



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025–26  
Wednesday, 3 December 2025  
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 7.11pm.

The committee called the Employment and Workplace Relations portfolio, discussing the following topics:

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR)

Cross-portfolio, Corporate and Enabling Services, Cross-portfolio and general matters

- Payroll reconciliation;
- Number of workplace disputes in the department;
- Spending on advertising and promotion of Fee-free TAFE;
- Deloitte's use of AI in consulting work for the department;
- Inquiry into the National Employment Standards;
- Work on reducing spending within the department;
- Use of AI in the department;
- Work on reducing gender segregation;
- Shared decision making with First Nations people; and
- Ministerial appointments.

Outcome 3: Workplace Relations

- Commission of Inquiry into CFMEU Queensland report;
- Voluntary redundancies for individuals with allegations of corrupt conduct;
- National Construction Industry Forum; membership;
- Administration of the CFMEU;
- Right to Work from Home legislation in Victoria and its interaction with Federal Legislation;
- Same Job, Same Pay Act;
- Multi-employer bargaining;
- Closing Loopholes Act - gig workers;
- The rise of general protection claims; and
- Statutory review of the *Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Act 2022*.

Outcome 1: Employment

- Timelines for JobSeekers to be matched with employment
- National Customer Service Line wait times
- Mutual obligations and suspensions of payments
- Targeted Compliance Framework
- Employment service providers

## Outcome 2: Skills and Training (Including Jobs and Skills Australia)

- Apprenticeship programs;
- International student numbers enrolled with Vocational Education and Training providers;
- Enrolments in priority skills areas; and
- Commonwealth funded Fee-Free TAFE places.

## Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman

- Sham contracting;
- Update on complaints from coal miners in the Hunter Valley;
- Numbers of inspectors;
- Complaints the Fair Work Ombudsman has received since the abolition of the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC);
- Investigations in relation to the CFMEU; and
- Contact from small businesses asking for assistance.

## Fair Work Commission

- Administration of the CFMEU;
- Right of Entry permits; and
- Fair Work Commission's jurisdiction over Incolink.

## Safe Work Australia

- Appointment of the CEO of WorkSafe Victoria; and
- Asbestos in wind turbines.

## Australian Skills Quality Authority

- Increase in employee numbers;
- Types of roles for new employees;
- Increase in legal fees; and
- Voluntary retrenchments.

The committee released the Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation and Comcare without questions.

The committee will continue its examination of the 2025-26 Supplementary Budget Estimates at 9.00am on Thursday, 4 October 2025.

Please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 3521 or [eec.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:eec.sen@aph.gov.au) if you have any questions.