



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2024–25
Thursday, 30 May 2024
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.59pm.

The committee called the following departments and agencies:

- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet—Office for Women
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency
- Australian Public Service Commission
- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet—Australian Government Consulting
- Department of Finance (Outcomes 1 and 2)

Topics discussed by the committee included:

PMC (Office for Women) and the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA)

- UN Commission on the Status of Women and Australian government engagement;
- Average staffing levels at the Office for Women;
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency gender pay gap data and reporting;
- Funding of frontline domestic violence services;
- Rollout of Working for Women gender equality strategy;
- Womens' Alliance funding;
- Rapid review of the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and their Children –decision for establishment, funding, appointment of panel members
- Gendered and economic impacts of Artificial Intelligence;
- Re-thinking Prevention Strategy;
- Proposed Jenkins Independent Parliamentary Standards Commission – draft legislation; and
- Shifting emphasis of the prevention of gendered violence to recognise that it is not exclusively a women's issue, and is a men's issue as well (both in terms of the problem and solution).

Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) and PMC (Australian Government Consulting)

- Robodebt—breach of code of conduct investigations and sanctions;
- APS Commissioner involvement in the declaration and management of a disclosure of a perceived, and then actual, conflict of interest by the DPS Secretary, and advice provided in connect with the incentive to retire package provided to a former;
- Department of Parliamentary Services Deputy Secretary by Services Australia;
- Reform around performance of agency heads and statutory officers;
- APS Academy utilisation and establishment of an academy in Tasmania;
- APSC use of external labour hire and consultants;
- Staffing composition and resourcing of Australian Government Consulting (AGC);
- AGC current projects and future project scoping;
- Whether staff on secondment from the APS to work for a Minister are subject to the APS Code of Conduct, the Ministerial Code of Conduct, or both; and
- Data on Code of Conduct investigations relating to APSC officers.

Department of Finance (Outcomes 1 and 2)

- Introduction of new Budget Process Operational Rules (BPORS);
- Savings from budget reprioritisations and costs that cannot be delayed;
- Environmental considerations regarding Defence Housing Australia's Lee Point project;
- Increased allocation of public service staff to departments and agencies;
- Definition of an 'Australian corporate entity' and of 'small to medium enterprises';
- Rent of electoral offices and procurement of property;
- Advertising expenditure for campaigns communicating government policies (e.g. tax cuts);
- Reviews of consulting partnerships and structures;
- Reviews of unauthorised government information disclosures;
- National Disability Insurance Scheme cost growth and sustainability;
- Live Cattle Trade Ban Class Action;
- Split between the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation and Finance in budget resourcing;
- Appointments to the Board of the National Reconstruction Fund;
- Australian Government investment in PsiQuantum; and
- Overview of Decisions taken but not yet announced (DTBNYA).

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Friday, 31 May 2024 in Committee Room 2S1, for further examination of the Finance Portfolio.