



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025-26
Tuesday, 2 December 2025
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 11.03pm.

The committee called the Communications, Sport and the Arts portfolio and discussed the following topics:

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts, excluding Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

Corporate Matters and General Questions

- Progress of the Department's delivery of several election commitments;
- Assessment of the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and whether it remains 'fit for purpose';
- ACMA's enforcement of strengthened Triple Zero obligations; and
- Staffing composition of the Triple Zero Custodian Division within the Department.

Outcome 5.1

- The Government's communications campaign on the social media minimum age restrictions;
- Digital isolation of young people in relation to the social media minimum age restrictions;
- Implementation of a digital duty of care;
- Impact of AI agents on mental health;
- BetStop and the national self-exclusion register, including progress of the statutory review;
- Status of the Commercial Broadcasting Tax pause and the *Future of Television Review*; and
- Digital connectivity including consultation on the Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation.

Australian Communications and Media Authority

- Investigation into the Optus network outage, including ACMA's internal response processes;
- Issues relating to Samsung devices being unable to connect to Triple Zero;
- Modernisation of the National Classification Scheme;
- ACMA's Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Standard for industry;
- Non-compliance with ACMA's Telecommunications Financial Hardship Industry Standard; and
- The Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code Scheme.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)

- Launch of the ABC News Loop service to reach younger Australians on social media platforms;
- The ABC's role as the emergency services broadcaster;
- Operational issues, including asbestos exposure at ABC sites;
- Impartiality and fairness in ABC reporting;
- Journalist conduct, including comments made about Senator Nampijinpa-Price; and

- Expenditure on the farewell event for former Managing Director, David Anderson.

Office of the eSafety Commissioner

- Implementation and enforcement of the social media minimum media age restriction, including approaches to compliance, age verification and circumvention (such as VPN use);
- Inclusion of YouTube as an age-restricted social media platform;
- Engagement between the eSafety Commissioner and social media companies;
- Regulation of emerging platforms such as Roblox; and
- International scrutiny, including correspondence from Jim Jordan (US House Judiciary Committee) to the eSafety Commissioner.

Australian Postal Corporation (Australia Post)

- Use of Bank@Post in regional areas where banks may have closed;
- Distribution of illicit tobacco products via Australia Post and related enforcement activity with the Australian Federal Police;
- Remuneration of Australia Post executives;
- Australia Post as a member and signatory to the Universal Postal Union;
- Updates on the suspension of Australia Post services to the United States due to customs and import tariff rule changes; and
- Ownership arrangements relating to licensed post offices.

Creative Australia

- Travel and expenditure of Creative Australia, including international travel expenses of the Creative Australia CEO; and
- Creative Australia's grants process and selected grant recipients.

The committee released the following agencies from the program:

- NBN Co Limited;
- Classification Board;
- Classification Review Board;
- Screen Australia;
- Australian Film, Television and Radio School;
- Museum of Australian Democracy;
- Outcomes 6 and 7 of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts;
- National Gallery of Australia;
- National Archives of Australia; and
- Australian Sports Commission.

This concludes the committee's consideration of the 2025-26 Supplementary Budget Estimates.

Please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 3526 or ec.sen@aph.gov.au if you have any questions.