



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2020-21  
Wednesday, 28 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 9.15pm.

The committee called the departments and agencies with responsibility for Education, Skills and Employment portfolio:

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

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- expenditure forecasts for the Child Care Subsidy;
- Transition Grant payments to childcare services;
- financial support and funding alterations for schools during COVID-19 pandemic;
- research into the impact of learning from home;
- funding for additional education support for Indigenous students;
- funding and purpose of Student Support Package Program;
- universities' revenue loss—including the impact of the reduction in international students due to COVID-19;
- international student enrolment trends;
- Indigenous languages listed as foreign languages;
- number of staff job losses in Australian universities;
- changes to environmental science studies;
- Higher Education (Job-ready Graduates) Bill;
- Higher Education Integrity Unit—funding of, staffing and use of labour hire companies;
- TEQSA compliance assessments and governance—engagement with CEO and senior executives;
- intellectual freedom and free speech tolerance in Australian universities; and
- management of ARC funded grants.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Thursday, 29 October in Committee Room 2S3, calling:

- Department of Education, Skills and Employment including the National Skills Commission; Australian Skills Quality Authority; and National Centre for Vocational Education Research.