



Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025–26
Friday, 10 October 2025
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 5.58pm.

The committee called the Health, Disability and Ageing and Social Services portfolio, discussing the following topics:

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) – Outcome 4: Disability and Carers, National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIS) and NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission

- Design and implementation of the Thriving Kids program, including funding for existing services to support children outside scope of program;
- The number of registered providers in the NDIS, including the regulation of non-registered providers;
- Funding and associated measures to tackle fraud and non-compliance, including annual losses because of NDIS fraud;
- Access to services in regional and rural areas and costs for travel;
- Administrative Review Tribunal decisions and concomitant outcomes, and the costs of legal representation for the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA);
- Updates regarding the Inklings Program;
- NDIS growth targets and progression towards moderating at 8 per cent;
- The Assistive Technology Rental and Refurbishment Pilot Program; and
- Launch and implementation of the NDIS First Nations strategy.

Department of Social Services (DSS) – Whole of Portfolio/Corporate Matters

- Changes to the Administrative Arrangements Orders on 13 May and 26 June 2025 and its fiscal impacts on the department's budget position;
- The Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee's budget and expenditure to carry out its work;
- The use of external contractors and steps taken to achieve less dependency on consultancies; and
- Work of the Community Grants Hub.

DSS – Outcome 1: Social Security

- Deeming rate freezes for Aged Pensioners;
- Access to the Home Equity and Paid Parental Leave Schemes;
- Number of tertiary students receiving Youth Allowance, including indexation;
- Rental affordability for social security recipients;
- The Stillborn Baby Payment;
- Carers-related supplements and allowances;
- Average duration of JobSeeker recipients over time, including total number of recipients currently; and
- The Development of Inclusive Employment Australia and associated transitional features to replace the existing Disability Employment Services from 1 November 2025.

DSS – Outcome 2: Families and Communities

- National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2023-2025, including the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Safety Plan (Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices);
- Income Management and Enhanced Income Management, including issues related post, the abolition of the Cashless Debit Card; and
- 500 new frontline workers for family, domestic and sexual violence support.

Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)

- AIFS reporting on the use of intimate partner violence among Australian men, including issues related to coercive control.

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission

- Implementation of the Rapid Review and the broader role of the Commission's work with police and data institutions; and
- DSS and the Commission's participation during the Round Table event in Canberra on the links between Child Sexual Abuse, Suicidality and Violence and its influence on service delivery.

National Commission for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People

- General work and forecasted priorities for the Commission.

That concludes the October portion of the committee's examination of the 2025–26 Supplementary Estimates round. The committee will next meet on Wednesday, 3 December 2025 to examine the December portion of the 2025–26 Supplementary Estimates.

Please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 3515 or community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au if you have any questions.