting submissions.



## House Committees

### **House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Industry**

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

#### ***Country of Origin Food Labelling***

The Committee will examine whether the current Country of Origin Labelling (CoOL for food) system provides enough information for Australian consumers to make informed purchasing decisions, and whether Australia's CoOL laws are being complied with and what, if any, are the practical limitations to compliance. The Committee will report on whether improvements could be made, including to simplify the current system and/or reduce the compliance burden, whether Australia's CoOL laws are being circumvented by staging imports through third countries and the impact on Australia's international trade obligations of any proposed changes to Australia's CoOL laws.

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

The closing date for submissions was 9 May 2014.

The Committee has not published date for reporting.

### **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 was 9 May 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 10 October 2014.

#### ***Review of the Reserve Bank Annual Report 2013***

The Standing Committee on Economics, which can inquire into and report on any annual reports referred to it by the House of Representatives, has agreed to undertake an inquiry into the 2013 Annual Report of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

The Committee has tabled two reports to date:

- [Review of the Reserve Bank Annual Report 2013 \(First Report\)](#)
- [Review of the Reserve Bank Annual Report 2013 \(Second Report\)](#)

The Committee will continue to review the 2013 Annual Report.

### ***Review of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority Annual Report 2013***

The Standing Committee on Economics, which can inquire into and report on any annual reports referred to it by the House of Representatives, has agreed to undertake an inquiry into the 2013 Annual Report of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority.

### **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 Committee was due to report by 31 July 2014.

### **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 was 30 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 was 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 was 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 the use of subsection 313(3) of the Telecommunications Act 1997 by government agencies to disrupt the operation of illegal online services***

The Committee will examine Section 313 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* which provides Australian government agencies (including state government agencies) with the ability to obtain assistance from the telecommunications industry when upholding Australian laws.

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

***Infrastructure Planning and Procurement***

The Committee will consider the operating around Australia at local and state government levels that might lower the cost of planning approvals and reduce timeframes for delivery of projects. Of those initiatives, the Committee will inquire as whether any are able or appropriate to be implemented on a broader basis, including at Federal level.

The Committee will also examine what industry doing to reduce the regulatory and other costs that it faces in competing for infrastructure projects, and ways that 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 was 11 April 2014.

**Standing Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests**

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

***Inquiry into whether the former Member for Dobell deliberately misled the House***

The Committee will investigate whether in the course of his statement of 21 May 2012, and having regard to the findings of the Melbourne Magistrates Court on 18 February 2014 in relation to Mr Thomson, the former Member for Dobell, Mr Craig Thomson, deliberately misled the House.

## **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](#).

The closing date for submissions was 11 April 2014.

### ***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](#)

### ***Parliamentary Inquiry into the Child Support Program***

The Committee will consider whether any problems experienced by payers or payees of child support impact on the majority of parents and other carers involved in the system, or a minority, and make recommendations accordingly.

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

The closing date for submissions was 4 July 2014.

## **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](#).

### *Inquiry into Tax Disputes*

The Committee will report on disputes between taxpayers and the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), and will examine collecting revenues due, fair treatment and respect of taxpayers, the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency, from the perspective of both taxpayers and the ATO, and how the ATO supports the outcomes of efficiency, effectiveness and transparency through the use and publication of performance information.

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

## **Joint Committees**

### **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 was 14 May 2014.

### **Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples**

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

The Committee will inquire into and report on steps that can be taken to progress towards a successful referendum on Indigenous constitutional recognition.

A schedule of public hearings is available [here](#).

The terms of reference/outline of the role of the committee is available [here](#).

The Committee reports by 30 June each year.

### **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.

The most recent hearing was held on 28 March 2014.

The Committee is due to report by 30 October 2014.

### ***Inquiry into proposals to lift the professional, ethical and education standards in the financial services industry***

The Committee will examine the adequacy of current qualifications required by financial advisers, the implications, including implications for competition and the cost of regulation for industry participants of the financial advice sector being required to adopt professional standards or rules of professional conduct which would govern the professional and ethical behaviour of financial advisers, professional regulation of such standards or rules and the recognition of professional bodies by ASIC.

