



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2023–24
Thursday, 15 February 2024
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.03am until 10.55pm

The committee called: Department of Education, Australian Education Research Organisation, Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority, Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, and Australian Research Council.

Department of Education:

Corporate and enabling services, general matters

- Answers to questions on notice;
- Expenditure for meetings that have taken place in restaurants;
- Staff training in the department, integrity training;
- FOI requests; Departments policy on imposing charges;
- Australian Universities Accord Panel; payments to members;
- National Teacher Workforce Action Plan;
- Working from home arrangements for staff; and
- Staff working on Australia Day.

Outcome 1: Schools

- Schooling Resource Standard, calculations, inclusions, new agreement and private school funding;
- Australian Indigenous Education Foundation;
- Repairing and supporting schools on-Country in remote and regional Australia;
- First Nations students in university;
- Grattan Institute report on evidence-based teaching methods;
- National School Reform Agreement;
- Productivity Commission's recommendation that all schools lose DGR status;
- Productivity Commission's review of the National School Reform Agreement;
- School Upgrade Fund; number of projects in targeted round; open round funding;
- Vaping in schools;
- Teach for Australia Program;
- Studio Schools; compliance, financial management and governance;
- Professional standards for teachers;
- Teacher shortages;
- Classroom disruption and evidence based methods of classroom management; and
- National School Resourcing Board - State and territory compliance.

Australian Education Research Organisation

- Evidence based teaching and classroom management; and
- Publications produced by AERO.

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

- Acting Chief Executive Officer's previous role in Victoria;
- NAPLAN results;
- Support for students with lower performance scores; and
- Implementation of the current national curriculum.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited

- Appointments to the Board;
- National Teacher Workforce Action Plan measures that AITSL is responsible for amendments to the accreditation of teacher programs in Australia; and
- Initial Teacher Education data.

Outcome 1: Early Childhood and Youth

- Families better off under the new Child Care Subsidy;
- ACCC Inquiry into Childcare; findings and recommendations;
- Childcare fee increases; publishing on Starting Blocks website;
- Increasing Family Day Care providers; regional, rural and remote;
- Increasing early childhood education and care rates for First Nations families;
- Addressing workforce shortages;
- Activity test;
- Inclusion Support Program;
- Wage bargaining negotiations for the early learning sector;
- National Workforce Strategy;
- National Youth Consultations;
- Youth Advisory Group; and
- Community Childcare Fund.

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority

- Review of Child Safety Arrangements under the National Quality Framework; and
- Working arrangements; staff in the agency, location of the office.

Outcome 2: Higher Education, Research and International

- Universities Accord; Final Report, update on 5 priority actions from the interim report;
- Modelling for an International Student Tax/Levy;
- Revenue losses at universities;
- Declining university enrolments;
- Student debt;
- Cancellation of international student enrollments;

- Migration policy settings; international student visas;
- Sexual assault on university campuses; proposal for a Student Ombudsman;
- Accommodation at universities;
- Start-up Year Program;
- Amount of HECS debt;
- Reprioritisation of funding;
- First Nations university participation;
- Teacher HELP debt program;
- Regional University Hubs; enrollments and completions; and
- Second certificate enrollments for international students.

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

- Investigation into Swinburne University;
- Investigations into student safety and wellbeing;
- Annual reporting of universities;
- Risk assessment framework;
- Student awareness of TEQSA;
- Cost recovery model; and
- Staff travel.

Australian Research Council

- Draft of Defence Trade Controls Amendment Bill 2023; concerns from researchers; and
- Travel expenditure for the Centres for Excellence.