



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2024–25
Friday, 7 June 2024
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 4.40pm.

The committee called the following departments and agencies:

- National Indigenous Australians Agency
- Attorney-General's Department
- Department of Education
- Department of Health and Aged Care
- Department of Social Services
- Anindilyakwa Land Council
- Central Land Council
- Northern Land Council
- Tiwi Land Council
- Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
- Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation
- Outback Stores Pty Ltd
- Indigenous Business Australia
- Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation
- Office of Township Leasing

The committee released:

- Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council
- Torres Strait Regional Authority
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- Aboriginal Hostels Limited

Topics discussed by the committee included:

National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and Cross-portfolio Departments

- Indigenous Justice Reinvestment Program, Justice Policy Partnership, and The Time to Work Employment Service;
- Housing and the role of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association (NATSIHA) Community-Controlled Housing;
- Transformation of a men's shed to a tribal area in Halls Creek;
- Plan to end gender-based violence against First Nations women;
- NIAA Fraud and Corruption Control System;
- North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA);
- Ceduna Clinic, Yadu Health Aboriginal Corporation funding;
- Commonwealth Child Safe Framework;
- National Partnership Agreement: Cultural capability within the NT primary healthcare system;
- First Nations mental health and health workforce development Budget measures;
- Funding of EON Foundation;

- Referendum expenditure and reallocation of \$20 million from the Voice;
- Indigenous procurement policy, awarding business to First Nations people; and
- Reduction of NIAA's closing the gap budget and reallocation to new closing the gap measures.

Anindilyakwa (ALC), Central (CLC), Northern (NLC) and Tiwi (TLC) Land Councils

- Volume and process for assessing development proposals;
- Travel arrangements for agencies attending Senate Estimates;
- Fraud control measures, compliance, and conflicts of interest regarding Winchelsea Mine (ALC) and Covid stimulus spending (NLC);
- Land councils' involvement with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework; and
- Conflicts of interest records regarding Winchelsea mine and ALC executives.

Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC)

- Possible enforcement of the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework by ORIC;
- The publication of financial information and funding published on ORIC's website;
- Director identification numbers and enforcement of regulations around director registration; and
- Investigations into Indigenous Corporations regarding fraud and governance issues.

Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation

- Update on the National Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy; developments to regional strategies, evaluation of leadership roles for Indigenous people;
- Budget allocations to Land and Culture;
- Interplay with Landmark treaty, coverage of intellectual rights and traditional indigenous environmental knowledge;
- Review of operational assets of resorts and future operators in Yulara, Ayers Rock Resort; and
- Negotiation with ANZ Bank regarding \$170 million debt and terms of loan extension.

Outback Stores Pty Ltd

- Costs of products that cater to regional circumstances low, e.g. long-life milk and products of concern e.g. tobacco;
- Differences across regional areas in stock sales; and
- Heightened food insecurity since 2020.

Indigenous Business Australia, Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation, and Office of Township Leasing

- Higher-classification for APS staffing;
- Number of businesses currently supported by the IBA;
- Impact of cost-of-living crisis and housing prices on the operations of the IBA; and
- NTAIC reporting frameworks and timings.