



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2020-21
Tuesday, 27 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 8.22pm.

The committee called the departments and agencies with responsibility for Employment and Industrial Relations, including Small and Family Business:

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

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- Registered Organisations Commission (ROC) podcast—cost of production, staff involved, and number of listeners;
- number of questions on notice asked of the ROC by Senator Kitching, and the resources required to respond to them;
- ROC's educative role including workshops, information sessions, online panels and the cost and attendance of seminars;
- inquiry into Restaurant and Catering Industrial Group;
- Comcare response to COVID, including working from home and mental health impacts;
- return to work pathways, particularly for people with psychological injuries;
- advice provided by the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency in relation to home improvements;
- update on the listing of Chrysotile Asbestos under the Rotterdam Convention;
- importance of small and family businesses in regional and rural Australia;
- advice given to small business during COVID-19;
- childcare facilities and support for families who are small business operators;
- encouraging small business to adopt new technologies, innovations and software packages;
- ASBFEO's online survey and the response from travel agents; and
- making it easier for small businesses to compete with larger companies during government tender processes.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Wednesday, 28 October in Committee Room 2S3, calling:

- Department of Education, Skills and Employment including the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority; Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Authority; Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership; and Australian Research Council.