
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Appropriations and Administration Committee

House of Representatives
Annual Report 2015-2016

November 2016
Canberra

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Membership of the Committee – 45th Parliament

Chair	Hon Tony Smith MP
Deputy Chair	Ms Julie Owens MP
Members	Mr Ross Hart MP
	Mr Chris Hayes MP
	Ms Nola Marino MP
	Mr Rob Mitchell MP
	Mr Ben Morton MP
	Mr Rowan Ramsey MP
	Mr Bert van Manen MP
Secretary	Mr James Catchpole
Researcher	Ms Kay Saunders

Membership of the Committee – 44th Parliament

Chair	Hon Tony Smith MP	
Deputy Chair	Ms Julie Owens MP	
Members	Mr Russell Broadbent MP	
	Mr Scott Buchholz MP	(from 13 May 2015 to 26 November 2015)
	Ms Sharon Claydon MP	
	Mr Mark Coulton MP	
	Ms Jill Hall MP	
	Mr Chris Hayes MP	
	Ms Nola Marino MP	(from 26 November 2015)
	Mr Ken O'Dowd MP	
	Hon Philip Ruddock MP	(from 3 December 2013 to 13 May 2015)
	Secretary	Ms Bronwyn Notzon
Research	Ms Kay Saunders	

Annual Report 2015-2016

The Committee

- 1.1 The Standing Committee on Appropriations and Administration, appointed under standing order 222A considers estimates of the funding required for the operation of the Department of the House of Representatives for each year. The Committee provides its estimates of amounts for inclusion in the appropriation and supply bills for the Department to the Speaker for presentation to the House and transmission to the Minister for Finance.
- 1.2 The Committee also considers proposals for changes to the administration of the Department of the House of Representatives or variations to services provided by the Department; other matters of finance or services as may be referred to it by the Speaker or the House; the administration and funding of security measures affecting the House; and proposals for works in the parliamentary precincts that are subject to parliamentary approval. The Committee reports on these matters to the Speaker or the House, as appropriate.
- 1.3 The Committee may confer with the Senate Standing Committee on Appropriations, Staffing and Security to consider estimates of the funding required for the operation of the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) each year. The Committee may provide to the Speaker for presentation to the House and transmission to the Minister for Finance, estimates of amounts for inclusion in appropriation and supply bills for DPS. The two committees did not confer in this manner in 2015-16.

- 1.4 Standing order 222A(a)(vi) requires the Committee to make an annual report to the House on its operations. The reporting period of 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, the subject of this report, fell largely within the 44th Parliament which ceased to exist at its dissolution by the Governor General on 9 May 2016. The Appropriations and Administration Committee of the 44th Parliament was established on 12 November 2013 and automatically ceased to exist at the dissolution of the House of Representatives on 9 May 2016.
- 1.5 The members of the Committee of the 44th Parliament are listed in the front pages of this report, as are the members of the current Committee of the 45th Parliament.

Reports

- 1.6 In 2015-2016, the Committee of the 44th Parliament tabled two reports:
- *Report no. 10- Annual Report 2014-2015; and*
 - *Report no. 11 - Budget Estimates 2016-2017 for the Department of the House of Representatives.*

Report no. 11

- 1.7 Report no. 11 was presented in accordance with standing order 222A(a)(ii) which requires the Committee to provide to the Speaker for presentation to the House the amounts for inclusion in the appropriation bills for the Department of the House of Representatives. The report was tabled in the House on Thursday 5 May 2016 following the presentation of the Budget. In summary, the total appropriation to be approved by the Parliament for the Department of the House of Representatives in the Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2016-2017 was \$25.123m, compared to \$22.134m in 2015-16.
- 1.8 During the year, the Committee had endorsed a number of funding proposals – additional resources to support the work of committees; support for parliamentary publications and systems; funding for capacity building and for departmental operations more generally. As part of this endorsement the Chair of the Committee wrote to the Prime Minister outlining these proposals.
- 1.9 In response, the Government provided additional funding to alleviate the immediate pressure on the Department's budget.

Meetings of the Committee of the 44th Parliament

- 1.10 During the reporting period the Committee met twice, on 2 December 2015 and 4 May 2016.
- 1.11 The following were among the matters considered at the meetings:
- discussions between the Presiding Officers and the government about an independent funding model for the parliamentary departments
 - the Department's current financial position and future budget projections, including the financial impact of successive efficiency dividends on the Department
 - new funding requirements for the Department.

Comment by the Committee of the 45th Parliament

- 1.12 The Appropriations and Administration Committee was established again in the 45th Parliament on 30 August 2016. The current Committee will comment in subsequent reports on the passage of the *Supply (Parliamentary Departments) Act (No. 1) 2016-2017* assented to on 4 May 2016, late in the 44th Parliament, and the associated Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Act (No. 1) 2016-2017 assented to in the 45th Parliament.
- 1.13 The Committee of the 45th Parliament has many members who served on the Committee in the previous Parliament and the current members, continuing and new, look forward to fulfilling the Committee's responsibilities in the 2016-17 financial year.

Hon Tony Smith MP
Chair

November 2016