



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2025-26
Thursday, 12 February 2026
Daily summary

The committee met from 9:00am until 10:11pm

The committee called the Education portfolio, discussing the following topics:

Corporate and Enabling Services

- Redistribution of funding;
- Average staffing levels; and
- Use of Artificial Intelligence.

Outcome 1: Schools and Youth

- Closing the Gap;
- Thriving Kids program;
- Year 12 completion rates;
- Better and Fairer Schools Agreement - signing by Victorian Government;
- Consent and Respectful Relationships Education Program - Working Group, curriculum amendments, framework;
- Use of pro-Palestinian material in schools by NSW teachers;
- Reading comprehension levels; and
- Compulsory singing of the National Anthem in Northern Territory public schools.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited

- Teacher supply and demand projections; and
- National Teacher Workforce Action Plan.

Outcome 1: Early Childhood

- Alleged abuse in Victorian childcare centres;
- Child Care Subsidy;
- Construction of a childcare centre in Mukinbudin, WA;
- Productivity Commission's recommendation of an Early Childhood Education and Care Commission;
- In Home Care program;
- Inclusion Support Program;
- Worker Retention Payment;
- Reassessments of Early Childhood Education and Care centres; and
- Building Early Education Fund.

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority

- Data on serious incidents and confirmed breaches; and
- Staffing waivers.

Outcome 2: Higher Education, Research and International

- Australian Tertiary Education Commission;
- Commonwealth Prac Payments;
- Job Ready Graduates package;
- Appointment of Professor Greg Craven to assess antisemitism at universities;
- Gender based violence regulator;
- Closing the Gap;
- International student allocation at universities; and
- Reallocation of funds from Australia's economic accelerator impact on the research sector.

Australian Research Council (ARC)

- Delay in project research grants due to foreign interference assessments;
- ARC Organisational Review;
- Review of the grant given to Dr Randa Abdel-Fattah;
- Discovery Projects scheme: Two-stage application process; and
- Funded research at the Australian National University involving scientists affiliated with Russian nuclear institutes and universities.

Australian National University

- Socially Responsible Investment policy;
- Underpayment of staff;
- Conflict of interest declarations;
- Special Governance Committee - review by Dr Vivienne Thom AM;
- Student enrollment numbers; and
- Australian University Census.

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)

- Complaints from students and staff submitted to TEQSA;
- Impact of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission on TEQSA;
- Abolition of the Higher Education Standards Panel; and
- Briggs Review.

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

Please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 3521 or eec.sen@aph.gov.au if you have any questions.