



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025-26
Wednesday, 8 October 2025
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.00pm.

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

Corporate Matters and General Questions

- Recent 000 outage and the Departmental and Ministerial response;
- Ministerial arrangements while the Communications Minister was overseas;
- Ministerial engagements with Optus following the 000 outage;
- DITRDCSA's awareness of the Optus 000 outage, and when it was made aware of it; and
- Why the Department of Infrastructure, Transport Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (DITRDCSA) had a defunct email address, how long it has been disused, and why it was used to communicate the 000 outage.

Outcome 5

- The Minister's awareness of the emails sent regarding Optus network outages in SA and WA;
- Work on the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Triple Zero Custodian and Emergency Calling Powers) Bill including timelines of the preparation of the legislation;
- Redactions made to an Order for Production of Documents regarding gambling reform;
- Government response to the Murphy report;
- Regulation of artificial intelligence chatbots;
- Copyright reform;
- Departmental FOI Disclosure Log; and
- Anti-siphoning scheme for streaming platforms.

Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)

- ACMA's awareness of the Optus 000 outage, and when it was made aware of it;
- Communications between the Minister for Communications and the CEO of Optus regarding the 000 Outage;
- Requirements for telecommunications providers to notify ACMA in the event of failed 000 calls;
- Response to the outstanding recommendations made in the Bean Review; and
- Timing of communications between the Minister for Communications' Office and the CEO of Optus.
- ACMA's decision to reject the revised Free TV Code of Practice;
- Companies contacting individuals who have fully self-excluded themselves via the BetStop service and ACMA's review into this matter;

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)

- ABC journalists' exclusion from President Trump press conferences while in the UK;
- Implementation of the ABC's Social Media Policy for employees;
- ABC coverage of events relating to Gaza;
- ABC coverage of crime related events in the Northern Territory;
- ABC coverage of the assassination of Charlie Kirk;
- First Nations staffing levels in the ABC and on the ABC Board;
- Mandatory trainings required for ABC journalists and minimum qualifications;
- Movement of ABC staff to the new Western Sydney Office;
- The accuracy of evidence given by the ABC during the 2018-19 Supplementary Budget Estimates;
- Outcomes of the Lattouf dismissal case; and
- Incidents of Asbestosis in former ABC employees who worked in certain offices.

Special Broadcasting Service Corporation (SBS)

- Terminology used by the SBS in reporting in relation to Palestine;
- SBS Broadcasting of Eurovision; and
- SBS Reporting on the Israel-Gaza conflict.

eSafety Commissioner

- Powers of the eSafety Commissioner to issue takedown notices in relation to certain material;
- Processes behind reporting unclassifiable material online and issuing takedown requests;
- Under 16 Social Media ban;
- Social media companies that are included in the ban, specifically Google and YouTube;
- Consideration of anonymous account sites such as 4Chan under the U16 social media ban;
- Information on individuals retained by the Office of the eSafety Commissioner;
- Actions of the eSafety Commissioner in response to targeted harassment of organisations such as Collective Shout;
- International travel undertaken by the eSafety Commissioner; and
- Interactions between the eSafety Commissioner and the Classification Board.

NBN Co Limited

- NBN Outages in Western Australia.

Creative Australia

- Allegations of anti-Semitism against individuals associated with Creative Australia.

The committee released the following agencies:

- Australian Postal Corporation;
- Screen Australia;
- Australian Film, Television and Radio School;
- Museum of Australian Democracy;
- Outcome 6 of DITRDCA;
- Outcome 7 of DITRDCA;
- National Gallery of Australia;
- Classification Board;
- Australian Sports Commission; and

- Sport Integrity Australia.

The committee will resume its examination of the 2025-26 Supplementary Budget Estimates on Monday, 1 December 2025.

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