



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2021-22  
Monday, 24 May 2021  
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.01am to 10.26pm.

The committee called:

Parliamentary departments

- Department of the Senate; and
- Department of Parliamentary Services.

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

- National Recovery and Resilience Agency;
- Office for Women;
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency;
- Digital Transformation Agency;
- Australian Public Service Commission;
- Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General;
- Office of National Intelligence; and
- Australian National Audit Office.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Department of the Senate

- alleged sexual assault in ministerial wing;
- Clerk's advice to the President regarding parliamentary privilege involved in accessing CCTV recording;
- COVID vaccinations for staff; and
- ICT issues and ANZAC Day long weekend systems outage.

Department of Parliamentary Services

- alleged sexual assault in the ministerial wing;
- commercial hiring of APH venues;
- communications policy in relation to officers talking to the media;
- ICT incidents and issues;
- electronic security system procurement;
- use of compostable and recyclable products in food and beverage facilities; and
- committee's inquiry into the operation and management of the Department of Parliamentary Services and the protection of witnesses and individuals making a submission to the committee.

#### National Recovery and Resilience Agency

- distribution of bushfire recovery funds to affected communities;
- Mr Stone's appointment as Coordinator General;
- board appointments; and
- Farm Rebate Scheme.

#### Office for Women

- forecasted administered expenses and staffing;
- Women's Budget Statement Security Statement;
- Women's Economic Security Package;
- Paid Parental Leave;
- definitions used by the agency;
- women in the mining industry;
- single parents and housing affordability;
- poverty for single mothers; and
- National Women's Alliances.

#### Workplace Gender Equality Agency

- recruitment process for agency head;
- plans to extend WGEA's remit to the public sector; and
- data collection.

#### National Australia Day Council

- review into the selection of Grace Tame as the Australian of the Year.

#### Digital Transformation Agency

- COVID-safe app;
- role and mandate of the Digital Transformation Agency;
- functions transferred to Services Australia; and
- maintenance and review of the style guide.

#### Australian Public Service Commission

- SES contractors;
- APS Academy; and
- APS Census 2020 results.

#### Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

- National Emergency Medal;
- maintenance of assets;
- COVID-19 vaccinations for staff;
- award terminations and cancellations; and
- Regent recognition.

#### Office of National Intelligence

- oversight of ONI's work;
- implementation of recommendations following the 2017 L'Estrange Review; and
- COVID-19 vaccinations for staff.

Australian National Audit Office

- Auditor-General Report No. 2 of 2020–21: Procurement of Strategic Water Entitlements;
- Auditor-General Report No. 9 of 2020–21: Purchase of the 'Leppington Triangle' Land for the Future Development of Western Sydney Airport;
- in progress performance report: Award of Funding under the Safer Communities Fund; and
- Auditor-General Report No. 27 of 2019–20: Procurement of Garrison Support and Welfare Services.

Please note that the Parliamentary Budget Office was released from today's program.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Tuesday 25 May 2021 in Senate Committee Room 2S1, to continue its examination of the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio.