

The Senate

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Finance and Public Administration  
Legislation Committee

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Additional estimates 2019–20

March 2020

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# Members

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Senator James Paterson (Chair)

LP, VIC

## Deputy Chair

Senator Tim Ayres (Deputy Chair)

ALP, NSW

## Members

Senator Kimberley Kitching

ALP, VIC

Senator Matt O'Sullivan

LP, WA

Senator Malcolm Roberts

PHON, QLD

Senator Paul Scarr

LP, QLD

## Senators in attendance

Senators Abetz, Askew, Ayres, Brockman, Canavan, Dodson, Farrell, Gallagher, Hughes, Kitching, Lambie, Lines, McCarthy, McLachlan, Molan, O'Neill, O'Sullivan, Paterson, Patrick, Polley, Rice, Scarr, Siewert, Dean Smith, Marielle Smith, Steele-John, Waters, Watt, Whish-Wilson and Wong.

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## Acronyms and abbreviations

AAO	Administrative Arrangements Order
APS	Australian Public Service
IPEA	Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
PAES	Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements
PM&C	Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio





# Chapter 1

## Additional Budget Estimates 2019–20

### Reference

1.1 On 13 February 2020, the Senate referred the following to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee (the committee) for examination and report:

- particulars of proposed additional expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2020 [Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2019–20];
- particulars of certain proposed additional expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2020 [Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2019–20]; and
- Final Budget Outcome 2018–19.

### Portfolio coverage

1.2 The committee has responsibility for examining the expenditure and outcomes of the following:

- Parliamentary Departments;<sup>1</sup>
- Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) Portfolio;
- Finance Portfolio;<sup>2</sup> and
- Cross Portfolio Indigenous Matters.<sup>3</sup>

1.3 Departments and agencies under the committee's oversight are listed in Appendix 1 of this report.

### Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2019–20

1.4 The Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) facilitate an understanding of the proposed appropriations in Appropriation Bills (No. 3 and No. 4). The PAES explain changes in resourcing since the Budget and provide information on new measures and their impact on the financial and non-financial

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1 As a matter of comity between the Houses neither House inquires into the operations of the other House. For this reason, neither the annual report of, nor the proposed expenditure for, the Department of the House of Representatives is referred to a Senate committee for review.

2 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 2, 31 August 2016, pp. 75–76; Amended on 12 February 2018 (*Journals of the Senate*, No. 84, 12 February 2018, p. 2688), 15 February 2018 (*Journals of the Senate*, No. 87, 15 February 2018, p. 2740–2741) and 17 September 2018 (*Journals of the Senate*, No. 118, 17 September 2018, pp. 3770–3771).

3 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 22, 26 August 2008, p. 683.

planned performance of agencies.<sup>4</sup> The PAES 2019–20 for the PM&C Portfolio and the Finance Portfolio were tabled in the Senate on 13 February 2020.<sup>5</sup>

### *Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio*

1.5 The PAES 2019–20 for the PM&C Portfolio note the entities receiving additional appropriation in Appropriation Bills (No. 3 and No. 4), which include the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; Australian Public Service Commission; National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency; National Indigenous Australians Agency; Office of National Intelligence; and the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General.<sup>6</sup>

1.6 The following changes have been made to the PM&C Portfolio since the 2019–20 Budget:

- responsibility for the Digital Transformation Agency was transferred from the PM&C Portfolio to Services Australia in accordance with amendments to the Administrative Arrangements Order (AAO)<sup>7</sup> made on 29 May 2019;
- responsibility for Old Parliament House was transferred to the PM&C Portfolio from the Communications and the Arts Portfolio following a decision from the Prime Minister;
- drought functions were delegated to the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency; and
- the National Bushfire Recovery Agency was established within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.<sup>8</sup>

1.7 Further amendments to the AAO on 5 December 2019 did not result in any changes for the portfolios for which the committee has oversight.

