



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2020-21  
Thursday, 22 October 2020  
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 8.59am to 10.14pm.

The committee called the Finance Portfolio:

- Department of Finance;
- Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority; and
- Australian Electoral Commission.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Department of Finance

- procurement regulatory frameworks;
- APS efficiency;
- economic response to the coronavirus;
- Public Interest Disclosure noted in annual report regarding fraud allegations;
- contractors and consultants in the APS;
- use of limited tenders and Commonwealth Procurement Rules;
- ANAO's *Purchase of the 'Leppington Triangle' Land for the Future Development of Western Sydney Airport report* and subsequent AFP investigation;
- review of grant guidelines;
- shared service delivery group;
- allegations regarding the Hon Michael Sukkar MP and the Hon Kevin Andrews MP;
- Parliamentary Expenses Management System;
- campaigns and government advertising;
- rent relief;
- Operation Tetris; and
- business optimisation.

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

- allegations regarding the Hon Michael Sukkar MP; and
- fundraising.

Australian Electoral Commission

- mechanisms in place to hold COVID-safe elections;
- preparation for the next federal election;
- Eden-Monaro by-election;
- political donations;
- Getup;
- Climate 200 Pty Ltd;

- Transparency Register;
- ANAO's *Administration of Financial Disclosure Requirements under the Commonwealth Electoral Act* performance audit;
- Groom by-election; and
- possible redistribution of seats in the Northern Territory.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Friday, 23 October 2020 in Senate Committee Room 2S1, to examine the cross-portfolio on Indigenous matters.