



Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2019-20
Friday, 5 April 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 10.19pm.

The committee called:

- Department of Health;
- Australian Digital Health Agency;
- Sports Australia;
- Department of Social Services;
- National Disability Insurance Agency;
- Department of Human Services; and
- Hearing Australia.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- total Australian Government hospital funding, particularly the assumptions underlying a funding graph published on the Department of Health's webpage;
- announcements in the 2019-20 Budget which are new measures to support older Australians, particularly an announcement of home care packages under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme;
- timing of work done by the Department of Social Services to support a decision of government that extended the energy assistance payment to people who receive the Newstart allowance;
- matters relating to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (scheme), including a lower than expected amount of expenditure on the scheme and the quality and timeliness of disability supports participants are receiving through the scheme; and
- work being done by the Department of Human Services to recover debts arising from income support payments.

The committee has further 2019-20 Budget estimates hearings scheduled on 10 April 2019 for the Health Portfolio and 11 April 2019 for the Social Services Portfolio (including the Department of Human Services). If needed, the committee has indicated it may wish to hold a further estimates hearing on 12 April 2019.