### *Finance Portfolio*

1.8 The PAES 2019–20 for the Finance Portfolio note the additional estimates and variations sought by the Department of Finance, the Australian Electoral Commission and the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.<sup>9</sup> The PAES also

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4 Budget 2019–20, *Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements*, <https://budget.gov.au/2019-20/content/paes/index.htm> (accessed 10 March 2020).

5 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 42, 13 February 2020, p. 1284.

6 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2019–20, *Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio*, p. 13.

7 The Administrative Arrangements Order is an instrument issued by the Governor-General that formally establishes matters dealt with by each Department of State and the legislation for which the Minister of State administering is responsible.

8 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2019–20, *Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio*, p. 13.

9 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2019–20, *Finance Portfolio*, p. 4.

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listed the responsibilities of the Minister for Finance and the Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters.<sup>10</sup>

## Hearings

1.9 The committee held public hearings on 2, 3 and 6 March 2020. The Parliamentary Departments and the PM&C Portfolio (excluding Indigenous matters) were examined on 2 March 2020, the Finance Portfolio was examined on 3 March 2020 and the Cross Portfolio Indigenous Matters was examined on 6 March 2020.

1.10 The committee took evidence from the President of the Senate, Senator the Hon Scott Ryan, and the following Ministers accompanied by officers of relevant departments and agencies:

- Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann, Minister for Finance and Minister representing the Prime Minister;
- Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, Assistant Minister Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters;
- Senator the Hon Marise Payne, Minister for Women; and
- Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Minister representing the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Minister for Families and Social Services.

1.11 The committee expresses its appreciation for the assistance of the President, Ministers and the officers who appeared.

1.12 Over the course of the hearings, the committee took evidence from the following departments, agencies and statutory officers:

### *Parliamentary departments*

- Department of the Senate;
- Parliamentary Budget Office; and
- Department of Parliamentary Services.

### *Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio*

- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Outcome 1);
- National Bushfire Recovery Agency;
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Office for Women);
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency;
- National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency;
- Australian National Audit Office;
- Australian Public Service Commission; and

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10 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2019–20, *Finance Portfolio*, pp. 4–5.

- Office of National Intelligence.

#### *Finance Portfolio*

- ASC Pty Ltd;
- Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd;
- Future Fund Management Agency;
- Department of Finance;
- Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority; and
- Australian Electoral Commission.

#### *Cross Portfolio Indigenous Matters*

- Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation;
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies;
- Indigenous Business Australia;
- National Indigenous Australians Agency; and
- Department of Health (in relation to Indigenous health issues).

1.13 Documents tabled during the hearings of Additional Budget Estimates 2019–20 are listed in Appendix 2 of this report.

### **Questions on notice and Hansard transcripts**

1.14 The committee set 17 April 2020 as the date for the return of answers to questions on notice arising from the Additional Estimates 2019–20 hearings.

1.15 Proof Hansard transcripts of proceedings of hearings are published on the committee's [website](#).

### **Answers to questions on notice—Supplementary Budget Estimates 2019–20**

1.16 The committee's examination of the Supplementary Estimates 2019–20 took place on 21 October 2019 for the Parliamentary Departments and the PM&C Portfolio, 22 October 2019 for the Finance Portfolio and 25 October 2019 for Cross Portfolio Indigenous Matters. The committee set 6 December 2019 as the date for the return of answers to questions on notice.

1.17 The committee held two spillover hearings. The committee heard from the PM&C Portfolio, the Finance Portfolio and the Parliamentary Departments on 14 November 2019 and the PM&C Portfolio again on 26 November 2019. The committee set 19 December 2019 as the date for the return of answers to questions on notice.

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***Timeliness of answers to questions on notice***

1.18 The committee placed a total of 1599 questions on notice during Supplementary Budget Estimates 2019–20.<sup>11</sup> Of the 1505 questions taken on notice at the committee's hearings on 21, 22 and 25 October 2019, 845 answers were received by the due date of 6 December 2019. Of the 94 questions taken on notice at the committee's spillover hearings on 14 and 26 November 2019, 67 answers were received by the due date of 19 December 2019.

