



Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2018-19
Wednesday, 20 February 2019
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Community Affairs Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.00am until 11.00pm.

The committee called the following entities of the Social Services Portfolio:

- Australian institute of Health and Welfare
- Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission
- Australian Digital Health Agency
- National Mental Health Commission
- National Health Funding Body
- Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority
- Sport Australia

The committee concluded its consideration of the Health Portfolio.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- correspondence from peak bodies to the Minister of Health regarding a funding decision on the Peak and Advisory Bodies Program which did not incorporate CPI rises;
- investigation into allegations of bullying in a Minister's office and the Department of Health's knowledge of that investigation;
- various matters relating to the aged care sector, including: the amount of Australian Government funding being provided for aged care services; specialist dementia care units; availability of increased home care packages; and the transparency of additional fees paid by consumers of residential aged care;
- various matters relating to My Health Record, including: rates of My Health record cancellations and opt-outs; and a My Health Record software bug that created integration challenges with some practice management software;
- various matters relating to mental health, including: suicide prevention initiatives; mental health funding provided to Primary Health Networks; and the interaction of psychosocial supports with the NDIS; and
- licensing of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines, particularly the timing and locations of licenses that have been announced.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Thursday, 21 February in Committee Room 2S1.