



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Supplementary Estimates 2022-23
Wednesday, 15 February 2023
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am to 11.00pm.

The committee called:

- Employment and Workplace Relations Portfolio; including DEWR representatives for corporate and enabling services, DEWR representatives for Employment, DEWR representatives for Workplace Relations, the Fair Work Commission, the Fair Work Ombudsman, Safe Work Australia, the Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation and the Registered Organisations Commissions.

Corporate and Enabling Services

- General finance and corporate matters
- Compliance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules

Outcome 1: Employment Services

- Workforce Australia
- Quality assurance for providers
- Procurement processes for Workforce Australia's employment services, and caretaker period
- Provider referrals (cap on referrals, cost of services, managing risks, consequences for providers)
- Transfer of people from Workforce Australia Services to Workforce Australia Online
- Launch into Work Program, and the expenditure and evaluation of the Local Jobs Program
- New and amended employment programs for young people
- Abolition of internship component of the PaTH program, and associated consultation with stakeholders
- ParentsNext program and other employment programs
- Development of the Employment White Paper and liaison with Treasury

Outcome 3: Workplace Relations

- Appointment of Registered Organisations Commission (ROC) Commissioner
- Current investigations by the ROC and transfer of functions after abolition of the ROC
- Consultation on recent IR legislation amendments
- Update on implementation of Recommendation 49 of the Jenkins Review, establishing Women's Working Centres (including funding)
- Appointment process for President of the Fair Work Commission
- Establishment of the National Construction Industry Forum
- Definition of casual employment and operation of casual conversion legislation

Fair Work Commission (FWC)

- Process of annual minimum wage review
- Transfer of functions from the ROC (including transfer of staff, current ROC investigations)
- Current enterprise agreements for the black coalmining industry
- New appointments at the FWC and establishment of expert panels

- Decisions of the Fair Work Commissioners about COVID-19 vaccinations
- Guidance to employers about recent IR reforms and specifically around bargaining provisions
- Development and roll-out of an API for the modern award database

Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO)

- Role of FWO in addressing wage theft at Universities
- Processes relating to wage underpayment cases
- Transfer of the functions, cases and staff of the ABCC to the FWO
- Role of FWO in providing guidance and developing tools and resources in relation to the introduction of paid family and domestic violence leave
- The FWO's involvement in appeals of decisions of the FWC
- Training for staff including inspectors
- Access to ATO data and determining employer/employee relationships
- Outcomes of wage underpayment recovery

Safe Work Australia (SWA)

- Regulatory approaches in relation to exposure to silica at work
- Work health and safety issues affecting gig economy workers
- Role of SWA in providing vaccine advice to employers and employees

Coal Mining Industry (Long Service leave Funding) Corporation (COAL LSL)

- Length of employment of COAL LSL CEO
- Eligibility of workers in the industry to access long service leave
- Administration of the Fund and access to entitlements for casual coal mine workers

Registered Organisations Commission (ROC)

- Contract length and contract renewal of the Registered Organisations Commissioner
- Ongoing matters within ROC, as the functions of the ROC are transferred to the FWC
- Status of ROC's current inquiries and investigations

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Thursday, 16 February in Committee Room 2S3, for examination of the Employment and Workplace Relations and Education portfolios.