1.19 The Parliamentary Departments took a total of 219 questions on notice during hearings for Supplementary Budget Estimates 2019–20. 144 answers to 148 questions taken on notice at the committee's hearing on 21 October 2019 were provided by the due date of 6 December 2019. The departments provided a further 60 answers to 71 questions taken on notice at the committee's spillover hearing on 14 November 2019 by the due date of 19 December 2019. The remaining 15 answers were provided by 28 January 2020.

1.20 The Finance Portfolio took 247 number of questions on notice at the committee's hearing on 22 October 2019. 128 answers to questions on notice were provided by 6 December 2019, with the remaining 32 answers provided by 20 December 2020. All 87 answers due by 13 January 2020 were provided on time. Finance did not take any questions on notice at the committee's spillover hearing on 14 November 2019.

1.21 The PM&C Portfolio (including Cross Portfolio on Indigenous Matters) took a total of 1129 questions on notice during hearings for Supplementary Budget Estimates 2019–20. The PM&C Portfolio provided 569 of its 1106 answers to questions on notice at hearings on 21 and 25 October 2019 by the due date of 6 December 2019. This figure includes four questions taken on notice by the Department of Health. 23 questions were taken on notice at the committee's spillover hearings on 14 and 26 November 2019, with 7 answers being provided by the due date of 19 December 2019. 533 answers to questions on notice were provided between late December 2019 and early March 2020. As at the time of tabling for this report, there are 20 answers to questions on notice outstanding.<sup>12</sup>

1.22 The committee highlights its preference for outstanding responses to be provided before the next estimates round.

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11 This figure includes both questions taken during the hearings for Supplementary Budget Estimates 2019–20, and written questions on notice provided by Senators after the hearing.

12 As at 18 March 2020.



## Chapter 2

### Hearings

2.1 This chapter lists the key topics discussed for each department and portfolio agency examined during the committee’s hearings for Additional Budget Estimates 2019–20. Page numbers of the Proof Hansard for that day's hearing are indicated in brackets as a reference.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Parliamentary Departments—Monday 2 March 2020**

##### *Department of the Senate*

2.2 Topics discussed for the Department of the Senate included:

- Privileges Committee 168<sup>th</sup> report—access to data and search warrant protocols (p. 3–5)
- Renegotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Presiding Officers, the Department of Home Affairs and the Attorney-General's Department (pp. 3–5)
- Rollout of Microsoft Office 365 and privilege claims concerning the storage of data (pp. 5–6)
- Capital works updates (pp. 6-7)
- Recruitment (p. 7)
- Interaction with the Department of Parliamentary Services with respect to proposed provision of corporate services (p. 7)

##### *Parliamentary Budget Office*

2.3 Topics discussed for the Parliamentary Budget Office included:

- Acting arrangements for the Parliamentary Budget Officer position and recruitment costs (p. 8)
- Upcoming releases of research work (p. 9)

##### *Department of Parliamentary Services*

2.4 The President of the Senate, Senator the Hon. Scott Ryan, made an opening statement in relation to the completion of the physical security upgrade works program, the status of the electronic security upgrade program, cyberattacks and the air quality within Parliament House during the 2019–20 bushfire season.

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<sup>1</sup> Page numbers may vary between the Proof and the Official Hansard transcripts when published.

- 2.5 Topics discussed for the Department of Parliamentary Services included:
- The Australian Public Service (APS) employee census<sup>2</sup> (pp. 10–14)
  - The number of Section 37 incentives to retire notices and redundancies issued by the department (pp. 14–15)
  - Internal antenna upgrade for mobile reception within Parliament House (p. 15)
  - Plans to introduce a digital system to record divisions in the Senate chamber (p. 15)
  - External review of the department's protective security maturity (p. 17)
  - Construction and location of the coffee hub in Parliament House (pp. 18–19)
  - Timeliness of research requests being provided by the Parliamentary Library (p. 19)

### **Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio—Monday 2 March 2020**

#### ***Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet***

2.6 Ms Stephanie Foster, Deputy Secretary, Governance Group, made an opening statement updating the on changes to the department's executive staff.

