



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2019-20  
Thursday, 4 April 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 9.01am to 11.02pm.

The committee called:

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Outcome 1 and including the Office for Women);
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency; and
- Australian National Audit Office.

Finance Portfolio

- Department of Finance;
- ASC Pty Ltd;
- Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd;
- Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority; and
- Australian Electoral Commission.

Cross-portfolio Indigenous Matters

- Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations;
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Outcome 2); and
- Department of Health.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

*Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Outcome 1)*

- decision-making process for the change in the budget measure for the additional energy assistance payment to include Newstart recipients;
- visit of the Prime Minister to Christmas Island;
- capital expenditure on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices in Sydney and Melbourne;
- preference deals between the Liberal Party and Pauline Hanson's One Nation;
- further information regarding the move of Australia's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem; and
- administration and breaches of the lobbying code of conduct.

*ASC Pty Ltd*

- workforce planning matters; and
- losses in ASC Shipbuilding.

*Department of Finance*

- PEFO;

- budget variations and details of the budget;
- valuation of foreign aid budget;
- staffing matters; and
- processes for addressing violence among staffers.

#### *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority*

- breakdown of IPEA workload.

#### *Australian Electoral Commission*

- review of a question on notice (F0058) about the AEC's information to voters about the renaming of the Division of Denison;
- election preparation timeframes and returning of writs;
- status of the electoral roll and enrolment figures;
- contingency plans for natural disasters during an election; and
- pre-polling.

#### *Workplace Gender Equality Agency*

- parental leave policies.

#### *Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations*

- effects of proposed amendments to the CATSI Act; and
- consultation with stakeholders concerning proposed amendments to the CATSI Act.

#### *Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Outcome 2)*

- budget allocation; and
- commitments to the Uluru statement from the heart & a referendum.

The committee will next meet at **9.00am** on Monday, 8 April 2019 in Senate Committee Room 2S1, to examine the Parliamentary departments and continue the examination of the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio.