Committees administered by the Senate Committee Office

Introduction

During the reporting period, the Senate Committee Office provided staffing and resources for the following committees:

- Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committees;
- Specific Joint Statutory Committees; and
- Senate Select Committees

Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committees

As indicated above, each Senate Standing Committee comprises a Legislation Committee and a References Committee. Under Senate Standing Orders, these Committees are re-established at the beginning of each Parliament and "stand ready" to inquire into and report on those matters relevant to their portfolio/subject area. Under Senate Standing Orders, Legislation Committees are established to inquire into and report on Bills, estimates, annual reports and the performance of government departments and agencies. References Committees inquire into and report on all other matters, generally broader policy issues.

The Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committees and the relevant portfolio/subject areas allocated to them are as follows:

Community Affairs • Legislation • References	Health and Ageing Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Economics • Legislation • References	Treasury Industry, Tourism and Resources
Employment, Workplace Relations and Education • Legislation • References	Education, Science and Training Employment and Workplace Relations

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts • Legislation • References	Environment and Heritage Communications and Information Technology and the Arts
Finance and Public Administration • Legislation • References	Parliament Prime Minister and Cabinet Finance and Administration Human Services
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade • Legislation • References	Foreign Affairs and Trade Defence (including Veterans' Affairs)
Legal and Constitutional • Legislation • References	Attorney-General Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport • Legislation • References	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Transport and Regional Services

Joint Statutory Committees

During the reporting period, the Senate Committee Office also administered three Joint Statutory Committees comprising members of the House of Representatives and Senators. These are:

- Australian Crime Commission
- Corporations and Financial Services; and
- Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Account

Senate Select Committee

During the reporting period, the Senate Committee Office provided staffing and resources for the Select Committee on Mental Health (appointed 8 March 2005).