2.7 Topics discussed for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet included:

- Departmental procedures for managing the Prime Minister's correspondence (p. 24)
- Administration of the Community Sport Infrastructure Program:
  - The Gaetjen's report—potential breaches of the ministerial standards and collection of evidence (pp. 32–50)
  - Correspondence between the Prime Minister's Office, the department and the office of Senator the Hon. Bridget McKenzie, former Minister for Sport (pp. 39–43)
- Meetings of the Cabinet Office Policy Committee (pp. 54–59)
- 2019-20 budget (pp. 59–60)
- Prime Minister's Office expenses (p. 60)
- Prime Minister's Official Photographer (pp. 60–61)
- Special Envoy for Drought, the Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP (pp. 62–63)

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2 The Australian Public Service employee census encompasses entities operating under the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*.



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- 2019–20 bushfire season:
    - Advice and briefings provided to the Prime Minister and the department (pp. 65–66)
    - Meetings of the National Security Committee (p. 64)
    - Funding for the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (p. 66)
    - Payments for volunteer firefighters (p. 72)
    - Prime Minister's leave in December 2019 and acting arrangements (pp. 72–74)
  - Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability:
    - Legislative amendments and process for amendments to letters patent (pp. 74–75)
    - Appointment and qualifications of the Chair and Commissioners (p. 77)
  - Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's report concerning freedom of information requests and the department's obligations under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (pp. 77–78)
  - Records relating to the telephone call between the Prime Minister and the President of the United States (p. 80)
  - COVID-19:
    - Briefings to the Prime Minister (p. 84)
    - Meetings of the National Security Committee (pp. 84–85)
    - Economic impacts (pp. 85–86)
    - Decision to place evacuees from Wuhan, China in quarantine centres on Christmas Island (pp. 86–87)
    - Travel bans (pp. 87–88)
    - Advice provided by the Chief Medical Officer to the Prime Minister and Cabinet (p. 89)
  - Announcements made by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Energy and Emissions, the Hon. Angus Taylor MP, regarding the progress of the Collinsville Solar Thermal Feasibility Study (pp. 91–92)
  - Delegates invited to a luncheon to honour His Excellency Mr Joko Widodo in February 2020 (pp. 93–94)
  - Prime Minister's engagement with decisions made by the Foreign Investment Review Board (p. 95)

***National Bushfire Recovery Agency***

2.8 Mr Andrew Colvin AP OAM, Coordinator, made an opening statement which outlined the agency's activities during its first eight weeks of operation.<sup>3</sup>

2.9 Topics discussed for the National Bushfire Recovery Agency included:

- Staffing arrangements and terms of reference (p. 97)
- Funding allocated to the following payments and grants:
  - Disaster Recovery Allowance (pp. 97–98)
  - Volunteer payments measure (p. 98)
  - Mental health support (p. 98)
  - Tourism funding (pp. 98–99)
  - Concessional loans (p. 100)
  - Primary producers grants (p. 100)
  - Small business grants (p. 101)
  - Back-to-school support (p. 122)
  - Support for charities (p. 123)
  - Support for the removal of debris (pp. 122–123)
- Assessment process for grant applications (pp. 101–102)
- Management of the total amount of funding allocated to the agency (p. 104–105)
- Consultation with local communities (p. 105)
- Support for wildlife and the environment (p. 105)
- Timeline of announcements (p. 106)
- Lives lost during the 2019–20 bushfire season (p. 107)
- Funding for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's visit to affected bushfire communities (p. 114)

***Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General***

2.10 Topics discussed for the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General included:

- Consideration of nominations for the Order of Australia awards (p. 115–118)
- Consideration for the termination of awards under the Terminations and Cancellations Ordinance (pp. 118–119)
- Coat of Arms maintenance and the annual capital budget (pp. 120–121)

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3 The National Bushfire Recovery Agency was established by the Prime Minister on 6 January 2020.

