



Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2020-21
Wednesday, 28 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 10.43pm.

The committee called:

- Department and agencies of the Social Services portfolio, including Whole of portfolio/Corporate matters, Outcomes 1 and 2, Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS).

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- Coronavirus supplement;
- forecast levels of unemployment rates for future years;
- underemployment compared to unemployment rates;
- women on jobseeker and youth allowance payments;
- programs and assistance available to older women over 50;
- definition of poverty;
- rent assistance;
- cost of living;
- pensioners;
- Hiring credits for older Australians;
- support available for Australians seeking work;
- families on tax benefit also receiving income support payments;
- number of people on payments based on fortnightly data from ATO;
- Program of Support (POS) for people with disabilities—effectiveness in finding work and moving to Disability Support Pension (DSP)
 - obligations of people on POS, medical exemptions and process to move to DSP
 - POS Services such as, job plan, training, transition to work;
- seasonal workers;
- reduction in volunteering due to pandemic and grant programs to support volunteering;
- gambling behaviours during the pandemic;
- domestic violence
 - funding package for domestic violence
 - funding for National Domestic Violence Hotline (1800 RESPECT)
 - frontline services delivered by state and territories
 - feedback from stakeholders to meet demand
 - service gaps for temporary visa holders, migrant and refugees
 - 'Help is Here' campaign—response to domestic violence during Covid-19 lockdown
 - 'Stop It At The Start' campaign;

- AIFS
 - levels of people engaging in online gambling and betting and changes seen due to pandemic— consumer survey underway
 - links between advertising and people accessing online betting and gambling;
- Cashless Debit Card
 - evaluation of the trial
 - product level blocking
 - cost of implementation of the card: \$29 million in 2019-20
 - current number of participants: 12 114
 - processes for exiting the card; and
- Redress scheme
 - privacy breaches
 - Government funding to improve decision making process
 - technical amendments with the current National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Amendment (Technical Amendments) Bill 2020
 - Stolen Generations.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Thursday, 29 October in Committee Room 2S1, to continue its examination of the Social Services portfolio:

- Outcomes 3 and 4, including National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA); NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission; Digital Transformation Agency and Services Australia.