

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

The committee met on Thursday, 14 February 2013 from 9.00 am to 10.00 pm.

The committee called the:

- department and agencies of the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs portfolio, including the Australian Institute of Family Studies and the Workplace Gender Equality Agency.
- Department of Human Services.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- potential breaches of section 83 of the Constitution arising from adjusted mining royalty payments to the Aboriginals Benefit Account
- the efficiency and effectiveness of the various communications methods in relation to the Schoolkids Bonus
- the numbers of families receiving Family Tax Benefit Parts A and B, and the eligibility requirements including immunisation requirements, and the number of people accessing Dad and Partner payments and Paid Parenting Leave
- updates on the social housing initiative, the consultation processes around community housing, and the Building Better Regional Cities program
- the National Rental Affordability Scheme, including the growing level of interest in the scheme, the differences in build times between jurisdictions, and the number of organisations that build across multiple jurisdictions
- the funding arrangements for Family and Relationship Services Australia, including the funding for the national conference and the senior executives forum
- the work that is being undertaken by the Australian Institute of Family Studies on the provision of childcare by grandparents, using information from the longitudinal study of Australian children
- gambling reform, including the pokies trial in Australian Capital Territory, and the consultations with the states about what federal regulation may be required
- income management
- the National Disability Insurance Scheme Launch Transition Agency and contingency planning and preparations underway in the launch regions
- the sending of a letter containing incorrect information by the Department of Human Services to people moving from Parenting Payment to Newstart Allowance
- the eligibility criteria for different concession cards.