



Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2024–25  
Tuesday, 2 July 2024  
Daily summary

The committee met from 7:02pm until 10.00pm.

The committee called: The Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Department of Veterans' Affairs

- Addressing the claims backlog and permanent impairment claims;
- Vandalism of commemoration sites;
- Draft Veterans' Entitlement Support and Harmonisation Bills;
- Comparison of non-ongoing contract staff and labour hire staff and contracting arrangements between Department of Veterans' Affairs and consulting firms;
- Damage to overseas war graves in Gaza;
- Promotion of Open Arms National Manager and complaint before the National Anti-Corruption Commission;
- Investigating claims of blast exposure (brain injuries received from blast from weapon); and
- Department of Veterans' Affairs future involvement in the proposal to recruit overseas nationals into the Australian Defence Force.

This concludes the examination of the spillover hearing of the 2024-25 Budget Estimates for the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee.