

WATCHING BRIEF: WB 19-5 SECOND MORRISON GOVERNMENT

As Quakers we seek a world without war. We seek a sustainable and just community. We have a vision of an Australia that upholds human rights and builds peace internationally, with particular focus on our region. In our approach to government we will promote the importance of dialogue, of listening and of seeking that of God in every person. We aim to work for justice and to take away the occasion for war.

June 2019

While the federal election results may have surprised many Australians, a new government has been democratically elected. Friends will have many opportunities over the coming three years to engage with Parliamentarians and the many issues before them. It's critical to know which Ministerial Portfolio is responsible for what pieces of legislation and what matters it deals with. This information, linked with the Second Morrison Cabinet list, will help to ensure that your correspondence, requests for meetings and other advocacy work are targeting the correct department and Minister.

To deliver its priorities and objectives, every new Government is able to re-organise the federal bureaucracy. This information is carried out through the **Administrative Arrangements Order** (AAO), a legislative instrument made by the Governor-General on advice of the Prime Minister.

On 29 May 2019, the Governor-General and the Prime Minister signed and publicly released the AAO for the second Morrison Government. This document details the correct name of each Department, what matters it is responsible for and what legislation it administers. The full document is available at <https://www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/government/administrative-arrangements-order-29-may-2019> (cut and paste on browser)

Some key changes to government departments as a result of the recent AAO which may be of interest to Friends include:

- Arrangements for the settlement of migrants and humanitarian entrants has moved from the Department of Social Services to the Department of Home Affairs.
- The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) has been moved from the Department of Education (which had 'Training' dropped from its name) to the Department of Home Affairs.

- The Minister for Foreign Affairs is also the Minister for Women, although women's policies and programs remain in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
- The Department of Human Services, which includes Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support agencies is now known as Services Australia.
- The Department of Social Services is now the Department of Families and Social Services
- A new National Indigenous Australians Agency was announced, and is expected to be located in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet alongside related policies, and program development and delivery.
- The only special envoy appointment was Warren Entsch, Special Envoy for the Great Barrier Reef.
- The Department of the Environment and Energy includes co-ordination of climate change science activities.
- Population policy moves from the Department of Infrastructure to Treasury.
- Housing affordability moves from the Social Services portfolio to Treasury.

All of these changes mean that the relevant work and public servants are physically moved between offices and buildings in what is known as Machinery of Government changes (MOGs). This can sometimes result in short delays in business, especially as many of the Parliamentary Offices are also moving, hiring new staff and bringing in people from the constituency to work for their Senator or Member.

There are things about the new Cabinet to celebrate – the first Indigenous cabinet minister in Ken Wyatt as Minister for Indigenous Australians, the first woman Minister for Agriculture in Bridget McKenzie and seven women members of Cabinet.

To note, the Hon David Coleman MP has had 'Migrant Services' added to his title and is now the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs. He will be responsible for the settlement of migrants and humanitarian entrants along with the Adult Migrant English Program. Both he and the Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs the Hon Jason Wood MP will be involved in issues around multicultural Australia. They are both part of the Home Affairs Portfolio.

The Assistant Minister for Community Housing, Homelessness and Community Services is the Hon Luke Howarth MP, the Cabinet Minister for Families and Social Services is Senator the Hon Anne Ruston.

The full 46th Parliament Ministry list is at

https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/Parliamentary_Handbook/Current_Ministry_List

The PDF file (located just under 'The 46th Parliament') groups Ministers and Assistant Ministers under their respective Portfolios, making it much easier to see the individual's name and their Ministerial title.

1 June 2019

Canberra