



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Estimates 2022-23  
Thursday, 16 February 2023  
Daily summary

The committee met from 9am to 10:15pm.

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.
- Education Portfolio; including Department of Education representatives for early childhood and youth, Department of Education representatives for schools, Department of Education representatives for higher education, research and international, Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, the Australian institute for Teaching and School Leadership, the Australian Research Council and the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority.

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

Outcome 2 Skills and Training

- Funding for Fee-free TAFE places
- New Energy apprenticeship support payments
- Differences between Jobs and Skills Australia, and the National Skills Commission
- Jobs and Skills Australia and establishment of the Consultative Forum
- Funding for the JobTrainer program

Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)

- Transfer of Training Package Assurance responsibilities from ASQA to JSA

Department of Education

Corporate and Enabling Services

- Process by which portfolio boards are appointed
- Ministerial travel
- Adherence of officers with the PGPA Act

Early Childhood and Youth

- ECEC in Rural/Remote/Regional areas:
- Access to child care and new child care centres
- Roundtables to discuss access to childcare
- Ministerial meetings with the Regional Education Commissioner
- Various programs, including the Connected Beginnings Program
- Closing the Gap targets in relation to early childhood education

- ECEC workforce issues including shortages of educators and the need for pay increases in the sector
- Cost of child care, including fees and price rises of childcare services and changes in average hourly childcare costs

#### Schools

- Discussion of truancy in schools
- National School Reform Agreement, and delivery of additional school funding
- Delivery of the curriculum in various jurisdictions
- Commonwealth Regional Scholarship Program

#### Higher Education, Research and International

- Barriers in relation to certain academic pathways
- Composition of the Australian Universities Accord Panel
- International students:
- Visa delays for international students
- Access to university mental health services for international students
- Scholarship payments
- addressing barriers faced by international students in returning to Australia
- Price increases by university accommodation providers
- The role of foreign interference in Australian universities
- Rate of Indexation on student HELP/HECS debts, and waivers of HELP debt for teachers at remote schools
- Establishment and operation of Regional University Centres

#### Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)

- Underpayments and wage theft in universities and how institutions are addressing this
- TEQSA's role in responding to underpayments in universities, and the effect of underpayments on retention and recruitment of staff
- TEQSA's response to sexual harassment and assault on university campuses
- Compliance activity undertaken by TEQSA and breaches issued to providers
- TEQSA's position on the use of artificial intelligence programs including ChatGPT and advice provided to universities

#### Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)

- Processes within the Highly Accomplished Lead Teachers (HALT) program

#### Australian Research Council (ARC)

- The volume and processing of FOI requests
- PhD stipends and the level of support available to PhD students

#### Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)

- Implementation of the new version of the national curriculum in each jurisdiction
- Changes to data collection in relation to NAPLAN results