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***Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Office for Women)***

2.11 Topics discussed for the Office for Women included:

- Media releases distributed by the Minister (p. 124)
- Meetings between the Office for Women and the Minister for Women (p. 124)
- Minister for Women's visit to the Republic of Korea and Japan (pp. 125–126)
- International Women's Day (pp. 126–127)
- Support for victims of domestic violence and consultation regarding the 1800RESPECT service contract (p. 127)
- Independent evaluation of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Their Children* (p. 128)
- Work undertaken to improve economic security for women (p. 129; 133)
- Agenda for the meeting of women's safety ministers and engagement with state governments to support victims of domestic violence (p. 129)
- Involvement with the Department of the Treasury's *Retirement Income Review* (pp. 132–133)

***Workplace Gender Equality Agency***

2.12 Ms Libby Lyons, Director, made an opening statement updating the committee on the agency's activities.

2.13 The Workplace Gender Equality Agency discussed:

- Data collection tools and research analysis undertaken by the agency relating to the gender pay gap, paid parental leave and domestic violence leave (p. 135–136)

***National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency***

2.14 The Hon. Shane Stone AC QC, Coordinator General, made an opening statement updating the committee on the agency's activities following the merger of the drought and flood portfolios.

2.15 Topics discussed for the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency included:

- Additional funding and resourcing following the agency's expansion in December 2019 (p. 138)
- Travel and operational costs (p. 138)
- Funding and expenses associated with grants and direct payments (p. 139)
- Distribution of vouchers to affected communities (pp. 139–140)

***Australian National Audit Office***

2.16 Topics discussed for the Australian National Audit Office included:

- Responses to questions asked by the Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants concerning evidence collected from the Department of Health and Sport Australia for the *Auditor-General Report No. 23 of 2019–20: Award of Funding under the Community Sport Infrastructure Program* (pp. 140–146)
- Expected commencement of the *Procurement of strategic water entitlements* performance audit (pp. 147–149)
- Self-conducted longitudinal studies of defence-related audit findings (p. 147)
- Value for money assessments (pp. 148–149)

***Australian Public Service Commission***

2.17 Topics discussed for the Australian Public Service Commission included:

- Ensuring the integrity of APS staff in accordance with APS values and the Code of Conduct (pp. 149–150)
- Record keeping responsibilities of APS staff (p. 150)

***Office of National Intelligence***

2.18 Topics discussed for the Office of National Intelligence included:

- Impact of the United Kingdom's decision to allow Huawei to participate in the 5G network and its effect on its intelligence relationship with Australia (p. 151)
- Foreign interference (p. 151)
- Recruitment for the Deputy Director-General of Assessments role (p. 152)

**Finance Portfolio—Tuesday 3 March 2020*****ASC Pty Ltd***

2.19 Topics discussed for ASC Pty Ltd included:

- Staffing arrangements (pp. 4–13)
- Future arrangements for full-cycle docking and Collins class submarine maintenance and sustainment (pp. 8–9; 13)
- Overseas export projects—engagement with Sweden and Canada (p. 14)
- Upcoming implementation of initial phases for 'Life of Type Extension' of Collins-class submarines (pp. 16–17)

***Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd***

2.20 Mr David Knox, Chief Executive Officer, made an opening statement updating the committee on the progress of the Osborne South Development Project and construction on the Combat System Physical Integration Facility at the Osborne North facility.

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- 2.21 Topics discussed for Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd included:
- Design agreements with the Naval Group and timeline for installation of specialised equipment at the submarine construction yard (p. 19)
  - Maximum capacity and tonnage for the shipyard currently under construction (p. 20)
  - Combat System Physical Integration Facility and Platform Land Based Test Facility expenditure (pp. 20–21)
  - Future arrangements for submarine yards (p. 22)

### ***Future Fund Management Agency***

2.22 Mr Cameron Price, Acting Chief Executive Officer, made an opening statement regarding the activities of the Future Fund Management Agency.

