



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2024-25
Thursday, 27 February 2025
Daily summary

The committee met from 9:01am until 10:35pm

The committee called the Education Portfolio, discussing the following topics:

Corporate and Enabling Services

- Pro-Palestinian protest at Granville Boys High School;
- Funded programs and organisations under Program 1.5 and Program 2.3;
- Funding for Suburban University Study Hubs;
- Transcripts of ministers' press conferences;
- The use of consultants and contractors at the department;
- Labor election commitment of 20 per cent reduction of debt in the Higher Education Loan Program; and
- Use of departmental credit cards.

Outcome 1: Schools

- Education Ministers Meetings;
- Funding for non-Government and Government schools;
- Changes in enrolment numbers between Government and non-Government schools;
- Actions the Department has taken in relation to Brindabella Christian College;
- Bullying policies at non-Government schools;
- Non-Government schools fee increases;
- Attendance rate for the Good to Great Schools program;
- Capacity to Contribute methodology;
- Bilateral funding agreements;
- Comments made by the Principal of Madinah College; and
- Anti-Bullying Rapid Review.

Australian Education Research Organisation

- Preparation of the 2025 Workplan;
- Staffing increases at Australian Education Research Organisation; and
- Findings from the report, *A knowledge-rich approach to curriculum design*, published in 2024.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited

- Workforce projections;
- Teaching standards;
- Implementation of the core curriculum in universities; and
- Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership social media campaigns.

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

- Declining levels of civics and citizenship knowledge of school students;
- Consultations with the teaching industry regarding updating the curriculum;
- Implementation of the curriculum on a state-by-state basis;
- Timeline for the next review of the curriculum.

Outcome 1: Early Childhood and Youth

- Worker retention grant program;
- Child Care Subsidy Activity Test;
- Closure of the Windsor Community Children's Centre;
- \$1 billion Building Early Education Fund;
- Three Day Guarantee;
- Productivity Commission's report: A path to universal early childhood education and care;
- Commonwealth Grants hub; and
- Changes to average hourly fees for early childhood education.

Outcome 2: Higher Education, Research and International

- Australian Tertiary Education Council;
- Research grant awarded to Dr Randa Abdel-Fattah;
- Political interference in the Australian Research Council;
- Universities adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism;
- 82,000 Commonwealth Supported Places;
- Over-enrolments and under-enrolments at universities;
- Regional and Suburban University Study Hubs; and
- Fee-Free Uni Ready Courses.

Australian National University

- Plan to reduce staff expenditure;
- International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and recently adopted Go8 and UA definitions of antisemitism;
- Ongoing budget deficit; and
- Procurement processes at the university.

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

- Recruitment process for the Chief Commissioner; and
- Use of regulatory powers in relation to student safety on campus.

Australian Research Council

- Suspension of Dr Randa Abdel-Fattah's grant; and
- Timeframes for grant applications.

This concludes the committee's examination of Additional Estimates 2024-25.

Please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 3521 or eec.sen@aph.gov.au if you have any questions.