



Departmental overview

Role

The department's role is to serve the Senate and its committees, and its functions are almost entirely determined by their activities. In supporting the operations of the Senate and its committees, the department provides services in four main categories: Senate support, committee support, senators' services, and public education and awareness.

The department is responsible to the Senate and all senators, and maintains complete impartiality in serving senators from all political parties and independent senators.

Aim and objectives

As stated in the department's corporate plan, our aim is:

To provide effective services to support the functioning of the Senate, and its committees, as a House of the Commonwealth Parliament.

Within that broad aim, our objectives are to:

- maintain and improve services to the Senate, its committees, senators and other users of departmental resources
- ensure the highest standard of accurate and prompt procedural advice
- further develop our expertise in the constitutional and procedural bases of the Senate and its committees
- publish a range of practical, procedural resources on the work of the Senate and the Parliament
- produce and deliver effective education and information programs
- maximise awareness of and access to the department's services and information resources.

Organisational structure

The department is responsible to the Senate through the President of the Senate, Senator the Honourable Paul Calvert.

The Secretary of the department is the Clerk of the Senate, Mr Harry Evans.

The department is organised into five offices:

- Clerk's Office, which provides procedural and constitutional advice in relation to the proceedings of the Senate and its committees, strategic direction for the department and secretariat support for the Procedure Committee, the Committee of Privileges and the Committee of Senators' Interests; and maintains the Register of Senators' Interests
- Table Office, which provides procedural advice and programming services; processes legislation and documents, and archives records of the Senate; produces formal and informal records of Senate business; provides an inquiries service; and provides secretariat support to a collection of domestic committees

- Procedure Office, which provides advisory and drafting services to non-government senators, secretariat support for the legislative scrutiny committees and policy support for interparliamentary relations; conducts parliamentary research; and promotes community awareness and knowledge of the Senate and the Parliament
- Committee Office, which provides secretariat support for most Senate and certain joint committees and strives to increase the public's awareness of the work of committees
- Black Rod's Office, which provides office, information technology, printing and ceremonial support services, and human resource, financial and records management services, for senators and departmental staff; and provides security advice.

Figure 1 identifies the elements that make up each of the offices. Contact details of office-holders and senior officers of the department are listed in Appendix 1, together with other contact information.

There were no significant changes to the organisational structure during 2005–06.

Figure 1 **Organisational structure, 30 June 2006**

<p>President of the Senate (Senator the Honourable Paul Calvert)</p>			
<p>Clerk's Office Clerk of the Senate (<i>Harry Evans</i>) Deputy Clerk (<i>Rosemary Laing</i>)</p>			
<p>Table Office Clerk Assistant (<i>Richard Pye</i>)</p>	<p>Procedure Office Clerk Assistant (<i>Cleaver Elliott</i>)</p>	<p>Committee Office Clerk Assistant (<i>John Vander Wyk</i>)</p>	<p>Black Rod's Office Usher of the Black Rod (<i>Andrea Griffiths</i>)</p>
<p>Journals and Notice Paper Section</p>	<p>Legislative Scrutiny Committees</p>	<p>Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committees (References and Legislation Committees)</p>	<p>Senators' Services Section</p>
<p>Legislation and Documents Section</p>	<p>Research Section</p>	<p>Select Committees</p>	<p>Information Technology Section</p>
	<p>Biographical Dictionary Unit</p>	<p>Certain Joint Committees</p>	<p>Human Resource Management Section</p>
	<p>Parliamentary Education Office^a</p>		<p>Financial Management Section</p>
	<p>Parliamentary Relations Office^b</p>		<p>Security advice</p>
			<p>President's Office^c</p>

a Jointly funded by the department and the Department of the House of Representatives.

b Jointly funded by the department and the Department of the House of Representatives and administered by the Department of the House of Representatives.

c Included in this program for budgetary purposes only.

Outcome and output structure

Figure 2 illustrates the relationship between the department's organisational and output structures, and summarises the outputs delivered by each output group. A detailed statement of each set of outputs is provided at the beginning of each output group's report on performance.

Figure 2 Output structure, 30 June 2006

