

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

The committee met on Friday, 1 June 2012 from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

The committee called the:

- department and agencies of the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs portfolio, including the Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services, Indigenous Business Australia, and the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
- Department of Health and Ageing
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- ongoing efforts towards closing the gap
- the Northern Territory Emergency Response and the Stronger Futures package of legislation
- negotiations around the National Partnership Agreement
- the Aboriginal Benefits Account
- establishment of Outback Stores
- the Alice Springs transformation plan
- alcohol management strategies
- issues around the reporting and under-reporting of various forms of abuse in Indigenous communities
- remote service delivery
- infrastructure issues for community health workers
- hearing health, hearing promotion strategies and the ear health campaign
- mental health and suicide prevention strategies
- strategies for petrol sniffing and current decisions to not mandate opal fuel
- consultation around the Remote Jobs and Communities program
- local leaders, local elders and mentoring, youth leadership programs
- the home ownership program in remote Australia.