



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2020-21
Monday, 26 October 2020
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Education and Employment Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.00am to 10.59pm.

The committee called the departments and agencies with responsibility for Employment and Industrial Relations matters:

- Attorney-General's Department including Industrial Relations group; Safe Work Australia; Fair Work Commission; Fair Work Ombudsman; and Australian Building and Construction Commission.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- progress on implementing the recommendations of the Boland review of the model WHS laws, including protections for casual, insecure and gig workers;
- protections for casual workers in the coal sector;
- progress on a national register to crackdown on unscrupulous labour hire firms, including the timetable for related legislation;
- JobKeeper participation and eligibility;
- exploitation of workers in the agricultural industry (FarmHub/Harvest Trail inquiry);
- migrant workers—protections in place, infringement notices, access to support;
- underpayment/remuneration to workers;
- complexity and interpretation of industrial law; and
- sham contracting in the construction industry.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Tuesday, 27 October in Senate Committee Room 2S3, calling:

- agencies of the Attorney-General's Department – Industrial Relations group including the Registered Organisations Commission; Comcare; Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency; Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation; and
- Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources – Small and Family Business Division including Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman.