



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2018-19  
Monday, 22 October 2018  
Daily summary

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

The committee met from 9.00am to 10.52pm.

The committee called:

- Department of the Senate, Parliamentary Budget Office, Department of Parliamentary Services, and Parliamentary Service Commissioner. There was a suspension to allow senators to attend the national apology to victims of institutional child sexual abuse from 10.45am until midday.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

*Department of the Senate*

- building works and upgrades, including the handling of complaints and feedback in relation to the work at the Senate entrance;
- parliamentary privilege and the use of intrusive powers;
- establishment of a corporate transactions centre to be shared among the four parliamentary departments; and
- upgrades to Senators' suites and the management of security regarding the upgrades.

*Parliamentary Budget Office*

- *2018–19 Budget: medium-term projections*, report no.3 of 2018.

*Department of Parliamentary Services*

- outage of the parliamentary computing network;
- estimated time for conclusion of building works and security upgrades;
- contractors used for building works; and
- magpie attacks in parliamentary gardens.

The committee examined the Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio, and heard evidence from the Australian Public Service Commission, Merit Protection Commissioner, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (outcome 1), Office for Women, and Office of National Assessments.

Topics discussed in this portfolio included:

*Australian Public Service Commission*

- role of the APSC in policy implementation of enterprise bargaining practice reforms; and
- freedom of information requests and access to APSC data.

#### *Merit Protection Commissioner*

- investigation into allegations of misconduct by the former Australian Public Service Commissioner, Mr John Lloyd.

#### *Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Outcome 1:*

- outcome of the Wentworth by-election;
- capacity of the Morrison Government to govern with a minority in the House of Representatives;
- distribution of the Report of the Religious Freedoms Review, including submission of the report to cabinet and distribution to ministers;
- current economic outlook;
- events surrounding the recent change of Prime Minister;
- relocation of Australia's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem;
- Senate order of continuing effect (order 22) regarding former ministers and records of meetings, and the department's management of the Australian Government Register of Lobbyists;
- special envoy roles and provision of staff and resources;
- resource allocations for former Prime Ministers;
- Prime Minister's announcement as part of today's National Apology that the National Office of Child Safety would be moved from the Department of Social Services to the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio; and
- declarations of conflicts of interest and other ministerial standards.

#### *Office for Women*

- future women's economic security statement in Parliament;
- strategy and development plans for women's leadership;
- grants provided by the Office for Women;
- consequences of the review of the Office for Women;
- 4<sup>th</sup> Action Plan for Women;
- gender equality on boards;
- funding and service delivery for 1800-RESPECT; and
- work towards gender equality.

#### *Office of National Assessments*

- transition of the agency to the Office of National Intelligence as a consequence of the *2017 Independent Intelligence Review*; and
- travel arrangements.

The committee will next meet tomorrow, 23 October 2018, at **9.00am** in committee room 2S1.