



Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2024–25
Thursday, 6 June 2024
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 8.30pm.

The Committee called the following agencies of the Health and Aged Care Portfolio:

- Professional Services Review;
- Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission;
- Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority;
- Inspector-General of Aged Care;
- Australian Sports Commission; and
- Sport Integrity Australia (Dismissed without questions).

Some topics discussed by the committee included:

DoHAC – Outcome 2: Individual Health Benefits

- Bulk-billing, including rates of attendance, incentives, payroll tax;
- General Use Items, including advice around removal from Prescription List;
- National Diabetes Services Scheme, including tender for subsidised products;
- Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement, including payments;
- Cost of surgery, with particular reference to ACT;
- Payments related to double-dispensed medicines, including the PBS and PBS scripts;
- Freezing of the co-payment on both concessional and non-concessional medicines;
- Medicare rebates for consultations on vaccines;
- Update on medicines listings;
- Access to Neuroblastoma treatment, particularly Difluoromethylornithine (DFMO);
- Treatments to cystic fibrosis for children, particularly early access to Trikafta;
- Insulin Pump Program for Type 1 Diabetes, including its tender process;
- Menopausal hormone therapies;
- Workshop supply services of Copper IUD's and how they can be subsidised;
- Introduction of the new Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item for endometriosis and pelvic pain;
- Provision of \$377.3 million funding for opioid dependence treatment;
- Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review;
- Consultancy in relation to the Spinal Cord Stimulator review of comparative clinical and cost effectiveness; and
- Amendments to the MBS pathology items in line with the recommendations of the MBS Review Task Force.
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Professional Services Review

- Administrative investigations of doctors conducted by the Professional Services Review.

DoHAC – Outcome 3: Ageing and Aged Care

- ICT infrastructure budget of up to \$1.4 billion;

- Aged Care Contact Centre;
- Future Fit Program, including IP, contracts, relationship with Miles Morgan Australia;
- Home Care Packages, including waitlists, statistics;
- Supported Homes program, including timeline;
- Aged Care wage increase, including oversight, current status;
- Release of public data, including provider obligations;
- CHSP packages, including costs, variations, waitlists, unspent funds;
- ACAT assessments, including geographic disparities, waiting times;
- Current care minutes, including the number of enrolled and registered nurses;
- Exposure draft of the new Aged Care Act, including civil and criminal penalties pertaining to misconduct;
- Finance reporting embedded within the My Aged Care website;
- The aged care capital assistance program; and
- Labour agreements.

Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission

- Outcomes of 2023 audits, including current state of non-compliance, ratings, sanctions;
- Compliance with requirements for 24/7 nurses; and
- Complaints mechanism related to the new Aged Care Act.

Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority

- Allocation of funds;
- Direction from ministers; and
- Transparency, including frameworks and public information.

Inspector-General of Aged Care

- Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety; and
- Meetings with minister.

DoHAC – Outcome 4: Sport and Physical Activity

- Brisbane Olympics;
- World Beach Volleyball Championship;
- Staffing levels;
- Netball World Cup;
- Unannounced decisions allocated funds in Budget, with reference to high-performance strategy;
- Win Well Strategy;
- Impact of climate change, specifically increased heat, on athletes and events;
- Sustainability;
- Prime Minister's Olympic Dinner;
- Review of *Australian Sports Commission Act 1989*, including consultation; and
- Women's sport, including funding, with particular reference to Netball Australia.

Australian Sports Commission

- Funding, with particular reference to certainty;
- Risk Management Strategies; and
- Upgrade of AIS, including funding and process.