

Education and Employment Legislation Committee

The committee met on Wednesday, 4 June 2014 from 9 am to 10.59 pm.

The committee called the Department and agencies from the Education portfolio, including the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL).

Among other issues, the following issues were discussed:

- staffing levels across the Department and the reduction of expenditure across programs
- the establishment and running costs of the Shared Corporate Services centre between the Department of Education and the Department of Employment, and consequential issues such as departmental responsibilities and the responsibility of the CEO, and the lack of a public announcement about its establishment
- the failure to provide timely answers to questions taken on notice and the content of responses
- the location of Family Day Services and how many are planned in rural and remote areas of Australia
- a stocktake of regulations under the National Quality Framework
- submissions to the Productivity Commission's inquiry into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning
- applications for the Long Day Care Professional Development Program
- savings measures for the Child Care Rebate and Child Care Benefit and Departmental modelling concerning the eligibility of claimants
- the modelling of answers from tests by ACARA, and its plan to release data to schools
- Evidence that NAPLAN tests are causing stress to students
- AITSL's standards relating to graduates
- whether greater flexibility of independent public schools has resulted in effective student outcomes
- guidelines for the National School Chaplaincy Program, denominations of chaplains and the existence of a complaints process
- numbers of students in government, non-government, Catholic and independent schools by state and territory
- the timeframe for disability loading
- the benefits of learning a foreign language and the Teach for Australia program
- schools which do not have access to trade skills training centres
- Youth Connections.