



Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2018-19  
Tuesday, 29 May 2018  
Daily summary

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

The committee met from 9.01am until 11.01pm.

The committee called agencies of the Health Portfolio, as follows:

- Department of Health;
- National Mental Health Commission;
- Australian Digital Health Agency;
- National Mental Health Commission;
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand;
- Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority; and
- Australian Sports Commission.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- whole of portfolio matters—2018-19 Budget measures which propose savings and the Health Portfolio initiatives which, as a result of those savings, are proposed to receive increased investment;
- particulars of the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)—including the MRFF's disbursements, strategies for funding research, and the growth of the medical research sector;
- particulars of the operations of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)—including the NHMRC's processes for appointing members to its research advisory committees, interactions with other agencies, and tracking the costs of gene sequencing;
- particulars of the My Health Record initiative—including the demographics of account holders, rates of specialist organisations' accessing the digital health records, marketing efforts, and concerns regarding potentially inappropriate access to individual digital health records;
- Department of Health's involvement with responding to an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- particulars of various mental health initiatives—including the role of Private Health Networks in delivery of mental health services, funding for the National Suicide Prevention Trial, and consultation undertaken by the Department of Health with peak mental health bodies; and
- development of the National Sports Plan and the plan's anticipated released date.

The committee is due to recommence its consideration of the Health Portfolio at 9.00am tomorrow morning, 30 May 2018, commencing with Outcome 4: Individual Health Benefits.