



Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2017-18
Thursday, 1 June 2017
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in Community Affairs Committee Estimates.

The committee met from 9.03 am until 11.00 pm.

Within the Social Services Portfolio, the committee heard evidence from the Department of Social Services and the Department of Human Services.

Areas of interest covered today included:

- negotiations with the states and territories regarding bilateral agreements under the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA);
- outcomes of NAHA and an update of recent developments;
- operational practices and contract administration in relation to Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia;
- development and prospective provisions of the Commonwealth Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional childhood sexual abuse;
- the methodology of evaluations used to assess the Cashless Welfare Card (CWC) trial;
- support services existing in conjunction with CWC trial sites;
- funding arrangements for Indigenous Community Development Programs;
- Department of Human Services (DHS) development of policy to support the Better Targeting of Assistance to Support Jobseekers budget measure;
- telephony capacity of DHS' call centres and call wait times;
- job losses and employment profile of DHS' staff; and
- transition of Disability Support Pension recipients to other income support payments.

Today's hearing concludes the committee's examination of the departments and agencies within its portfolio for Budget Estimates 2017-18.