



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade



Introduction

Welcome from the Australian Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

The Committee draws its membership from both the Senate and House of Representatives, with members sharing a common interest in national security, international affairs and Australia's role in the world.

Through its public inquiries and reports to Parliament, the Committee provides scrutiny of Government, informs debate and policy direction. The Committee's website contains more information about current inquiries and copies of reports.

In addition to its formal responsibilities, the Committee allows for consultations between parliamentarians, Australian Government officials and diplomatic representatives of foreign governments.

Contact information for the Committee is provided below.

Senator David Fawcett
Chair



The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Like many other legislatures, the Australian Parliament has established a system of committees. Australian parliamentary committees each have a defined area of interest, such as the environment or economics. The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT) has responsibility for matters relating to foreign affairs, defence and trade. The JSCFADT was first established in 1952 and has been reappointed in every Parliament since, with a gradually expanding mandate.

The Committee receives regular briefings from diplomatic representatives, departmental officials, think-tanks, policy experts, and other invited guests. The Committee has a busy schedule. Generally, the JSCFADT will meet in Canberra during parliamentary sittings and at other times or places by agreement.

The JSCFADT is organised into four sub-committees:

- Foreign Affairs and Aid
- Defence
- Trade
- Human Rights

Each sub-committee has a Chair and Deputy Chair. The sub-committees may perform duties assigned to them by the full Committee.

The Committee and its sub-committees are assisted by the Secretary and Secretariat staff.

1 Ms Sharon Claydon MP

Member for Newcastle, New South Wales
Australian Labor Party
First elected to the House of Representatives 2013
Anthropologist, researcher and community support worker

2 Dr Anne Aly MP

Deputy Chair, Human Rights Sub-Committee
Member for Cowan, Western Australia
Australian Labor Party
First elected to the House of Representatives 2016
Professor and public servant

3 The Hon Warren Snowdon MP

Member for Lingiari, Northern Territory
Australian Labor Party
Shadow Assistant Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC
Shadow Assistant Minister for External Affairs
Shadow Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health
Shadow Assistant Minister for Northern Australia
First elected to the House of Representatives 1987
Teacher, university researcher and project officer

4 Senator Claire Moore

Senator for Queensland
Australian Labor Party
Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific
First elected to the Senate 2001
Public servant and union official

5 Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP

Member for Calwell, Victoria
Australian Labor Party
First elected to the House of Representatives 2001
High school teacher and electorate officer

6 Mr Graham Perrett MP

Deputy Chair, Trade Sub-Committee
Member for Moreton, Queensland
Australian Labor Party
Opposition Whip
First elected to the House of Representatives 2007
Solicitor, high school teacher, union organiser and policy adviser

7 Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald

Senator for Queensland
Liberal Party
First elected to the Senate 1990
Solicitor

8 Mr Jason Wood MP

Member for La Trobe, Victoria
Liberal Party
First elected to the House of Representatives 2004
Police officer

9 Ms Melissa Price MP

Member for Durack, Western Australia
Liberal Party
First elected to the House of Representatives 2013
Solicitor

10 Senator Bridget McKenzie

Chair, Trade Sub-Committee
Senator for Victoria
The Nationals
First elected to the Senate 2010
High school teacher and university lecturer

11 Mr Trent Zimmerman MP

Member for North Sydney, New South Wales
Liberal Party
First elected to the House of Representatives 2015
Public affairs consultant and political adviser

12 Senator Chris Back

Senator for Western Australia
Liberal Party
First elected to the Senate 2009
Veterinarian and business executive

13 Senator Alex Gallacher

Deputy Chair, Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee
Senator for South Australia
Australian Labor Party
First elected to the Senate 2010
Truck driver and union official

14 Mr Chris Crewther MP

Chair, Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee
Member for Dunkley, Victoria
Liberal Party
First elected to the House of Representatives 2016
CEO, international lawyer and small business owner

15 Mr David Littleproud MP

Member for Maranoa, Queensland
The Nationals
First elected to the House of Representatives 2016
Business manager

16 Senator David Fawcett

Chair
Senator for South Australia
Liberal Party
Deputy Government Whip in the Senate
Elected to the House of Representatives 2004
First elected to the Senate 2010
Army officer and experimental test pilot

17 Mr Nick Champion MP

Deputy Chair
Member for Wakefield, South Australia
Australian Labor Party
Shadow Assistant Minister for Manufacturing and Science
First elected to the House of Representatives 2007
Union official and policy adviser

18 Mr Jerome Brown

Committee Secretary

19 The Hon David Feeney MP

Deputy Chair, Defence Sub-Committee
Member for Batman, Victoria
The Nationals
Elected to the House of Representatives 2016
AFL player, AFL coach, builder, Victorian State Parliamentarian and Minister

