

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

The committee met on Thursday, 21 November 2013 from 9.00 am to 11.00 pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Social Services portfolio, including the Social Security Appeals Tribunal and the National Disability Insurance Scheme Launch Transition Agency;
- the Department of Human Services, including the agency Australian Hearing.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- machinery of Government changes, including in relation to changes to the Office of Women, staffing levels, accommodation of staff, and IT systems;
- palliative and dementia care;
- the status of grants under the Social Services portfolio;
- the change of name of the disability scheme from the National Disability Insurance Scheme to DisabilityCare Australia and back;
- income support programs;
- the increase in numbers and package costs in the first quarter of the National Disability Insurance Scheme;
- the aged care rollout and access to high quality aged care;
- the future workforce needs in the aged care and disability sectors;
- access to Disability Employment Services;
- the administration of multicultural grants;
- issues raised in previous Community Affairs committee inquiries, including forced adoptions and forgotten Australians;
- hearing services in correctional facilities;
- relief to the Blue Mountains after the bush fires;
- fraud tip-offs and debt recovery processes.