

The Senate

Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee

Annual Report 2017-18

December 2018

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ISSN 1839-9630 (print)

ISSN 1839-9649 (online)

This document was produced by the Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee, and printed by the Senate Printing Unit, Parliament House, Canberra

Members of the Committee

The President of the Senate, Senator the Hon. Scott Ryan (Chair)

The Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Sue Lines

The Leader of the Government in the Senate, Senator the Hon. Matthias Cormann

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator the Hon. Penny Wong

Senator the Hon Jacinta Collins

Senator the Hon. Mitch Fifield

Senator James McGrath

Senator Dean Smith

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The Committee

The Standing Committee on Appropriations, Staffing and Security, appointed under standing order 19, determines the amounts for inclusion in the parliamentary appropriation bills and reports to the Senate on its determinations prior to the Senate's consideration of those bills.

The Committee examines matters affecting the staffing and administration of the Department of the Senate, including proposals to vary the staffing structure, and other matters referred to it by the Senate. The Committee makes an annual report to the Senate on the operations of the Senate's appropriations and staffing and related matters (standing order 19(3)).

Under standing order 19(3)(d), the Committee has the explicit capacity to scrutinise security funding and administration and to advise the President and the Senate as appropriate. Under a resolution of the Senate agreed to in 1987 the Committee also examines proposed changes in the structure and responsibilities of the parliamentary departments and, following the adoption by the Senate on 27 November 2012 of the recommendation in the Committee's 54th Report, the Committee may advise the President and the Senate on the administration and funding of information and communications technology services for the Parliament.

The Committee is chaired by the President and includes the Deputy President and the Senate Leaders of the Government and the Opposition as *ex officio* members.

Secretary

(James Warmenhoven)

Annual Report 2017-18

Introduction

1.1 The Standing Committee on Appropriations, Staffing and Security is appointed under Senate standing order 19. The Committee inquires into:

- proposals for the annual estimates and the additional estimates for the Senate;
- proposals to vary the staff structure of the Senate, and staffing and recruitment policies; and
- other matters as are referred by the Senate.

1.2 Following the Senate's adoption in March 2015 of the recommendations of the Procedure Committee in its *First Report of 2015*, the name of the Committee was changed from the Appropriations and Staffing Committee to the Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee.

1.3 Standing order 19(3)(d) was also amended, giving the Committee the capacity to consider the administration, operation and funding of security measures affecting the Senate and advise the President and the Senate as appropriate.¹

1.4 Under a resolution of the Senate agreed to in 1987 the Committee also examines proposed changes in the structure and responsibilities of the parliamentary departments and, following the adoption by the Senate on 27 November 2012 of the recommendation in the Committee's 54th Report, the Committee may advise the President and the Senate on the administration and funding of information and communications technology services for the Parliament.

1.5 Under standing order 19(3)(c) the Committee is required to make an annual report to the Senate on the operations of the Senate's appropriations and staffing and related matters.

1.6 The Committee is chaired by the President of the Senate and includes the Deputy President and 8 other senators. The Senate Leaders of the Government and the Opposition are *ex officio* members.²

1 *Journals of the Senate*, No 89, 25 March 2015, pp 2412-13

2 Senate Standing Order 19(4).

Committee membership

1.7 During the year, following the dissolution of the Senate on 9 May 2016, the following senators were Committee members:

- The President of the Senate, Senator the Hon. Stephen Parry (Chair) (until 2 November 2017)
- The President of the Senate, Senator the Hon. Scott Ryan (Chair) (from 13 November 2017)
- The Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Sue Lines
- The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator the Hon. George Brandis) (until 5 February 2018)
- The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator the Hon. Matthias Cormann) (from 5 February 2018)
- The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator the Hon. Penny Wong)
- Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham (from 5 February 2018; discharged 10 September 2018)
- Senator the Hon. Jacinta Collins
- Senator David Fawcett (discharged 10 September 2018)
- Senator the Hon. Mitch Fifield (discharged on 5 February 2018; reappointed on 10 September 2018)
- Senator Katy Gallagher (until 9 May 2018)
- Senator the Hon James McGrath (appointed 10 September 2018)
- Senator Dean Smith

Committee activities

1.8 During the reporting period, the Committee tabled two reports:

- the Committee's *Annual Report for 2016-17* (tabled on 19 October 2017) and;
- the Committee's 60th report entitled *Estimates for the Department of the Senate 2018-19* (tabled on 19 June 2018).

1.9 The Committee met on two occasions. At its meeting on 17 August 2017, the Committee:

- noted the Department's financial statement for fourth quarter of the 2016-17 financial year;
- approved the Committee's 2016-17 draft Annual Report;

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- received a briefing on the renegotiation of the Parliament House Cleaning Contract from the Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services (Mr Rob Stefanic) and Mr Paul Cooper; and
 - received a briefing on security capital works from Mr Stefanic and Mr Cooper.

1.10 At its meeting on 22 March 2018, the Committee:

- discussed the proposed revision of the CCTV Policy for Parliament House, noting that the policy would be further refined following discussion with the Privileges Committee;
- received a security capital works update from the Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services (Mr Stefanic); and
- noted the Department's financial statement for the second quarter of the 2017-18 financial year.

Senator the Hon Scott Ryan

Chair

December 2018