



THE FAWCETT FLYER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021



Each year in November, Australians commemorate Remembrance Day at the 11th hour on the 11th day to remember the 102,800 Australians who made the ultimate sacrifice across wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. 2021 marked the 103rd anniversary of the Armistice that ended the First World War on 11th November 1918.

As 2021 draws to a close, it has been a year of success, frustration, challenges, and opportunities. A number of important bills were passed throughout the year, in addition to ensuring economic support could flow to Australian individuals, households and businesses who have been doing it tough as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In total, the Morrison Government passed a total of 142 bills through the Parliament this year. These bills include the Autonomous Sanctions Amendment (Magnitsky-style and Other Thematic Sanctions) Bill 2021 (*more on Page 2*), Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure) Bill 2021, Independent National Security Legislation Monitor Amendment Bill 2021, Online Safety Bill 2021, Fuel Security Bill 2021, National Health Amendment (Enhancing the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) Bill 2021, and COVID-19 Disaster Payment (Funding Arrangements) Bill 2021, among more than a hundred others.

While 2022 may still prove to be challenging, we must continue to balance the need to protect our community's most vulnerable with the need to restore Australia's economic and social strength. We continue to get the fundamentals right – lower taxes, building the infrastructure Australia needs, less regulation and sound public financial management – to secure our recovery in 2022.

For more information on these or other matters of a federal nature, please contact my office via the details available on the back cover.

As this is the last edition of the Fawcett Flyer for 2021, I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Christ, and trust that we will all have a healthy, secure and prosperous 2022.

Kind regards,

**SENATOR THE HON
DAVID FAWCETT**



Within the committees of which I have membership – as Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT), and as a member of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCS), among others – November and December have proven busy.

I remain deeply concerned at the continued escalation of conflict in Tigray and neighbouring regions of northern Ethiopia. In early November, I joined with the Australian Government in condemning the ongoing fighting, use of sexual violence and restrictions on humanitarian access. Earlier in the year, the Government provided \$3 million to the UN World Food Programme to help meet the needs of those most vulnerable in Ethiopia's Tigray region and is now providing a further \$3 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In late November, JSCFADT published the report for the review of the Department of Defence Annual Report 2019-20 – making 6 recommendations across a range of areas. The inquiry focused on 6 aspects including space-based intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, cyber warfare, Defence estate in the north and north-west and Defence workforce,

Defence science and technology, and strategic fuel security. The report and its recommendations reflect the fact that the Committee sees potential for Australia to take an increasingly 'asymmetric' approach to national security in coming decades, not only within the Defence organisation but from a broader whole-of-nation perspective. This extends beyond strictly military capabilities to shared civil-military space capabilities, joint civil-military cyber capabilities and innovative approaches to future fuel and energy security measures.

In early December, the Autonomous Sanctions Amendment (Magnitsky-style and Other Thematic Sanctions) Bill 2021 has passed into law. Upon royal assent, this law reforms and modernises Australia's existing autonomous sanctions regime to enable the Australian Government to apply targeted and thematic sanctions and travel bans to perpetrators of serious human rights abuse and corruption. Expanding upon the current country-based autonomous sanctions framework, the reforms provide the Government with the flexibility to deploy sanctions in response to situations of international concern, as appropriate and when in our national interest. As JSCFADT Chair, I tabled the Committee's report on its 'Inquiry into whether Australia

should examine the use of targeted sanctions to address human rights abuses' in the Senate in December last year. The inquiry was conducted by the Human Rights Sub-Committee, chaired by the Hon Kevin Andrews MP.

The JSCFADT Human Rights Sub-Committee tabled the 'Inquiry into the human rights of women and girls in the Pacific' report in the lower house in early December. Making 14 recommendations, the inquiry focussed on the role of civil society groups in the Pacific islands in responding practically to gender equality, as well as domestic, family and sexual violence; and Australia's support, through the Pacific Step-up and Australian overseas development assistance programs, for the human rights of women and girls.

Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews referred the National Security Legislation Amendment (Comprehensive Review and Other Measures No. 1) Bill 2021 to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) in late November. The Bill is concerned with implementing the Government response to a number of recommendations of the Comprehensive Review of the Legal Framework of the National Intelligence Community, led by Dennis Richardson AC. Submissions for this inquiry close on February 3rd.

PJCIS has also completed the statutory review of the Administration and Expenditure No. 19 (2019–20) – Australian Intelligence Agencies. Through this review, PJCIS was required to review the administration, expenditure and financial statements of several Australian intelligence agencies, including ASIO, ASIS and ONI. This component of the Committee's work is significant as it provides parliamentary oversight of the agencies, and how effectively and efficiently they are performing their roles.

The Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (SFADT) Legislation Committee – of which I'm a member – completed the inquiry on the Defence Amendment (Parliamentary Approval of Overseas Service) Bill 2020 in November. In the report tabled in Parliament, the committee recommends that the bill not proceed. Before the Bill was referred to the Committee, I spoke during the Senate debate on this Bill in August and expressed my support for the status quo. I believe the proposed amendments included in this legislation are inappropriate and poorly conceived.

