



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2019-20
Monday, 21 October 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 10.49pm.

The committee called:

Parliamentary Departments

- Department of the Senate;
- Parliamentary Budget Office; and
- Department of Parliamentary Services.

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (including the Office for Women);
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency;
- Australian National Audit Office;
- Australian Public Service Commission;
- Old Parliament House, and
- Office of National Intelligence.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Department of the Senate

- permissions for filming in the restricted areas of Parliament House;
- compliance with orders for the production of documents;
- use of online forms for the Register of Senators' Interests; and
- web and document projects for the Senate Public Information Office.

Parliamentary Budget Office

- analysis of budget risks.

DPS

- Parliament House security measures, including the installation of turnstiles at the Senate and House of Representatives entrances;
- cybersecurity breach of the parliamentary network in February 2019;
- improving accessibility to APH;
- use of food waste;
- regulation of airspace over Parliament House;
- sponsored pass lists; and
- mobile phone reception in Parliament House.

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

- decision of the US to withdraw armed forces from Syria;
- involvement of the Australian Government in the investigation of the US Government into the origins of the Mueller report;
- policy updates of Commonwealth integrity efforts;
- official visit to the United States by the Prime Minister;
- Major-General Day's drought strategy report;
- Special Envoy for the Drought (the Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP);
- involvement of the Department in drought relief;
- Freedom of Information request processes;
- Department's administration of the Prime Minister's *Statement of Ministerial Standards*;
- Government's approach to multi-national organisations;
- resignation of Dr Martin Parkinson AC PSM as Secretary of the department;
- ministerial changes relating to the Special Minister of State; and
- diplomatic appointments.

Office for Women and the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (examined concurrently)

- domestic violence issues;
- development of the fourth action plan of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children*;
- involvement in the review of the women's economic security statement; and
- Minister for Women's trip to Fiji.

Australian National Audit Office

- Parliamentary Privilege issues.

Australian Public Service Commission

- capability building in the APS; and
- APS jobs in regional Australia.

Old Parliament House

- recent portfolio changes; and
- operations of the Museum of Australian Democracy / Old Parliament House.

Office of National Intelligence

- briefings to the Leader of the Opposition under s. 18 of the *Office of National Intelligence Act 2018*; and
- operational matters.

The committee will next meet at **9.00am** on Tuesday, 22 October 2019 in Senate Committee Room 2S1, to examine the Finance portfolio.