



Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2022-23
Friday, 1 April 2022
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 9.25pm.

The committee called:

- Department and agencies of the Health portfolio and Social Services portfolio, including Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission; Therapeutic Goods Administration; National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA); and NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- funding for recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety;
- aged care nurses, minimum staffing standards;
- Fair Work case;
- facility closures;
- aged care bonus payments;
- chemical restraints;
- boosters in aged care facilities;
- Homecare packages;
- food standards;
- COVID vaccine efficacy;
- implementing COVID recommendations from the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability;
- Medicare expenditure;
- COVID Vaccine Booster campaign;
- Primary Care funding;
- Telehealth;
- women's health funding – endometriosis plan;
- FOI 3538 – vaccine procurement;
- fourth doses (winter booster) – officially starts on 4 April;
- Japanese encephalitis vaccines; and
- after hours GP services.

Social Services portfolio:

- definition of poverty and Jobseeker rate;
- parental leave payments and eligibility;
- Stronger Resilience Communities Grant;
- cashless debit card and rollout in the Northern Territory;
- women's safety measures;

- NDIA; and
 - fraud investigation and monitoring participant social media
 - planning and assessment process for children in NDIS
 - early childhood specialists
 - NDIA Board Chair – appointment process
 - appeals with AAT
- Services Australia.
 - response to floods
 - cost of living support payments
 - staffing levels and surge workforce
 - payment delivery timeframes
 - face to face services offered
 - call wait times
 - closure of Centrelink service centres
 - leases of Centrelink service centres
 - Robodebt question on notice

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Wednesday, 6 April in Committee Room 2S1, for examination of the Health portfolio.