### **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 was 6 June 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 air combat capability.



The closing date for submissions was 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 was 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 was 8 May 2014.

***Inquiry into Government Support for Australian Defence Industry Exports***

The Committee will inquire into and report on Government support for Australian Defence industry exports, including identification of barriers and impediments to the growth of Australia's Defence exports, how Government can better engage and assist Australian Defence industry to export its products, the operations of the Defence Export Control Office and an assessment of the export support given to Defence industry by governments of comparable nations.

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

The closing date for submissions was 11 July 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 was 21 February 2014.

***Inquiry into the National Security Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2014***

The [National Security Legislation Amendment Bill \(No. 1\) 2014](#) implements many of the bipartisan recommendations made by the Committee in Chapter 4 of its 2013 [Report of the Inquiry into Potential Reforms of Australia's National Security Legislation](#). The purpose of the inquiry will be to scrutinise whether the Bill appropriately implements recommendations agreed by the Committee last year and to assess the balance of national security and safeguards proposed in the Bill.

Submissions have closed.

***Review of the listing of Boko Haram as a terrorist organisation***

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security resolved to inquire into and report on the Review of the listing of Boko Haram.

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.

***Review of the Re-Listing of The Islamic State***

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security resolved to inquire into and report on the *Review of the Re-listing of The Islamic State* as a terrorist organisation.

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.

## **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 committee will examine the character, prevalence and impact of financial related crime in Australia, the methods and practices used by the perpetrators and the involvement of organised crime, the operation and effectiveness of Commonwealth legislation, administrative arrangements and law enforcement strategies, the role of the Australian Crime Commission and the Australian Federal Police in detecting financial related crime and the interaction of Commonwealth, state and territory legislation and law enforcement activity.

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

The closing date for submissions was 9 May 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 was 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 last briefing was held on 17 July 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 was 17 April 2014.

## **Joint Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Audit**

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

### ***Review of Auditor General's Reports 10-31 (2013-14)***

On Thursday 5 June 2014, the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit resolved to review the following audit reports in detail:

- Audit Report No. 21 (2013-14) [Pilot Project to Audit Key Performance Indicators](#);
- Audit Report No. 25 (2013-14) [Management of the Building Better Regional Cities Program](#);
- Audit Report No. 26 (2013-14) [Medicare Compliance Audits](#); and
- Report No. 27 of (2013-14) [Integrity of Medicare Customer Data](#).

The last hearing was held on 17 July 2014.

### ***Inquiry into the Parliamentary Budget Office***

The Committee will inquire into and report on the operations of the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO), with specific regard to PBO statutory information gathering powers and access to information, including



the Contingency Reserve, PBO reporting of Government progress against a new set of fiscal rules, as recommended by the National Commission of Audit, PBO reporting against medium-term projections of fiscal outlook beyond the forward estimates and best practice for independent fiscal institutions/ as identified by the International Monetary Fund. The Committee will also consider PBO implementation of the recommendation from Australian National Audit Office Report No. 36 (2013-14), and the need for any legislative change.

Submissions have now closed.

### **Joint Standing Committee on Public Works**

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

#### ***Proposed fit-out of new leased premises for the Department of Social Services, ACT***

The Committee will examine and report on the AIR 6000 Phase 2A/B New Air Combat Capability Facilities. The facilities will be built at RAAF bases around the country, with most work being undertaken at RAAF Base Williamtown, NSW and RAAF Base Tindal, Northern Territory.

New facilities' works proposed at RAAF Base Williamtown and RAAF Base Tindal include squadron facilities to support the operation and maintenance of the new aircraft, training facilities to develop and sustain pilots and maintenance staff, airfield infrastructure, and logistics facilities.

Submissions have now closed.

### **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 Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on the new Senate from 1 July 2014 is available [here](#).

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