



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2025–26
Tuesday, 10 February 2026
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 9.11pm.

The committee called the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio and the Department of Finance portfolio, discussing the following topics:

Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations

- Recommendations coming out of the review of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act);
- Trends of registered corporations going into administration; and
- Non-compliance of Aboriginal Health Services.

Indigenous Business Australia

- Expenses arising from international travel undertaken by officials;
- First Nations Economic Partnership and distribution of funds under the partnership;
- Services provided including banking and superannuation;
- Housing supply partnerships and programs; and
- Engagement rates with Strong Women Strong Business and First Nations Clean Energy Network.

Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation

- Sale agreement with Journeys Beyond of Ayers Rock Resort at Yulara, and Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre, and the subsequent divestment of land to Traditional Owners;
- National Indigenous Training Academy; and
- Disaster recovery response grants.

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet – Office for Women

- Clarification on how the ‘Advancing Gender Equality in Gender Segregated Industries’ criteria operates in issuing grants;
- Housing Australia Future Fund and efforts to house vulnerable women;
- Potential for Office of Women to report on outcomes and programs of other agencies;
- Frequency of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission meetings; and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan engagement with indigenous women.

Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA)

- The committee thanked the outgoing CEO, the Hon Ms Mary Wooldridge, for her work for gender equality, including as CEO of WGEA.

Australian Public Service Commission

- Thanking the outgoing Commissioner, Dr Gordon de Brouwer, for his service to the Commonwealth APS;
- Selection process for a new Commissioner;
- Processes developed to ensure matters such as Robodebt will not be repeated;
- Cost of Leadership Development Program;
- Transparency issues raised by the Briggs Review in relation to APS hiring;
- Progress on the development of the Pilot Training Program on Antisemitism; and
- Rationale behind selection of new campus sites for the APS Academy.

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet – Australian Government Consulting

- Reducing expenditure on external labour and expanding Australian Government Consulting.

Department of Finance (Outcomes 1 & 2)

- Response by Government to the Reserve Bank of Australia's economic forecasting;
- Explanation for differing Parliamentary Budget Office figures between the Pre-Election Economic and Fiscal Outlook, and the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook;
- Review of APS Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest processes regarding the approval of procuring contractors and consultants;
- Minister of Finance's role in the process of identifying the lowest 5 per cent priority programs and redistributing resources;
- Rationale for changing the Department of Finance's audit of employment methodology for the APS;
- Status of the Conclusion of the Review into PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Australia, and the steps taken to address PwC's breaches of the APS Code of Conduct;
- Clarification of the quantum of savings made by the government from the 2025-26 budget;
- Budget and costs of lowering the NDIS' growth rate to 8 per cent; and
- Processes regarding the sale and divestment of strategic sites including Port of Darwin sale and Australian Defence Force property divestment.

Services Australia

- Preparations for the budgeted reduction in average staffing level in 2026–27;
- Call centre operations and composition of workforce, including external contractors;
- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and coordination with the National Emergency Management Agency;
- Reporting of compliance issues by Services Australia executive and timing of briefings; and
- Instances of fraud in the Melbourne immigration detention centre and release of detainees on bail.

Future Fund Management Agency

- Investment strategy and decisions in multiple ventures including Whitehaven Coal, ANZ Bank, and Palantir; and
- Portfolio composition including exposure to developed markets and sustainability of Artificial Intelligence investments.

ASC Pty Ltd

- ASC communications with Naval Shipbuilding and Sustainment Group (NSSG);

- Collins Life-of-type-extension staffing and viability; and
- AUKUS project including recruitment and training of staff and project timeline.

Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd

- Henderson and Osbourne shipyard developments.

CEA Technologies Pty Limited

- Recruitment process for new CEO.

The committee released the Digital Transformation Agency.

This hearing concludes the committee's examination of Additional Estimates 2025–26.

Please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 5780 or fpa.sen@aph.gov.au if you have any questions.