



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2017-18
Monday, 22 May 2017
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings for the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee considering Budget Estimates 2017-18.

The committee met from 9.00am to 11.00pm.

The committee called the parliamentary departments and the following department and agencies of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC) Portfolio (some areas of interest by the committee are listed):

Parliament

- **Department of the Senate** (Recovery of payments to former Senators Day and Culleton; enterprise bargaining process; department's budget appropriation; furniture replacement program; President's recent official travel; President's staffing arrangements).
- **Parliamentary Budget Office** (Completion of Mr Bowen's term as Parliamentary Budget Officer and replacement process; resourcing, including use of seconded staff during peak periods; Independent Review of the PBO commissioned by the Joint Committee on Public Accounts and Audit).
- **Department of Parliamentary Services** (Inadvertent disclosure of parliamentarians' and staff contact details; increase in departmental resourcing and average staffing level; security staffing; Indigenous employee figures; enterprise bargaining process).
- **Parliamentary Service Commissioner** (Appointment of an Acting Parliamentary Service Commissioner in Mr Lloyd's absence in the last year).

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

- **Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General** (Capital works at Admiralty House; monitoring processes for expenditure; advice to the Office regarding the announcement by Buckingham Palace that Prince Phillip would step down from public duties; Order of Australia, including quotas for each level and nomination and selection processes).
- **Independent National Security Legislation Monitor** (Resourcing and staffing)
- **Office of Women [part of PMC]** (Involvement of the Office in the tender process in relation to the 1800 RESPECT helpline; support for a women's budget impact statement; reporting on gender balance on government boards; work towards the G20 target to reduce the gender gap in workforce participation by 25 per cent by 2025).
- **Australian Public Service Commission** (gender neutral bathrooms in APS agencies; APS Gender Equality Strategy 2016-19; APSC knowledge and contact with the

Australian Taxation Office regarding code of conduct inquiries into some staff in regard to alleged fraud; use of labour hire companies in the APS).

- **Australian National Audit Office** (Audit No. 45: Replacement Antarctic Vessel; Audit No. 49: Apprenticeship Training – alternative delivery pilots).
- **Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security** (Staffing; forward work program; IGIS jurisdiction in relation to acts outside Australia).
- **Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman** (Defence Force Ombudsman expanded function to provide for reparation payments under the Defence Abuse Reparation Scheme; investigation into the unlawful access by an AFP officer of a journalist's metadata without a warrant; staffing).