



Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2020-21  
Monday, 26 October 2020  
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Community Affairs Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.15pm.

The committee called the department and agencies of the Health portfolio, including Whole of portfolio/Corporate matters, Outcomes 1, 2, 4; National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC); Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care; and National Mental Health Commission (NMHC).

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- downloads of the Covid Safe App;
- vaccine development and access plan;
- availability and access levels of mental health services;
- adult mental health centre locations and stage of delivery;
- access and retention of rural GPs 'Stronger rural health strategy';
- Thalidomide support package;
- rural doctors and telehealth usage;
- opioid dependence treatment program; and
- private health insurance, premiums and range of services covered (such as mental health and in home care).

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Tuesday, 27 October in Committee Room 2S1, to continue its examination of the Health portfolio:

- Outcomes 5,6,3 including the Therapeutic Goods Administration; Australia Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA); Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission; Aged Care Pricing Commissioner; Sport Australia (Australian Institute of Sport); Australian Sports Foundation and Sports Integrity Australia.