- 2.23 Topics discussed for the Future Fund Management Agency included:
- Expected impact of COVID-19 on the agency's investment funds (p. 23)
  - Exposure to the energy sector and capacity to quantify carbon risk (p. 24–27)
  - Companies exempted from participating in the agency's investments (pp. 27–28)
  - Recruitment to appoint a new Chief Executive Officer (pp. 28–29)
  - Appropriation for the Emergency Response Fund (p. 29)
  - Organisational restructure and staffing arrangements (pp. 30–31)
  - Public Sector Superannuation accumulation plan contributions (p. 31)

### ***Department of Finance***

- 2.24 Topics discussed for the Department of Finance included:
- Allocation of funds to the Community Sport Infrastructure Program during caretaker period (pp. 32–37)
  - Budget repair measures (pp. 37–38)
  - Impacts of COVID-19 and commodity prices on the budget, interest rates and government services and the department's representation at meetings of the National Security Committee (pp. 38–39; pp. 54–55)
  - Updates to the government's fiscal strategy in the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2019–20, spending offset rule and forecasted budget surplus (pp. 39–42)
  - Future Fund earnings (pp. 43–44)
  - Timeline for monthly financial reports to be provided to the Minister for Finance and subsequent publication (p. 45)
  - Spending proposals considered by the Expenditure Review Committee (pp. 46–47)
  - Funding allocated to the National Bushfire Recovery Agency (pp. 47–52)

- Net debt commitment (pp. 53–54)
- External consultant and contractor costs (pp. 55–60)
- Recommendations of the *Auditor-General Report No. 7 2019-20 Government Advertising: June 2015 to April 2019* (pp. 61–62)
- Diversity planning and activities undertaken by the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group (pp. 62–63)
- Implementation of the recommendations set out in the review of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (pp. 63–64)
- Funding for grants and relevant regulations:
  - Grant programs administered by grant hubs (p. 64–69)
  - Requirements of the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017 (pp. 64–65)
  - Discretionary and administered grant programs (p. 70)
- Transparency Portal users and features (pp. 70–71)
- Bargaining for the Commonwealth Members of Parliament Staff Enterprise Agreement 2020–23 (p. 74)
- Staffing arrangements in the Prime Minister's Office (p. 74)
- Ministerial and Parliamentary Services:
  - Performance targets to fulfil client requests (p. 75–77)
  - Process for contacting clients and outstanding requests (pp. 75–76)
- Parliamentary Expenses Management System:
  - Uptake (p. 77)
  - Access and protective security functions (p.77)
- COMCAR procurement (p. 79–82)
- Invoicing and the ATO implementation strategy (p. 85–86)
- Commonwealth procurement guidelines (pp. 86–88)
- Review of the *Land Acquisition Act 1989* (pp. 88–89)
- APS Modernization Fund and the Independent Review of the APS (pp. 90–94)
- Capital Works (pp. 94–97)

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### ***Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority***

2.25 Ms Annwyn Godwin, Chief Executive Officer, made an opening statement updating the committee on the operational activities of the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA).

2.26 Topics discussed for IPEA included:

- Introduction of two-factor authentication for the Expense Management System (p. 78)
- Outstanding debt to the Commonwealth of Mr Clive Palmer (pp. 78–79)
- Use of special-purpose aircraft in accordance with the Parliamentary Business Resource Framework (pp. 82–84)

### ***Australian Electoral Commission***

2.27 Topics discussed for the Australian Electoral Commission included:

- Electoral expenditure by political campaigners (pp. 98–102)
- Campaign donations and disclosure investigations (pp. 103–106)
- Recruitment (p. 106)
- Legal obligations to registered charities and foreign political donations (pp. 109–111)
- Transparency Register upgrades (pp. 111–112)
- Possible redistribution of electoral seats in the House of Representatives (pp. 113–116)

## **Cross-portfolio Indigenous Matters—Friday 6 March 2020**

### ***Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation***

2.28 Mr Leo Bator, Chief Executive Officer, made an opening statement regarding social and economic impact measurement tools developed by the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence, the state of the tourism industry and the establishment of a bushfire emergency response grant.

