



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025–26
Thursday, 4 December 2025
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 7.11pm.

The committee called the Education portfolio, discussing the following topics:

Department of Education

Corporate and Enabling Services

- Efficiency dividends;
- Interim Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC); number of staff supporting ATEC, structure, Memorandum of Understanding, costs associated with ATEC;
- The use of AI in the department;
- International travel undertaken by staff; and
- Responses to questions on notice.

Outcome 1 — Schools and Youth

- National Teacher Workforce Action Plan;
- Bullying in schools - Anti Bullying Rapid Review;
- National Student Wellbeing Program;
- NAPLAN results - boys compared to girls;
- Programme for International Student Assessment results;
- Better and Fairer Schools Agreement; Bilateral agreements;
- Student attendance rate; and
- First Nations Education Policy.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited

- Teacher supply and demand projections;
- National Teacher Workforce Action Plan;
- Teacher workloads; and
- Teacher shortages.

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

- Update on the release of 2025 NAPLAN data;
- Changes to the Australian Curriculum review process;
- Compatibility of the curriculum with home and remote schooling; and
- Cross-curriculum priorities.

Outcome 1 — Early Childhood

- Compliance actions regarding the quality and safety of providers;
- National assessment on the use of CCTV in the Early Childhood Education and Care sector;
- Update on the national early childhood worker register;
- In home care program;
- Building Early Education Fund;
- Progress towards Closing the Gap Outcomes 3 and 4;
- Use of contractors/consultants for projects;
- National Quality Framework;
- Worker shortages;
- Inclusion Support Program;
- Worker retention payment;
- Service delivery prices portal;
- Levels of attendance hours in centres; and
- Data collection.

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority

- Partial assessments for National Quality Standards;
- Rating and assessment of new providers;
- Rapid assessment of safeguarding practices;
- Serious incident complaints; and
- National Educator Register.

Outcome 2 — Higher Education, Research and International

- Australian Tertiary Education Commission; conflict of interest management, appointment of commissioners; implementation consultation;
- Appointment of Professor Mary O'Kane as Chancellor of University of Queensland;
- Universities Accord recommendations;
- Indexation on HECS debts;
- Closing the Gap in tertiary education; and
- International student numbers - National Planning Level.

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)

- Compliance assessment of Australian National University; and
- TEQSA Annual Conference.

The committee released the Australian Research Council without questions.

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

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