



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

The committee met from 9.01am until 8.41pm.

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

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) – Outcome 2: Individual Health Benefits

- GP bulk billing incentives, including the number of bulk billing clinics across the country;
- Biological medicines for the treatment of Crohn's disease and its listings on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme;
- Bulk-billing practices in the ACT and associated interventions, including for MRIs;
- Medicare data and Medicare Urgent Care Clinics;
- Pricing framework for private hospitals;
- Health technology assessment review;
- Listing of Pompe Disease for newborn blood screening tests; and
- Out-of-pocket costs relating to intravitreal eye injections.

Professional Services Review

- Drafting of final reports on doctors.

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

- Progress on the development of the Thriving Kids program;
- Funding for supported independent living;
- I-CAN tool and training of staff;
- Administrative Review Tribunal role under the new planning framework;
- Financial viability of not-for-profit service providers;
- Changes to reviewable decisions;
- Engagement with the community on support needs assessment processes;
- Work of the Fraud Fusion Taskforce;
- Complaints to the NDIA from providers;
- Impact of National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) therapies; and
- NDIA's policy on gathering information on a participant's disability.

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

- APS Capability Review, including strategic capability to meet future demand;
- Machinery of Government changes from Social Services to other portfolios, and consistency of long-term reporting;

- Review of key performance and financial indicators in DSS' 2024-25 Annual Report; and
- Results of the APS/DSS employee census.

#### DSS – Outcome 1: Social Security

- Analysis of various performance targets set out in DSS' 2024-25 Annual Report, including income support recipients;
- Welfare recipients affected by income apportionment;
- Adequacy of income support payments, including Youth Allowance and balancing between work and study;
- Cancellation and suspension of payments on national security and other grounds;
- Child support assessment applications;
- Scenarios in which the partner income test applies; and
- Compulsory Income Management.

#### DSS – Outcome 2: Families and Communities

- Analysis of various performance measures set out in DSS' 2024-25 Annual Report;
- Auditor-General's reporting on the National Redress Scheme;
- The Transition to Independent Living Allowance;
- Families and Children Activity programs consultation
- National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children, including data collection in correction facilities;
- Leaving violence program, its payment pilot and eligible applications received across the program in the ACT; and
- Family violence, children in out-of-home care and youth justice services, particularly in the NT.

The committee released the Australian Institute of Family Studies, Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission, National Commission for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People and all agencies from the Social Services portfolio.

This concludes the committee's examination of the 2025–26 Supplementary Estimates.

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.