For more information on current and past Parliamentary Committee Inquiries, click [here](#).

PROGRESS OF RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION

Prime Minister Scott Morrison introduced the Religious Discrimination Bill 2021 to Parliament in December, following an extensive process of consultation over the course of several years – honouring the Government’s 2019 election commitment. The legislative package – made up of the Religious Discrimination Bill 2021, Religious Discrimination (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2021 and Human Rights Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 – was brought to the Coalition Party Room for debate and approval, receiving broad support.

Under these new laws, it will be unlawful to discriminate against Australians of faith including in relation to employment, education, and memberships of clubs and organisations, among others. This will ensure that all Australians can continue to worship, practice their faith, and work in religious aligned organisations without fear of discrimination, and that we continue to be a safe and free society that respects deeply held beliefs. The Government’s commitment is to protect all Australians from discrimination. This Act achieves that by ensuring people of faith have the same protections against discrimination as those already in place against gender, race, sexual orientation, or disability, while still respecting the rights of others.

To pass the Senate and become law, the proposed legislation will need the support of either the Labor Party or the majority of the crossbench.

While this legislation is unlikely to please everyone, I believe it finds the appropriate balance necessary on a topic where people have deeply held views. I am continuing to advocate – as are many others – for a form of the legislation which provides a positive shield for people of faith. This is in line with the Liberal Party of Australia’s statement of beliefs, as we believe “in the basic freedoms of thought, worship, speech, association, and choice.”

The legislative package has now been referred by Attorney-General Cash to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights (PJCHR) and the Senate Standing Committees on Legal and Constitutional Affairs (SSCLCA) - both to report on the legislation by February 4th. While submissions to the PJCHR inquiry have now closed, SSCLCA submissions will be accepted until 7th January, via the APH website.

For more information on the legislative package, click [here](#).

MICRO-X HOST PM ON VISIT TO SA



Prime Minister Scott Morrison was able to visit South Australia for the first time in months – as the state reopened to interstate travellers. One of the businesses that the Prime Minister met with during his stay was Micro-X, based out of the Tonsley Innovation Precinct, to view their Rover (pictured, above) – supported by our Government’s Medical Research Future Fund. The Rover is a full performance digital medical x-ray imager, light enough to be used in deployed medical facilities, and designed in collaboration with Defence through the Innovation Hub program, for use in the Australian Army operational environment.

In 2020, I joined Peter Rowland, Managing Director of Micro-X and Andy Keough, Managing Director of Saab Australia for the signing of the \$1.4 million contract for Micro-X’s X-Ray machines to be included in the ADF’s new deployable health facilities, built by Saab Australia. Saab are working with Defence to develop and sustain deployable military and

humanitarian hospitals for the ADF – through a \$337 million contract.

Micro-X’s world first technology will not only improve health outcomes for our deployed military personnel, but the technology will enhance safety as it is adapted for stand-off imaging of improvised explosive devices and for passenger screening at airports. The innovation by Micro-X also has an enormous economic benefit through job creation in manufacturing and research & development here in SA. Micro-X were awarded the National Innovation Award at the Land Forces 2021 Innovation Awards in May.

Medical Products are one of six manufacturing priority sectors in the Government’s \$1.5 billion Modern Manufacturing Strategy, delivered through the 2020/21 Federal Budget.

For more information, click [here](#).

JOBS FAIR CONNECTING BUSINESSES WITH JOB SEEKERS

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In November, I represented the Australian Government to officially open the Adelaide North Jobs Fair – connecting businesses, organisations and employment support providers with job seekers from Adelaide’s northern and north-eastern suburbs.

With approximately 2,000 jobs on offer across the exhibiting businesses and organisations, the 800 attendees were well placed to find a role which suited them, their skills and circumstances. This jobs fair enabled job seekers to speak with prospective employers and employment agencies, as well as access career and employment advice relevant to them. Exhibitors included Thomas Foods International; Datacom – which assist several Federal Government agencies to provide essential frontline services including telehealth; R.M. Williams; Ingham’s; Drakes Supermarkets; SkyCity Adelaide; as well as Naval Shipbuilding College – which coordinates the development of Australia’s workforce for our naval

shipbuilding enterprise; among others.

Our Government is investing in our plan to connect local job seekers with work - to help Australia bounce back stronger than ever after the COVID-19 pandemic. The Adelaide North region recently benefitted from several grants to support local projects, as part of the \$276 million Local Jobs Program’s Local Recovery Fund.

The employment profile of Adelaide North has shifted significantly over the past decade. Thanks to the \$270 billion investment in Defence capabilities to protect Australia, there is significant growth in industries such as defence and advanced manufacturing.

For more information on the Adelaide North Jobs Fair, click [here](#).

