



AUSTRALIAN SENATE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2017-18
Monday, 29 May 2017
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in Education and Employment Committee Estimates.

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.55pm.

The committee called the Department of Employment (the Department).

Areas of interest covered today included:

- the committee's Additional Estimates 2016-17 report which discussed the use of legal professional privilege by an officer of the Department;
- recent reports regarding the future of the Shared Services Centre;
- new compliance system in relation to jobseekers' income support payments, including the use of drug testing;
- expansion and participation in the National Work Experience Programme;
- participation and safety standards in the Work for the Dole program;
- an instance of an unauthorised privacy breach in the jobactive program;
- ongoing investigations into the collapse of Queensland Nickel;
- legislative attempts to address the practice of 'phoenixing';
- February 2017 Fair Work Commission (FWC) decision regarding penalty rates and subsequent modelling by the Department regarding the impacts on workers;
- removal of a number of occupations from the Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) list of eligible skilled occupations; and
- death of a worker holding a visa under the Seasonal Worker Programme.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Tuesday 30 May 2017 in 2S3, calling agencies of the Employment portfolio, starting with the Fair Work Commission..