

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

The committee met on Wednesday, 4 June 2014 from 9.04 am to 11.01 pm.

The committee called the department and agencies of the Social Services portfolio including the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and the Social Security Appeals Tribunal (SSAT).

Among other issues, the following issues were discussed:

- structural changes within the portfolio, particularly in relation to cross portfolio outcomes and corporate matters
- the streamlining of discretionary grants
- outcome broad-banding and program rationalisation
- IT services
- the effect of the efficiency dividend
- specific Departmental matters including the new building in Tuggeranong, staffing profile and contribution to the Commission of Audit
- the implications of changes to Centrelink payments on the workload of the SSAT
- the implications of the proposed amalgamation of tribunals
- the capacity of the SSAT to use discretion when making rulings
- the most recent NDIA quarterly report and the progress of projects
- new NDIS sites and the evaluation of trial sites
- the sustainability of the NDIS
- the KPMG review of disability services
- the disability, mental health and carers scheme
- the national disability strategy
- the Ramp Up program
- Australian Disability Enterprises
- advocacy programs and grant funding
- changes to social security indexation
- the economic modelling of changes to multiple payments
- family tax benefits
- seniors concessions and pensions
- the re-assessment of recipients of the Disability Support Pension
- working age payments, student payments and Newstart allowances.