



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025–26
Monday, 1 December 2025
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.30pm.

The committee called the Parliamentary Departments, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio and the Department of Finance portfolio, discussing the following topics:

Department of the Senate

- Workload of the Procedure Office including legislative drafting; and
- Construction works in Parliament including the fourth party room and Senators' suites.

Parliamentary Budget Office

- Staffing allocation in relation to demand for services and costings.

Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS)

- Engagement of HWLE Lawyers and TransPerfect to enable the independent investigation into the incentive to retire payment for the previous Deputy Secretary;
- Staffing matters for DPS including code of conduct investigations, redundancies, turnover and APS Census;
- Costs and work plan for construction of the fourth party room in APH and extra suites;
- Cybersecurity measures in place during the of the Chinese delegation on 24 November 2025; and
- DPS's facilitation of access to a parliamentarian's inbox by the National Anti-Corruption Commission in the course of an investigation.

Parliamentary Services Commissioner

- The committee did not ask any questions of the Parliamentary Services Commissioner.

National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)

- NIAA and Indigenous Portfolio Agency underspend and efficiency dividends;
- Grants integrity and whether any currently-funded organisations are being investigated;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island heritage protection claims and upcoming Act amendments;
- Gambling as a priority reform for First Nations people;
- Program funding under the Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment especially regarding priority reforms, performance measures and Closing the Gap targets;
- Discussion of the Indigenous Procurement Policy; and
- Consultation regarding a formal partnership between NIAA and Tagai Kemer Kemer Zugubal (TKKZ).

Anindilyakwa Land Council, Central Land Council, Northern Land Council, and Tiwi Land Council

- Completion of mandatory training by Northern Land Council staff;
- Distribution of money held by Tiwi Land Council for traditional owners;
- Progress on the appointment of a new Anindilyakwa Land Council CEO; and
- Preparation for and recovery from the effects of Cyclone Fina by Tiwi Land Council.

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C)

- Decision of the Supreme Court of Western Australia in Reynolds v Higgins;
- Appointment of the Director-General of the Office of National Intelligence;
- PM&C's role in Australia's bid to host COP31;
- Australia signing the Belém Declaration;
- Payments made by Treasury without ministerial authorisation;
- Number of statutory board appointments requiring the Prime Minister's approval;
- PM&C's Diversity Council membership;
- Expenses associated with the King's visit to Australia in 2024;
- Security concerns including repatriation of women and children from the Syrian Internally Displaced People camp; and
- Australian Government's response to the Independent Review of Commonwealth funding for strategic policy work.

Australian National Audit Office

- Payments made by Treasury without ministerial authorisation; and
- Australian National Audit Office's audit of the Housing Australia Future Fund and audit of audit of the National Reconstruction Fund Corporation.

Office of National Intelligence (ONI)

- Assessments of Indo-Pacific region strategic outlook and Ukraine-Russia conflict; and
- ONI's climate security risk assessment and related advice to government on risks of climate change.

Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

- Security precautions and measures that may be implemented when foreign delegations visit Government House.

Department of Finance

- Costings and impacts of an increase to numbers of parliamentarians.

Australian Electoral Commission

- Timelines for the implementation of new electoral legislation and the redistribution of electoral boundaries;
- Formal complaints handling and processes during an electoral event; and
- Electoral roll integrity and systems along with First Nations enrolment.

Parliamentary Workplace Support Service (PWSS)

- Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and development of an internal PWSS policy on the use of AI; and
- Establishment and membership of the yet-to-be-established PWSS consultative committee.

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

- Corporate Travel Management (CTM) governance concerns and contract contents.

The committee will resume its examination of Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025–26 with the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio at 9:00am on Tuesday, 2 December 2025.

Please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 5780 or fpa.sen@aph.gov.au if you have any questions.