



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Additional Estimates 2018-19  
Monday, 18 February 2019  
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 8.59am to 10.59pm.

The committee called two agencies of the Commonwealth Parliament: the Parliamentary Budget Office and the Department of Parliamentary Services.

The committee also called the department and agencies of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio, including the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Australian Public Service Commission, the Workplace Gender Equality Agency, the department's Office for Women, the Digital Transformation Agency, the Australian National Audit Office, and the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

*Parliamentary Budget Office*

- post-election report of election commitments.

*Department of Parliamentary Services*

- staffing matters, including rostering of security services;
- cybersecurity incident of February 2019;
- Comcare's improvement report regarding the white powder incident; and
- delays in the completion of security upgrades to the entrances of Parliament House.

*Australian Public Service Commission*

- use of contractors in the public service; and
- indigenous employment in the public service.

*Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet*

- caretaker conventions and processes in an election period;
- discussion about the agreement to resettle refugees from offshore detention facilities on Manus Island and Nauru to the United States;
- advice from the Department to the Prime Minister's Office in relation to Senate amendments to the Home Affairs Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2018;
- Prime Minister's involvement in the selection of a new Chair for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation;
- digital alteration of photographs of the Prime Minister published on-line;
- resignation of the Hon Andrew Broad MP as Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister;
- review of the VET system by the department;
- briefings with the Prime Minister relating to the findings of the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry;
- MYEFO;

- upgrades to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices in Sydney and Melbourne and the number of cabinet meetings held outside of Canberra; and
- announcement of the potential move of the Australian Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

*Workplace Gender Equality Agency*

- narrowing of the gender pay gap; and
- strategies to encourage men to take paid parental leave.

*Office for Women (Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet)*

- domestic violence policy; and
- meetings of the Prime Minister with the Office for Women.

*Digital Transformation Agency*

- Australian National Audit Office report (no 24 of 2018-2019) into the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's administration of the Biometric Identification Service project; and
- Minister Keenan's visit to San Francisco.

*Australian National Audit Office*

- Murray-Darling Basin audits;
- 'Section 37' certificates; and
- ANAO budget position.

*Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General*

- funding allocation for the office and media reporting of responses to QoNs;
- process for the selection of the next Governor-General; and
- details regarding the appointment of Mr Paul Singer as Acting Official Secretary.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Tuesday, 19 February 2019 in Senate Committee Room 2S1, to examine the department and agencies of the Finance portfolio.