



Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates spillover 2023-24
Monday, 18 March 2024
Daily summary

The committee met from 6.01pm until 8.58pm in Committee Room 2S3.

The Committee called the following agencies of the Social Services Portfolio:

- National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

Some topics discussed by the committee included:

Department of Social Services (DSS): Whole of Portfolio/Corporate Matters

- Breakdown of the Department's staffing structures and policies, including general code of conduct investigations; and
- Additional indexation funding for community sector organisations.

Department of Social Services (DSS): Outcome 4 – Housing

- The Guardian's report into premature deaths of people experiencing homelessness;
- Data Improvement Plan for the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement, including the provision of indexation to wages;
- Number of Rental Assistance recipients;
- The Help to Buy Bill 2023 and interactions between DSS and Treasury;
- Housing Australia Future Fund; and
- Funding of social housing and the adequacy of income supports amid rising rents.

National Disability Insurance Agency

- The Thomas Hofer case, including the work of the NDIA's Justice Planning Team concerning participants exiting the justice setting;
- Difficulties requesting a change of circumstances review including arranging an emergency rollover of funds;
- Delays experienced by participants since the implementation of the PACE customer relationship management system;
- The NDIS Fraud Fusion Taskforce and associated investigations into the plan management sector;
- Annual Financial Sustainability Reporting;
- Wait times for participants receiving a response to an access request; and
- Community Connections Plans and training undertaken by local area coordination partners.