2.29 Topics discussed for the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation included:

- Supporting traditional owners and promoting local Indigenous businesses in the fisheries industry (pp. 5–6)
- Divested assets, property purchases and land acquisition (pp. 6–7)

### ***Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies***

2.30 Mr Michael Ramalli, Acting Chief Executive Officer, made an opening statement updating the committee on the institute's activities.

2.31 Topics discussed for the Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies included:

- Project for the return of cultural heritage (pp. 9–10)

- Memorandum of understanding developed between the institute, the National Indigenous Australians Agency and the government for the National Resting Place Project (p. 10)
- Restoration, promotion and promulgation of Indigenous languages (p. 11)
- Functions of the Family History Unit (pp. 11–12)

### ***Indigenous Business Australia***

2.32 Mr Rajiv Viswanathan, Chief Executive Officer, made an opening statement updating the committee on the activities of Indigenous Business Australia.

2.33 Topics discussed for Indigenous Business Australia included:

- Cashless debit card management (p. 14)
- Housing strategy (p. 15)
- Support package for customer affected by the bushfires (pp. 15–16)
- Impacts of COVID-19 on the Indigenous tourism industry (pp. 16–17)
- Tracking mechanisms to continuously assess business investments and waiting periods for business finance support (pp. 17–18)

### ***National Indigenous Australians Agency***

2.34 Mr Ray Griggs AO CSC, Chief Executive Officer, made an opening statement outlining changes to the agency's organisational structure, which took effect from 1 December 2019, and updating the committee on the agency's engagement with bushfire effected communities.

2.35 Topics discussed for the National Indigenous Australians Agency included:

- The Indigenous Advancement Strategy:
  - Consideration for grant applications (pp. 19–22; 24–25)
  - Funding for administered programs (pp. 22–23; 26–40)
  - Custody Notification Service (pp. 40–41)
- Water security (pp. 41–42)
- Indigenous housing (pp. 49–50)
- Constitutional recognition of Indigenous peoples and an Indigenous voice in the Parliament (pp. 50–57)
- Funding to the National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (pp. 58–60)



***Cross-portfolio: Health Issues***

2.36 Officials from the Department of Health joined officials from the National Indigenous Australians Agency to discuss Indigenous health issues, including:

- Impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous communities and support provided by the Department of Health (pp. 42–46)
- Suicide prevention and healthcare (p. 49)

**Senator James Paterson**

**Chair**



# Appendix 1

## Departments and agencies under the Committee's oversight

### Parliamentary Departments

- Department of the Senate
- Parliamentary Budget Office
- Department of Parliamentary Services
- Parliamentary Service Commissioner

### Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio<sup>1</sup>

- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (including Office for Women)
- Australian National Audit Office
- Australian Public Service Commission
- National Australia Day Council
- National Bushfire Recovery Agency
- National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency
- Office of National Intelligence
- Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General
- Old Parliament House
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency

### *Indigenous Agencies*

- Aboriginal Hostels Limited
- Aboriginal Land Commissioner
- Anindilyakwa Land Council
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- Central Land Council
- Department of Health
- Indigenous Business Australia

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<sup>1</sup> Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2019–20, *Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio*, p. 4.

- Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation
- Northern Land Council
- Outback Stores Pty Ltd
- Tiwi Land Council
- Torres Strait Regional Authority
- Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council

**Finance Portfolio<sup>2</sup>**

- Department of Finance
- ASC Pty Ltd
- Australian Electoral Commission
- Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd
- Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation
- Future Fund Management Agency
- Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

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2 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2019–20, *Finance Portfolio*, pp. 6–7.

