



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2020-21  
Thursday, 29 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 8.00pm.

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

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

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- department staffing caps, labour hire and contract staff in the context of COVID-19;
- PWC review of the Australian apprenticeship management system;
- JobsHub online site;
- COVID-19 pandemic influences on the labour market;
- funding and functions of the National Skills Commission;
- National Skills Commissioner—establishment, appointment and remuneration;
- Jobs and Education Data Infrastructure (JEDI) project;
- pricing and performance review of VET;
- apprenticeship data management system;
- job security for new apprentices;
- extra support for women during TAFE/VET courses;
- industry training hubs and the JobTrainer Program;
- Supporting Apprentices and Trainees wage subsidy;
- JobTrainer Fund and Program;
- VET student / trade support loans;
- commonwealth funding for apprenticeship programs;
- risk assessments for Work for the Dole;
- digital caseload of Jobactive online employment service;
- growth of different streams in employment services;
- functionality available to jobseekers online;
- factors taken into account when putting jobseekers into streams;
- changes to targeted compliance framework resulting in fewer payment suspensions;
- numbers of payment suspensions by cohort;
- consultation with stakeholder group on the changes in the Budget measure in eligibility for ParentsNext; and
- Restart wage subsidy program.

The committee adjourned.