



Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2017-18
Monday, 29 May 2017
Daily summary

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

The committee met from 9.02 am until 10.19 pm.

The committee called agencies of the Health Portfolio, including:

- Australian Digital Health Agency; and
- National Health and Medical Research Council.

Areas of interest covered today included:

- consideration of a prospective hospital funding model by the Department of Health (DOH);
- policy uptake, variations in premiums and government rebates for private health insurance in Australia;
- Commonwealth, state and territory regulation of the prescription of medicinal cannabis;
- an update of DOH's review of the Medicare Benefits Schedule;
- administration of the Medicare rebate and rates of Medicare bulk billing by health professionals;
- DOH's operation and advertisement of the Child Dental Benefits Schedule;
- process for approving High Priority Medicines;
- particulars of the Government's budget initiative—Ban on Cosmetic Testing on Animals;
- supply and availability of the Bexsero vaccine for the treatment of Meningococcal B;
- disbursements of funds under the *Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015*; and
- research grants funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

The committee has further 2017-18 Budget Estimates hearings scheduled for 30 May – 1 June 2017.