



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2024-25
Tuesday 4 June 2024
Daily summary

The committee met from 9:03am until 9:19pm.

The committee called:

Fair Work Commission, Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman, Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency, Safe Work Australia, Comcare, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations - Skills and Training, Australian Skills Quality Authority, and the National Centre for Vocational Education Research.

Fair Work Commission

- The issuing of right of entry permits;
- Annual Wage Review;
- Right to Disconnect;
- Recent changes to assist the bargaining system;
- Wage rises for early childhood educators;
- Wage theft in the coal mining industry;
- Avenues for workplace support;
- Complaints made about Members of the Commission;
- Estimates Manual for answering Senate Estimates Questions;
- Use of labour hire within the Commission; and
- Raising a dispute with the Commission.

Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman

- Edmond Margjini case;
- Right of Entry Permits;
- Right to Disconnect - use of the \$500 000 provided to the Ombudsman;
- Obligations under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*;
- Self-reporting of underpayment of staff at the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations;
- Answers to Questions on Notice;
- Underpayments of coal miners;
- Site inspections; and
- KPMG Review of the Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman.

SafeWork Australia

- Ban on engineered stone - compensation payments, transition periods.

Comcare

- Independent Medical Examinations.

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

Outcome 2: Skills and Training (Including Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA))

- Advice provided by JSA to the government regarding skill shortages in the construction sector;
- Permanent Migration pathway program and the amount of visas issued that are skilled visas;
- Different fields that are proposed in a draft core skills visa list and the process/reasoning behind selections for the draft list (this came up a few times);
- Interest in the New Energy Apprenticeship program since its announcement in 2022 and its expansion to areas that are not new clean energy projects, incentives to encourage apprentices and trainers/businesses to sign up;
- Grill'd 'hamburger university' receiving funding for apprenticeship programs;
- Fee-free TAFE – enrolments;
- Jobs and Skills Councils;
- Australian Skills Guarantee - Procurement Connected Policy ;
- Future Made in Australia;
- Clean Energy Capacity Study; and
- AUKUS - establishment of skills taskforce, Skills and Training Academy.

Australian Skills Quality Authority

- Annual registration for training providers;
- Applications to become a Registered Training Organisation; and
- Meeting of performance targets.

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

- Engagement with the Minister for Skills and Training;
- Engagement with unions; and
- Changes in the number of women up taking traineeships.

Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency

- Released from the hearing without questions.

The committee will next meet tomorrow, Wednesday 5 June in Committee Room 2S3 for examination of the Education portfolio.