



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2021-22
Wednesday, 2 June 2021
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 9.45pm.

The committee called agencies under the responsibility of the Attorney-General's Department, including Safe Work Australia; Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation; Comcare; Australian Building and Construction Commission; Registered Organisations Commission; Fair Work Commission; and Fair Work Ombudsman.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- recommendations from the Boland Review and the implementation of industrial manslaughter laws;
- Respect@Work Report and the relationship between the Sex Discrimination Act and Work Health and Safety legislation;
- National Dust Disease Taskforce to tackle Silicosis and other dust diseases;
- different pay rates and leave entitlements for full-time and casual coal mine workers;
- terms of reference for the independent review into the Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation;
- Comcare's use of surveillance on injured workers with compensation claims;
- monies recovered by the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) compared to resources used;
- how ABCC resources are divided within the agency;
- Registered Organisations Commission's current investigation into the Australian Workers' Union;
- Comcare's investigations into Fair Work Commission (FWC) Deputy President, Mr Gerard Boyce;
- casual terms award review 2021 and its consideration of black coal mining awards;
- better off overall test; and
- impact of COVID-19 on the workload of the FWC and the changing nature of disputes dealt with during the pandemic.

The committee will next meet at 9.00 am on Thursday, 3 June in Senate Committee Room 2S3, calling: Department of Education, Skills and Employment.