



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2019-20
Thursday, 5 March 2020
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Education and Employment Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.01am to 9.44pm.

The committee called the departments and agencies with responsibility for Education, Skills and Employment matters, including Department of Education, Skills and Employment, Australian Skills Quality Authority, National Centre for Vocational Education Research, Australian Research Council, Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), and Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- late submission of answers to questions on notice from the October and December 2019 supplementary estimates hearings by the former Department of Education;
- number of and expenditure on reviews of programs relating to higher education, schools and skills since 2013;
- potential impacts on schools and universities of the Coronavirus and planned measures to mitigate or anticipate them;
- Department of Education, Skills and Employment's preparedness for climate change;
- role of the National Careers Ambassador in the Department's programs and activities to promote and inform the public about vocational educational training;
- impact of the bushfire crisis on skills and training around the country;
- funding arrangements for demand-driven apprenticeship, skills and training programs;
- location of industry training hubs;
- grant to News Corp to undertake a website build for *Kids News: the PM's Spelling Bee*;
- Seasonal Worker Program;
- departmental support for workers affected by the departure of General Motors Holden from Australia;
- grants made by the ARC;
- ARC's self-investigation procedures;
- academic freedom on university campuses; and
- universities' and TEQSA's handling of sexual assault complaints.