

## **Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

The committee met on Thursday, 23 October 2014 from 9.02 am to 11 pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Social Services portfolio, including the Australian Institute of Family Studies, National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and the Social Security Appeals Tribunal (SSAT)
- the Department of Human Services and agencies, including Australian Hearing.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- the progress and impact of the Social Services Budget Measures Bills
- various matters relating to the SSAT, including the return of answers to questions on notice from Budget estimates; progress on the new Tuggeranong office; the review of social media policy and applications and processing in relation to the grants program
- the dementia and severe behaviour supplement and other supplements available to those suffering from dementia
- the process for advising Treasury that a program or supplement has exceeded its estimated budget
- changes to indexation for payments
- the six month waiting period for Newstart recipients
- income management
- the 'healthy welfare' card
- the national plan to reduce violence against women and children
- the multi-cultural grant process and volunteer management grants
- paid parental leave
- the proposed timeline for the abolition of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and the creation of the Civil Society National Centre for Excellence
- allegations of fraud within the National Rental Affordability Scheme
- the Review into Housing and Homelessness and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness
- the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the NDIA.