

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

The committee met on Thursday, 5 June 2014 from 9 am to 10.55 pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Social Services portfolio, including the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), and
- the department and agencies of the Human Services portfolio, including Australian Hearing.

Among other matters, the following issues were discussed:

- the National Partnership Agreement on housing and homelessness
- changes to housing policy, including the National Rental Affordability Scheme and rent assistance
- the cumulative effect of the budget measures on homelessness
- the current projects, workload and staffing profile of the AIFS, and an upcoming conference
- data on young people living at home
- the indexation pause in relation to certain portfolio programs
- newstart payments and work for the dole
- problem gambling programs and research
- income management statistics and progress, including trials in certain specific locations
- drought relief programs
- implementation of the Family Relationship Support trial
- budgets for discretionary grants
- settlement services budgets
- complaints and funding agreement changes in relation to the Building Multicultural Communities Program
- program funding for the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women
- changes to the Dementia and Severe Behaviour Supplement, and related modelling
- aged care pricing information online
- expansion of the homecare program
- future workforce requirements in aged care and the Aged Care Workforce Supplement
- the Commission of Audit report in relation to the proposed privatisation of Australian Hearing
- the capacity of the private sector to service remote and regional communities
- the role of holistic health to prevent hearing loss in young people
- customer notification processes in relation to changes to payment delivery

- the MyGov website
- whole of portfolio IT issues, including hardware, security testing results and the replacement of the ISIS system
- the new enterprise bargaining agreement process and transition
- the impact of efficiency dividend.