



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2022-23
Monday, 4 April 2022
Daily summary

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

The committee met from 9.00am to 5.51pm.

The committee called:

Parliamentary Budget Office

- PBO's role during caretaker period; and
- adequate resourcing in the PBO.

Department of Parliamentary Services

- Hansard correction process; particularly concerning specific second reading speeches around Budget measures;
- application of the Hansard corrections and alterations policy;
- comity between the Houses and questions around the alteration of the House of Representatives Hansard;
- update on Jenkin's Review implementation and after-hours access to Australian Parliament House;
- IT issues experienced by senators in Australian Parliament House;
- enhanced security budget measure; expenditure on new security equipment; and
- trends of threats to the building and its occupants in recent years; the need for more secure meeting spaces; information security.

Australian Public Service Commission

- APS Academy - expenditure and capacity;
- use of labour hire in engaging casuals and temporary personnel in the APS, and expenditure on labour hire;
- casual conversion uptake and eligibility; and
- visibility of the APSC on the use of labour hire and associated expenditure.

Office of National Intelligence

- ONI resourcing.

Digital Transformation Agency

- digital identity – its purpose, rollout, associated costs, size, adoption rate; and
- digital fraud.

Prime Minister and Cabinet

- Hansard transcript alteration of second reading speech of Senator Hume - timeline of events and PM&C's knowledge of the situation;
- questions on the status of Mr Tudge MP and his role as Education Minister; appointment of a new Minister and when Mr Tudge's ministerial entitlements ceased;
- government's involvement and associated costs with Mr Clive Palmer's WA border case;

- rural and regional budget outcomes;
- Australian Future Leaders Program - design and development of program, and ongoing work of the government on deliverables of the program;
- PM&C's knowledge of Mr Brian Houston meeting Mr Scott Morrison MP, during Mr Morrison's time as Prime Minister;
- legal advice sought on the Statement of Acknowledgement and the apology issued in the House of Representatives to Ms Britney Higgins;
- engagement by PM&C of Painted Dog to conduct national opinion surveys; and
- historical compliance of PM&C in answering questions on notice and the lack of timely responses from the Department.

Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

- intent of the 2022-23 Budget Measure: Australian Future Leaders Program; and
- revocation of honours previously awarded to Mr Dyson Heydon.

Australian National Audit Office

- inclusion of the Urban Congestion Fund in the future audit program.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Tuesday, 5 April in Senate Committee Room 2S1 for examination of the Finance portfolio.