



Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2021-22
Tuesday, 1 June 2021
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 11.02pm.

The committee called the department and agencies of the Health portfolio, including Whole of Portfolio/Corporate matters and Outcome 1; Therapeutic Goods Administration; National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC); and National Mental Health Commission (NMHC).

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- update on COVID-19 infections in Victoria;
- COVID-19 transmission rates in aged care facilities;
- aged care staff and residents in Victoria vaccinated (first and second dose);
- update on whether to mandate vaccinations for aged care workers;
- CMO declaring a hotspot – national benchmark for contact tracing;
- efficacy of vaccinations against various strains of COVID-19;
- communication materials for workforce regarding vaccine roll out;
- data on disability sector COVID-19 vaccinations;
- advertising COVID-19 to CLAD communities;
- vaccine hesitancy;
- Pfizer roll out in Torres Strait Islands;
- wastage of vaccines;
- supply levels of Pfizer vaccines;
- prescription of nicotine and updated clinical guidelines for GPs;
- NHMRC – review of the dietary guidelines;
- transparency concerns around health research grant processes;
- Commonwealth funding for public hospitals – five year agreement;
- funding for suicide prevention amongst first nations people under 25 years of age; and
- Budget funding to establish and roll out a survey on the mental health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Wednesday, 2 June in Committee Room 2S1, to continue its examination of the Health portfolio:

- covering Outcomes 3,2,4 including Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission; Aged Care Pricing Commissioner; Professional Services Review Scheme; Sport Australia (Australian Institute of Sport); and Australian Sports Foundation and Sports Integrity Australia.