



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Estimates 2022-23  
Monday, 13 February 2023  
Daily summary

The Committee met from 9.02am until 11:00pm.

The Committee called:

- Parliamentary Budget Office
- Department of Parliamentary Services
- Department of the Senate
- Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Australian National Audit Office
- Office of National Intelligence
- National Australia Day Council
- Australian Electoral Commission

The Committee discussed a range of topics, including:

Parliamentary Budget Office:

- 'Build your own budget' tool
- PBO staffing levels

Department of Parliamentary Services:

- Jenkins Review recommendations
- Support services for remote work
- Departmental security access passes and sign-in processes
- Closure of the Ministerial Wing entrance to APH
- Update on building works in APH library
- Parliamentary Library – staffing and recruitment
- Management of APH art collection
- Accessibility – disability employment training, retention of employees with disability
- Review of departmental 'Accessibility and Inclusion Action Plan'
- DPS videoconferencing capabilities
- Air quality in APH suites
- APH tours – budgeting
- APH parking costing and charges

Department of the Senate:

- Declaration of Senators' interests

Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor General:

- Staffing levels – turnover, retention
- Government House property maintenance
- Commemorating the life of Queen Elizabeth II
- Coronation of King Charles III – commemorations in Australia
- New design of Australian \$5 bank note

- Governor-General's Australian Future Leaders program
- Proposed commemorative statue at Yarralumla

#### Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

- Appointment of special envoys—expenditure and changes to entitlements, including staffing changes and allocations
- Treasurer's essay Capitalism after the crises—Consultation with PM&C regarding essay
- Gas supply expectations by the Treasurer—16 January Gas Inquiry interim report
- National Gas Reservation Scheme—PM&C's engagement
- In-house consultancy services
- Staffing and working conditions
- Jenkins Review, Parliamentary Code of Conduct and Ministerial Standards
- Parliamentarians' declaration of interests, including conflict of interest
- Investment uncertainty around gas and coal price intervention
- Coal & Gas Re-design of safeguard mechanism—PM&C input into changes
- Cost of living – food price changes in relation to climate change
- Government Tenders—Creswell Advisory
- Cybersecurity, including review of cyber incidents (Optus & Medibank)
- Disaster resilience, including emergency funding allocations
- Alcohol misuse in Central Australia
- Automated indexation of government allowances
- The Voice and the Constitution – proposed wording changes
- FOI applications in relation to Ministerial Diaries
- International relations – particularly in relation to the Prime Minister of Fiji and Prime Minister of Israel; Chinese Government; Indonesian Visa Processing, international student visas
- Australian citizenship, voting rights
- Lapse of legislative instrument recognising Nauru as a regional processing country
- AFP investigation of leaks re repatriation of citizens from Syria
- PM's use of the Lodge and Kirribilli House

#### Australian National Audit Office

- Audit of Indigenous organisations
- Defence projects – specific to acquisition of equipment
- Adverse reflection comments on the ANAO – CMS contract, Home Affairs
- Organisational culture link to organisational effectiveness
- Audit processes – public consultation and submissions
- 'Safer Communities Fund' audit report and selection processes

#### Office of National Intelligence

- 'My Clearance' security vetting system
- Data accessibility and security vetting efficiency
- Current threats to Australia's national security

#### National Australia Day Council

- Council's position on Australia Day
- Consolidation of Australia Day on 26 January
- Substitution of public holidays
- Review into the board into the Australia Day Council
- Allocation of awards based on the criteria of 'national pride' and 'unity'

#### Australian Electoral Commission

- Referendum pamphlet for the Voice – costing
- Donations and disclosure regime
- Remote area mobile polling – particularly for Indigenous voters

- Donations – disclosure obligations, Hancock Prospecting and Sydney Mining Club
- Compliance audits
- Lowering the voting age
- Scrutiny of votes – in relation to last federal election
- Indigenous electoral participation program – fraud, political neutrality
- Referendum process and procedure (states vs territories)

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Tuesday, 14 February in Committee Room 2S1, for examination of the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio as well as the Finance portfolio.