



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025–26  
Thursday, 9 October 2025  
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 9.53pm.

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

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR)

Corporate and Enabling Services, Cross-portfolio and general matters

- Update on the underpayment at the department;
- Commissioning of Deloitte to review the Targeted Compliance Framework and the use of AI in the report;
- Spending on consultants;
- Use of AI by consultants contracted by the department;
- Workplace complaints and disputes; and
- Use of Australian Government Consulting.

Outcome 3: Workplace Relations

- Alleged corrupt activity in the infrastructure sector;
- Use of AI in the workplace;
- CFMEU administration;
- Meetings between Minister Rishworth and Mr Zachary Smith (CFMEU Victoria);
- Meetings of the National Construction Industry Forum;
- *Fair Work Amendment (Protecting Penalty and Overtime Rates) Act 2025*;
- *Fair Work Amendment (Closing Loopholes) Act 2024*;
- Portable Leave entitlements;
- Grant programs administered by DEWR; and
- Productivity, Education and Training Fund Grants.

Outcome 1: Employment

- Employment contracts and programs;
- Wait times for employment services;
- Targeted compliance framework alignment with legislative frameworks;
- Suspension of income support payments;
- Workforce Australia;
- Closing the Gap Outcome 8;
- Incorrect suspension and cancellation of payments;
- Deloitte's review of the Targeted Compliance Framework;
- Job service providers;
- Parent Pathways Program; and
- Youth unemployment.

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

- Fee-free TAFE outcomes;
- National Centre for Vocational Education Research report into Government funded students and courses for 2024;
- International Students Pathways and Outcomes Study; and
- Australian apprenticeship training support and priority hiring incentive payments.

## Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman

- Underpayments in the black coal mining sector; and
- Alleged improper and unlawful behaviour on federally funded infrastructure sites.

## Fair Work Commission

- Enterprise Agreements;
- Alleged improper and unlawful behaviour on federally funded infrastructure sites;
- Portable leave entitlements;
- Gender-based undervaluation – priority awards review; and
- Contact between current and former CFMEU senior officials.

## Comcare

- Investigation into the MRH 90 helicopter crash in the Whitsundays; and
- Number of complaints received from APS employees.

## Safe Work Australia

- Work Safe Victoria appointment of Ms Cathy Henderson; and
- Impacts of AI on health and safety in the workplace.

## Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation

- Composition of the Board; and
- Notification from employers about termination of employees.

The committee agreed to release the Australian Skills Quality Authority from the hearing.

The committee will continue its examination of the 2025-26 Supplementary Budget Estimates at 9.00am on Friday, 10 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.