



Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025–26  
Wednesday, 4 December 2025  
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.16am until 10.49pm.

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

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) – Whole of Portfolio/Corporate Matters

- Status of outstanding questions on notice and information around various government contracts; and
- Viability of the aged care system with specific reference to long-term hospitalisations due to aged care rationing.

DoHDA – Outcome 3: Ageing and Aged Care

- Latest figures surrounding various aged care packages, its composition and associated costings;
- Average wait time for assessments, including appointments for an assessment;
- The 'No Worse Off' principle and limitations currently in place on increases to provider fees;
- Variable approach to assets and income test to determine eligibility of aged care services;
- Negotiations between the Commonwealth and the states and territories in relation to the National Health Reform Agreement;
- Independent auditor's report and annual performance outcomes concerning equitable aged care services;
- Current figures and future projections on number of available residential aged care beds;
- Current figures on individuals subject to the 'grandfathering' arrangement;
- The Australian National Aged Care Classification funding model;
- Turnover in Aged Care facilities per yearly basis;
- Use of AI to inform algorithms and validate tools in assessing aged care records;
- Approvals made to ensure First Nations elders receive timely assessments and access to services; and
- Cost impacts of absorbing the Commonwealth Home Support Program into Support at Home program.

Inspector-General of Aged Care – no questions asked

Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority – no questions asked

### Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission

- Number of providers under investigation or have been challenged on their pricing structures.

### DoHDA – Outcome 1: Health Policy, Access and Support

- Reviews into dental healthcare and prosthetics for individuals suffering from cancer;
- The establishment of the National Oral Health Plan;
- Update on breast screening funding options;
- Therapeutic Goods Administration response to the United States Food and Drug Administration's restrictions to Wild Child laboratories, including sunscreen products;
- Commonwealth Supported Places to medical schools;
- Tobacco excise effect on public health;
- Adequacy of Commonwealth funding to hospitals;
- National Mental Health Commission Suicide and Evaluation Framework;
- Pelvic mesh and associated complications;
- Status of the government's response to the second Senate Tick Bourne Diseases inquiry;
- Correlation between the childhood vaccination schedule and autism, including updates to the US' vaccines and autism page;
- Recent reporting from the Northern Territory government and NT Health on health and care constraints;
- Oversight from government and associated governance structures to assist the delivery of services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- First Nations aged care issues;
- Vaccine testing and use of puberty blocker drugs;
- Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control and its establishment;
- Preservatives in single use injections;
- Adverse events attributed to COVID-19 and other vaccines;
- Records on self-harm within First Nations communities; and
- Proliferation of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders within the Kimberly region.

### National Health and Medical Research Council

- Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes.

### National Blood Authority

- Blood Clotting Factor Concentrate and suspected contaminated haemophilia blood products.

The committee released the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

The committee will next meet 9.00am on Thursday, 4 December 2025 in Senate Committee Room 2S1, calling the Health, Disability and Ageing and Social Services portfolios' outcomes and agencies.

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