



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2025–26
Monday, 9 February 2026
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.45pm.

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

Department of the Senate

- Suspension of Questions on Notice processing over the Christmas break; and
- Processes for ensuring the active protection of Parliamentary Privilege.

Parliamentary Budget Office

- Midterm deficit discrepancies between the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook and Pre-Election Economic and Fiscal Outlook; and
- Costings of proposed policies including electric vehicle fringe benefits.

Department of Parliamentary Services

- Staffing levels in Parliament House;
- Capital Works Program in Parliament House;
- ICT systems, including the Dynamic Red outage and digital certificate validation;
- Staffed hours of Health and Recreation Centre;
- Processes for code of conduct breach investigations; and
- Fundraising events at Parliament House.

Parliamentary Services Commissioner

- Status of the Parliamentary Services Commissioner's powers to independently initiate investigations.

National Indigenous Australians Agency

- Expenditure on agency attendance at Garma Festival;
- Increasing First Nations representation in Senior Executive Service;
- Attack on Invasion Day rally in Perth, Ministerial use of powers to investigate;
- Engagement with First Nations people, including Footprints training program and training for Australian Federal Police;
- Central Australian organisations' compliance with reporting obligations;
- Remote Australia initiatives including housing partnership agreements and employment services;
- Funding allocation for truth telling and treaty processes;
- Protecting community health and wellbeing during heatwaves and power outages;
- State and territory funding for Closing the Gap targets;

- Proposed legislation for the National Commission for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People;
- Our Ways, Strong Ways domestic and family violence prevention program; and
- Distribution of free period products through National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

Anindilyakwa Land Council, Central Land Council, Northern Land Council, and Tiwi Land Council

- Use of artificial intelligence (AI) and its impact in relation to the land councils' communities;
- Update on timeframe for Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC)'s annual report;
- Whether employment matters relating to land councils have been settled in and outside of the Fair Work Commission;
- Update on number of exploration title applications under negotiation (CLC);
- Discussion of matters in CLC's annual report – variance in salaries, use of consultants in 2024-2025;
- Measures to ensure the ongoing engagement with the process of traditional owner recognition for people that no longer live in Central Australia (CLC);
- Commercial projects in relation to forestry (TLC); and
- Completion of mandatory training, including conflict of interest training (NLC).

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C)

- Consultation, initiation, and terms of reference for the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion;
- Visit to Australia of the President of Israel, Isaac Herzog;
- Early conclusion of the term of the Secretary for the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Ms Natalie James;
- Expenditure on the invitation of a Tasmanian student to Canberra to share research findings on the effects of the social media ban;
- Return of the Port of Darwin to Australian ownership;
- Status of Government's consideration of recommendations from the Special Envoy's Plan to Combat Antisemitism;
- PM&C staff training on awareness on antisemitism;
- Staffing and work of the Office of Impact Analysis in assessing suitability of legislation;
- Rate of response by Government to Senate committee reports; and
- Allowances for Ministers travel and advice to Government regarding travel for MPs' families.

Australian National Audit Office

- Increase in number of legislative breaches compared to previous reporting period; and
- An overview of the of recent audit reports.

Office of National Intelligence

- Status of radical Islamic extremist terrorism both in Australia and internationally; and
- Assessments by the ONI related to foreign countries.

Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General (OOSGG)

- Audit report on the OOSGG and acceptance of recommendations; and
- Workplace complaints occurrences, policies, and processes.

Department of Finance (Electoral Policy and Outcome 3)

- Development and information regarding a review of the Parliamentary ‘ecosystem’;
- Work on improving the platform for Members of Parliament staff to claim entitlements and allowances; and
- Employment of relatives by Parliamentarians.

Australian Electoral Commission

- Support for entities and implementation of the funding and disclosure reforms in the *Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Reform) Act 2025*.

Parliamentary Workplace Support Service

- Parliamentary workplace culture survey results and processes.

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA)

- Funding allocations and structure for IPEA; and
- Allowances for Ministers travel and advice regarding travel for MPs’ families.

The committee agreed to release the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

The committee will resume its examination of 2025-26 Additional Estimates with the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio at 9:00am on Tuesday, 9 February 2026

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