

Executive summary

On 24 June 2025, the Honourable David Janetzki MP, Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership introduced the Appropriation Bill 2025 (Bill) into the Legislative Assembly. The Bill was referred to the portfolio committees of the Legislative Assembly, including the Education, Arts and Communities Committee (the committee) for consideration.

The estimates process is one of the key mechanisms to examine government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. By examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Bill, the committee assists the Parliament in its scrutiny of the Government's proposed expenditure.

The total appropriation for 2025–26 is \$105,417,248,000.¹

The committee's examination of the Bill is in relation to the:

- Department of Education
- Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism
- Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety.²

The committee conducted public hearings and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the:

- Minister for Education and the Arts and other witnesses on 7 August 2025
- Minister for Women, Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism and other witnesses on 7 August 2025
- Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and other witnesses on 7 August 2025.

This report summarises the estimates referred to the committee and highlights some of the issues the committee examined including information contained in the:

- budget papers
- answers to pre-hearing questions on notice
- evidence taken at the hearing.

The committee made one recommendation (found at page 3 of this report): that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Bill for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

¹ Appropriation Bill 2025, s 2.

² Standing Orders, sch 6; Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 1.