



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Estimates 2022-23  
Tuesday, 14 February 2023  
Daily summary

The Committee met from 9.00am until 11:00pm.

The Committee called:

- Australian Public Service Commission
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Office for Women, APS Reform, Jenkins Report Implementation)
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA)
- Department of Finance
- Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
- Future Fund Management Agency
- Digital Transformation Agency
- ASC Pty Ltd
- Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd

The Committee discussed a range of topics, including:

Australian Public Service Commission:

- APS Reform, including in-house contractors
- Staffing – wellbeing, employee engagement, flexible work arrangements
- APS Census
- Cultural and linguistic diversity in the APS, particularly at the senior leadership level, data collection
- The Voice referendum – political neutrality
- Secondment of ministerial staff to APS – code of conduct
- Gender pay gap; agency pay scales
- *Maternity Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act 1973*
- Sexual harassment and misconduct investigations

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (Office for Women, APS Reform, Jenkins Report Implementation)

- Women's Economic Equality Taskforce
- Budget – gender responsiveness
- Staffing levels, recruitment (skills matrix) and retention
- In-house consultancy
- Gender balance on government boards
- Women's budget statement
- MoP(S) Act Review
- In-house consultant service for APS

Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA)

- WGEA Review and resulting recommendations
- Gender pay-gap
- Gender equality indicators

#### Department of Finance

- Cost of energy – impact on cost of living, industry, businesses
- Transition to renewable energy
- Complete permanent membership of the staffing committee
- Parliamentary expenses management system (PEMS)—Upgrade Project Parliamentary Expenditure Report/Review/ Milestone 8
- Timeframe—process in place to ensure timeframes are met with regards to PEMS program upgrade
- PEMS Total project costings and spend to date
- Professional development sessions (MOPS Learning)
- Security cameras in military offices—Heat vision or data; devices installed in electorate offices
- Additional measures to security for electorate offices
- PEMS—Allocation issues with travel to respective budgets
- Increased threats to electorate offices—Remedies available to members and senators in management of criminal activity causing direct threat
- Staffing arrangements—pg3 Caucus Support Unit (Whips Staff)
- National Reconstruction Fund
- Budget papers – statement of risks
- Stage 3 tax cuts
- ERC budget approval process
- ERC briefing classification (sensitivity)
- APS staffing – average staffing levels, consultancy, labour hire
- Property management and projects, construction and advisory role of the department
- Consultants and labour hire (Robodebt, donations to PWC)
- Electric vehicle targets, infrastructure regarding increasing electric vehicle targets
- Funding provided to quarantine facilities
- Use of PBO costings vs Finance costings (RE: election, budget)
- Investment vehicles – investment mandate; return hurdle

#### Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

- Implementation of recommendations of independent review of the *IPEA Act*

#### Future Fund Management Agency

- Structure of future fund vs major sovereign Nordic funds
- Leadership of Peter Costello
- Broad investment strategies – investment mandates, risks (climate change, global recession)
- Inflation and interest rates and returns on investment

#### Digital Transformation Agency

- Transition post-MOG (PM&C to Finance)
- Staffing
- Meetings between Agency and Minister
- MyGov – user audit, MyGov ID (costing, number of users, review of usability)
- Government digital policies
- Surveillance and privacy
- Job security risks RE: digitisation of public service

#### ASC Pty Ltd

- Collins Class Submarines – operations and scope
- Engagement with Defence Strategic Review
- Engagement with AUKUS task force (current/future submarine workforce)
- Engagement with Department of Defence (reports, information sharing)
- Sources of funding

Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd (ANI)

- Henderson, WA (large vessel dry berth project) – budgeting, consultation and engagement, funding, Aurecon report
- Osborne North Development Project – costing, asset management, review
- Review into decisions on national security, defence capability requirements
- ANI engagement with Defence Strategic Review (DSR)

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Friday, 17 February in Committee Room 2S1, for examination of the Indigenous matters cross portfolio.