LOYAL WINGMAN MILESTONE FLIGHT MISSIONS AT WOOMERA



The first military combat aircraft solely designed, developed, and manufactured in Australia in more than half a century – by Boeing’s Airpower Teaming System – reached another milestone this November after two aircraft successfully completed flight missions at the Woomera Test Range in SA. The Loyal Wingman unmanned aerial vehicles represent Boeing’s largest investment in an unmanned aircraft outside of the US, with six aircraft to be developed by Boeing in partnership with the RAAF.

Over four years, Defence will invest \$40 million in this program – with over 35 Australian defence industry businesses becoming involved. Already, South-Australian based BAE systems Australia is working to supply the aircraft’s unmanned flight vehicle management solution and simulation capability. With a range of 3,700km, the Loyal Wingman unmanned aircraft project is a trailblazer for the integration of autonomous systems and artificial intelligence, and, following the historic AUKUS deal between the

UK, US, and Australia, demonstrates the potential of collaboration between Australian innovation and Government investment. This comes as Australia prepares to become the home of Boeing’s first final aircraft assembly line outside of North America, in a ‘Wellcamp Aerospace and Defence Precinct’ at Toowoomba, Queensland. This assembly line will produce RAAF’s Loyal Wingman aircraft, generating hundreds of Australian jobs.

As a former military experimental test pilot, I’m proud of the capacity Australia has to work with in advanced aerospace. The acquisition of autonomous unmanned aircraft will enhance the operational capability of existing manned aircraft such as Australia’s F-35, Super Hornet, Growler and E-7 Wedgetail.

For more information, click [here](#).

MYANMAR CONFLICT 8 CONTINUES

I am deeply concerned for the safety and freedom of the people of Myanmar, as are many others, as conflict continues.

Overthrowing a democratically elected government, February's coup d'état and the ensuing violence against the people of Myanmar at the hands of the Tatmadaw (Myanmar's military) are appalling.

While some progress has been made at an international level, more needs to be done on the ground for the people of Myanmar. Australia should continue working with ASEAN, other groups and nations towards UN authorised, enforceable sanctions on the sale of arms and dual-use technologies to the Tatmadaw.

Where evidence is available, Australia could also use its new targeted Autonomous Sanctions powers (more on Page 2) against third parties who continue to supply the Tatmadaw with arms and dual-use technologies.

Reports out of Myanmar are that the Tatmadaw have employed modern airpower – including the joint China/Pakistan JF-17, the Russian MiG-29 and Mi-35 helicopter gunship among others – against civilian

targets. As a former military pilot, I am aware of the overwhelming advantage that uncontested air power provides a combatant.

In April, Myanmar's UN representative (appointed by the previous democratically elected government of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi), called for a no-fly zone to prevent the Tatmadaw from killing the people of Myanmar.

Hopefully international pressure and an arms embargo will lead to effective negotiations and a cessation of the violence and oppression.

If, however, the air-attacks continue or indeed increase under Operation Anawrahta, Australia should work with urgency to advocate with ASEAN and others for a no-fly zone – or at least an enforceable embargo on the provision of jet fuel – to be authorised by the UN Security Council.

For my full opinion editorial, via the Lowy Institute's Interpreter, click [here](#).

OUT AND ABOUT



I represented the Australian Government at the official opening of Prescott Primary Northern's new North Wing Building, partly funded through the Government's Capital Grants Program.



I recently presented the new Liberal Candidate for Makin Alan Howard-Jones with the keys to the Makin Mobile – a vehicle to use as he campaigns to provide the electorate of Makin with better representation and a strong local voice.



I joined the Northern Suburbs Sub-Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia at a commemorative service for the laying of a memorial paver in their Veterans Garden, in November, to recognise the service and sacrifice of Indigenous serviceman Private Arthur Thomas Walker.



Great to attend and speak to the Makin FEC fundraiser, in support of Makin candidate Alan-Howard Jones. I spoke about how support for local candidates will help the Government on the national stage to work for the good of all Australians.





On Remembrance Day, I represented Prime Minister Scott Morrison at Adelaide's National War Memorial commemorations – marking the 103rd anniversary of the Armistice that ended the First World War on 11th November 1918. Lest we forget.



As part of the Royal Australian Air Force centenary, I attended the Graveside Acknowledgement and Commemorative Service held by the RSL Salisbury Sub-Branch. The service honoured Flying Officer (FLGOFF) Maxwell Pearce - laid to rest in the lone Commonwealth War Grave located at the St Johns Church in Salisbury. Also taking place, a monument dedicated to the P-3 Orion, and those who served in operations with the aircraft including the 92 Wing out of RAAF Base Edinburgh, was unveiled near the Salisbury War Memorial.



On behalf of Nicolle Flint MP, I represented the Australian Government at the official opening of the refurbished and extended facilities at Kingswood Oval - a great example of the positive outcomes which are delivered when all three tiers of government collaborate to enable an outcome that benefits the local community.



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Liberal Senator for South Australia

Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

**Suite 4, 13/100 King William Street, Adelaide SA 5000
8205 1040**

senator.fawcett@aph.gov.au

senatorfawcett.com.au