20 Ms Madeleine King MP

Member for Brand, Western Australia
Australian Labor Party
First elected to the House of Representatives 2016
Solicitor and political adviser

21 Mr Rowan Ramsey MP

Member for Grey, South Australia
Liberal Party
Government Whip
First elected to the House of Representatives 2007
Farmer

22 The Hon Damian Drum MP

Member for Murray, Victoria
The Nationals
First elected to the House of Representatives 2016
AFL player, AFL coach, builder, Victorian State Parliamentarian and Minister

23 The Hon Kevin Andrews MP

Chair, Human Rights Sub-Committee
Member for Menzies, Victoria
Liberal Party
First elected to the House of Representatives 1991
Solicitor and barrister

24 The Hon Dr John McVeigh MP

Member for Groom, Queensland
Liberal Party
First elected to the House of Representatives 2016
Agribusiness consultant, Local Government Councillor, Queensland State Parliamentarian and Minister

25 Mr Andrew Hastie MP

Member for Canning, Western Australia
Liberal Party
First elected to the House of Representatives 2015
Army officer

26 Senator Linda Reynolds CSC

Chair, Defence Sub-Committee
Senator for Western Australia
Liberal Party
First elected to the Senate 2014
Army officer and policy adviser

27 Mrs Ann Sudmalis MP

Member for Gilmore, New South Wales
Liberal Party
First elected to the House of Representatives 2013
High school teacher, university tutor and small business owner

28 Senator Deborah O'Neill

Senator for New South Wales
Australian Labor Party
Shadow Assistant Minister for Innovation
Shadow Assistant Minister for Mental Health
Elected to the House of Representatives 2010
First elected to the Senate 2013
High school teacher and university lecturer

29 Mr Craig Kelly MP

Member for Hughes, New South Wales
Liberal Party
First elected to the House of Representatives 2010
Export manager

30 Senator Anthony Chisholm

Senator for Queensland
Australian Labor Party
First elected to the Senate 2016
Adviser, Queensland ALP State Secretary

31 Senator Chris Ketter

Senator for Queensland
Australian Labor Party
First elected to the Senate 2013
Research officer and union official

Other members:

Senator Scott Ludlam

Senator for Western Australia
Australian Greens
Co-Deputy Leader of the Australian Greens
First elected to the Senate 2007
Graphic designer and electorate officer





JSCFADT membership

The JSCFADT is the largest committee of the Australian Parliament with 32 members. Membership comprises:

- Five Senators and 12 House of Representatives Members from the governing party.
- Five Senators and eight House of Representatives Members from the opposition party.
- Two Senators from a minority party or who are independents.

Senators represent their home State or Territory. House of Representatives Members each represent one of 150 electorates from around Australia.

Government Ministers do not serve on committees.



JSCFADT inquiry powers

The committees are an extension of the Parliament, scrutinising the government of the day and considering proposed laws in detail. The Committee may convene at any time or place in Australia for meetings or public hearings.

The Committee may conduct inquiries into matters referred from a Minister of the Government. For the JSCFADT, this usually means Ministers responsible for matters related to foreign affairs, trade or defence. The House of Representatives

or Senate may also ask the Committee to undertake an inquiry. The Committee may initiate its own inquiries into annual reports of relevant Government departments and authorities or reports of the Auditor-General.

An inquiry is based on the terms of reference – essentially a statement of the topic or issues to be examined. Usually, inquiries are delegated to the relevant sub-committee to complete on behalf of the full Committee.

To complete the inquiry process, the Committee (or a sub-committee) can call for written submissions and hold public hearings with witnesses. Government officials can be called as witnesses and asked questions about policy implementation, administrative decisions or program performance within their area of responsibility.

To undertake their work freely, all committees are granted special powers and privileges that are delegated to them by the House or Houses appointing them, or are bestowed by legislation. For example, committee proceedings may not be questioned or impeached in the courts and evidence can be heard in closed session.

A report is prepared at the end of an inquiry. The Committee presents its report to Parliament with recommendations for the Government's consideration and response.

Recent JSCFADT inquiry reports

The JSCFADT has recently reported on matters including:

- Australian defence industry and exports
- Australia's overseas representation
- Care of Australian Defence Force personnel wounded or injured on operations
- Australia's trade relations with the Middle East
- The private sector's role in promoting development and economic growth in the Indo-Pacific region
- The human rights of women and girls
- Australia's advocacy for the abolition of the death penalty

Information online

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

www.aph.gov.au/jfadt

The Parliament of Australia

www.aph.gov.au

Department of Defence

www.defence.gov.au

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

www.dfat.gov.au

Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)

www.austrade.gov.au

Committee contact details

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Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

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