



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2024-25
Thursday 7 November 2024
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.01am until 10.18pm

The committee called: Department of Education, Australian Education Research Organisation, Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited, Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, Australian National University, Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, and Australian Research Council.

Department of Education

Corporate and Enabling Services

- Non-disclosure agreements;
- Publication of grants;
- Be That Teacher campaign outcome;
- Breaches of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*; and
- Underspend in programs.

Outcome 1: Schools

- Capital grants program;
- Recurrent Commonwealth funding for government and non-government schools;
- Consent education in schools;
- Better and Fairer Schools Agreement; status of negotiations, National Reform Directions;
- Full funding of government schools; SRS calculations;
- Capacity to Contribute calculations;
- Private school fees;
- Financial hardship policies in non-government and government schools;
- Bullying and harassment in non-government schools;
- Cranbrook School investigation;
- Brindabella Christian College investigation;
- Private school principal salaries;
- High Achieving Teachers Program;
- Good to Great Schools program;
- National Teacher Workforce Action Plan;
- The use of artificial intelligence in schools;
- National Student Wellbeing Program;
- Teacher scholarships; and
- Northern Territory Local Jobs Fund.

Australian Education Research Organisations

- Evidence-based teaching; and
- Professional development for teachers.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership

- Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

- NAPLAN standards;
- Students' literacy and numeracy skills;
- Influence of politics on curriculum;
- Cross-curriculum priorities and general capabilities; and
- Curriculum resources provided to teachers.

Outcome 1: Early Childhood and Youth

- Early childhood centres in Tasmania;
- Productivity Commission report;
- Out-of-pocket costs for parents for early childhood education;
- Early childhood education care workforce;
- Commonwealth Prac Payment for early childhood educators;
- Contract between the Department of Education and KU Children's Services;
- Investigations into Child Care Subsidy fraud;
- Cost of removal of the activity test;
- Wage retention grants;
- Wage increases for early childhood educators;
- Child Care Subsidy rules;
- Large provider reporting responsibilities;
- Community Child Care Fund;
- Office of Youth; staffing, Annual Youth Forum;
- Closing the Gap targets; and
- Closure of Gardiner Preschool.

Outcome 2: Higher Education, Research and International

- Education Services for Overseas Students (Quality and Integrity) Bill 2024; impact on jobs in the sector, indicative new overseas student commencement;
- Australian Labor Party election promise on wiping 20% of student HECS debt and changing repayment rates; cost of the policy;
- Indexation on HECS debt;
- National Student Ombudsman;
- National Higher Education Code to prevent and respond to gender-based violence; and
- Complaints received by the department in relation to antisemitism on university campuses.

Australian National University

- Shareholdings in BAE holdings;
- Security tools used on campus;
- Projected deficit of \$200 million; 5 change plans;
- Investigation into artwork that was stolen from Shababeek Memorial Gallery;
- Number of First Nations students at ANU;
- Disciplinary action against students; and
- Security costs in relation to Pro-Palestinian encampments.

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

- 2023 compliance report; and
- Impact of the Education Services for Overseas Students (Quality and Integrity) Bill 2024 on providers.

Australian Research Council

- Funding for research grants;
- Research project involving Dr.Randa Abdel-Fattah;
- Releasing of the Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards; and
- Peer review assessment process.