## Appendix 2

### Tabled documents and additional information

#### Tabled documents

##### *Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio—Monday, 2 March 2020*

- Ms Stephanie Foster, Deputy Secretary, Governance Group, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet—Opening Statement
- Ms Stephanie Foster, Deputy Secretary, Governance Group, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet—Organisational Chart
- Mr Andrew Colvin APM OAM, Coordinator, National Bushfire Recovery Agency—Staffing summary, workforce profile and agency functions
- Senator Murray Watt—Article from the Cairn's Post, *Coronavirus and Cairns tourism*, 27 February 2020
- Mr Andrew Colvin APM OAM, Coordinator, National Bushfire Recovery Agency—Table of reported money paid out to date
- The Hon Shane Stone AC QC, Coordinator General, National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency—Table of drought assistance measures

##### *Finance Portfolio—Tuesday, 3 March 2020*

- Mr David Knox, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd—Photograph of Osborne South Development Project
- Senator Rex Patrick—Extract from *Auditor-General Report No. 7 2019-20 Government Advertising: June 2015 to April 2019*
- Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann, Minister for Finance—Personal Employee Positions Summary
- Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan—Greenpeace donation campaign website

##### *Cross Portfolio Indigenous Matters—Friday, 6 March 2020*

- Mr Michael Ramalli, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies—Opening statement
- Mr Rajiv Viswanathan, Chief Executive Officer, Indigenous Business Australia—Opening statement
- Mr Ray Griggs AO CSC, Chief Executive Officer, National Indigenous Australians Agency—Opening statement

- Mr Ray Griggs AO CSC, Chief Executive Officer, National Indigenous Australians Agency—Organisational chart
- Mr Ray Griggs AO CSC, Chief Executive Officer, National Indigenous Australians Agency—Required outputs or performance targets for grants
- Mr Ray Griggs AO CSC, Chief Executive Officer, National Indigenous Australians Agency—*Eleven decisions where the Minister for Indigenous Affairs approved funding against the Department's recommendation to not fund (1 January 2019 to 10 April 2019)*
- Dr Lucas De Toca, Assistant Secretary, Health Plan, Early Years and Engagement Branch, Indigenous Health Division—*Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units*
- Dr Lucas De Toca, Assistant Secretary, Health Plan, Early Years and Engagement Branch, Indigenous Health Division—*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group on COVID-19, 5 March 2020*
- Ms Tania Rishniew, Acting Deputy Secretary, Health Systems Policy and Primary Care—*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group on COVID-19*

## **Additional information**

### ***Parliamentary Departments***

- Correspondence from Mr Rob Stefanic, Secretary, Department of Parliamentary Services, dated 17 February 2020, providing to the committee updates on the recommendations of the committee's Final Report on the Department of Parliamentary Services (September 2015)
- Correspondence from Mr Richard Pye, Clerk of the Senate, Department of the Senate, dated 19 February 2020, providing to the committee an update on Senate committee activity as at 14 February 2020
- *Parliamentary Budget Office activity report*, provided by the Parliamentary Budget Office on 26 February 2020
- Answers to questions asked by Senator Kimberley Kitching at public hearing on 2 March 2020, provided by the Department of Parliamentary Services on 3 March 2020

### ***Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio (including Cross Portfolio Indigenous Matters)***

- Correspondence regarding *Audit Summaries—Auditor-General Reports* tabled from 10 October 2019 to 18 February 2020, provided by the Australian National Audit Office on 18 February 2020

- Opening statement delivered by The Hon Shane Stone AC QC, Coordinator General, National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency at public hearing on 2 March 2020
- Correspondence regarding evidence provided by Mr Ray Griggs AO CSC, Chief Executive Officer, National Indigenous Australians Agency during the committee's estimates hearing on Friday 6 March 2020
- Opening statement delivered by Mr Andrew Colvin APM OAM, Coordinator, National Bushfire Recovery Agency at public hearing on 2 March 2020