



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2024–25
Tuesday, 25 February 2025
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 11.02pm.

The committee called the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio and the Department of Finance portfolio, discussing the following topics:

Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

- Update on students injured at Government House;
- The Governor-General's patronage of charities and other community organisations; and
- Australian honours and awards system, removal of awards for perpetrators of child sexual abuse.

Prime Minister and Cabinet (Office for Women)

- President Trump's diversity and gender inclusion cuts in the United States of America – protection of gender-related roles in Australia; and
- Responses to recommendations from the parliamentary inquiries into Perimenopause and Menopause (Community Affairs References Committee) and Financial Abuse (Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services).

Workplace Gender Equality Agency

- Update on Senator Hume's questions on notice from the 2024 Estimates period;
- Staffing matters including vacancies, turnover, hiring practices, and flexible work arrangements;
- Kent Street office space in Sydney – utilisation and costs;
- Gender equality and diversity of WGEA;
- Actions contained in WGEA's Action Planning Playbook for employers; and
- Coalition dissenting report into the inquiry into WGEA Setting General Equality Targets Bill 2024.

Australian Public Service Commission

- Independence and apolitical nature of the public service;
- Caretaker mode conventions and compliance with requests;
- APS values, codes of conduct and lessons learnt from Robodebt, including APSC measures;
- Code of conduct for Members of Parliament staff and new directions and guidance – confidentiality of code of conduct matters;
- Public service resourcing and distribution across Australia;
- Payment of retention bonuses within the Senior Executive Service; and
- Publication of the Briggs review of the appointment of statutory officer positions.

Department of Finance

- MYEFO allocations, efficiency dividends, contingency reserve and budget timeline;
- Fiscal responsibilities as outlined in Charter of Budget Honesty;
- Transparency in Commonwealth consultancy contracts and diversity inclusion targets (Accenture);
- Government definition of, and procurement in, sovereign capability in the technology sector;
- Inappropriate workplace behaviour incidents and APS Code of Conduct;
- Allocation over the forward estimates for APS pay;
- Government's contract with PsiQuantum;
- Buyer of last resort decision for Rex Airlines;
- Whyalla Steelworks support package; and
- Advertising by non-corporate commonwealth entities.

ASC Pty Ltd

- Developments regarding scoping and procurement for SSN-AUKUS and ORBIS contract
- Training with the United States under the AUKUS agreement
- Collins Class LOTE project progress and impacts of industrial action

Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd

- Update on project construction and planning for the Nuclear-Powered Submarine Construction Yard project.

Future Fund Management Agency

- Composition of the fund's investments and voting decision at the Whitehaven Coal shareholders meeting; and
- Processes around decisions for investments.

Digital Transformation Agency

- Selection of sellers for Digital Marketplace Panel 2; and
- Generative Artificial Intelligence guidelines and transparency standards.

The committee will resume its examination of the 2024–25 Additional Estimates at 8:45am on Friday, 28 February 2025, for the Cross-Portfolio Indigenous Matters.

Please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 5780 or fpa.sen@aph.gov.au if you have any questions.