



SENATE  
REPORT

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# Appropriations and Staffing Committee

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A governance structure for Parliamentary  
ICT services

54<sup>th</sup> report

November 2012

The Senate

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## **Members of the Committee**

The President of the Senate, Senator the Hon. John Hogg (Chairman)

The Leader of the Government in the Senate, Senator the Hon. Chris Evans

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator the Hon. Eric Abetz

Senator the Hon. Jacinta Collins

Senator the Hon. John Faulkner

Senator Stephen Parry

Senator Lisa Singh

Senator John Williams

Senator Nick Xenophon

## **The Committee**

The Standing Committee on Appropriations and Staffing, 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)).

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.

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

## **Secretary**

James Warmenhoven  
Senate Table Office



# 54th Report

## Introduction

In November 2011, the Presiding Officers agreed to undertake a review of the management and delivery of information and communication technology (ICT) related services and equipment to the Parliament. The Report on the review (the Roche Report) was delivered to the Presiding Officers in August 2012.

## A governance structure for the provision of ICT to the Parliament

A central recommendation in the Roche Report was that a Parliamentary ICT Advisory Board be established to, among other things, oversee the development of a Strategic Plan for Parliamentary ICT by the Chief Information Officer, provide guidance to the Chief Information Officer on overall strategic objectives and required outcomes, and approve IT security policy and oversight network security.

It is the intention of the Presiding Officers that the Senate Appropriations and Staffing Committee and the House Appropriations and Administration Committee will jointly play a high-level role in the future architecture of governance in relation to the provision of ICT to the Parliament – and particularly in relation to the funding and administration of those services. To enable this role to be undertaken, it is important that the committees are able to meet jointly.

Senate Standing Order 40(1) provides that Senate committees may meet with committees of the House of Representatives only by order of the Senate. It is expected that such orders will be sought on a case-by-case basis.

However, some committees which generally conduct their business as joint committees are specifically empowered to “confer and sit as a joint committee with” their House of Representatives counterpart. For example, the House Committee is so authorised under Standing Order 21(1); the Senators’ Interests Committee is so authorised under Standing Order 22A(8) and the Publications Committee is so authorised under Standing Order 22(1). Standing Order 22(3) further provides that the Publications Committee has certain powers when sitting with its House of Representatives counterpart.

Given the ongoing nature of the proposed governance role to be undertaken by the two committees, it is proposed that Standing Order 19, which establishes the Appropriations and Staffing Committee, be amended to authorise the Committee to confer and sit as a joint committee with the its House of Representatives counterpart.

The terms of the proposed amendments are appended to this report as Attachment A.

## **Recommendation**

The committee recommends that the Senate adopt the amendments to Standing Order 19 proposed in this report.

Senator the Hon John Hogg  
Chairman

November 2012

## **Attachment A**

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDER 19**

At the end of paragraph (3), add:

- (e) when conferring with a similar committee of the House of Representatives, consider the administration and funding of information and communications technology services for the Parliament, and advise the President and the Senate as appropriate.

After paragraph (9), insert:

- (9A) For the purposes of paragraph (3)(e), the committee shall have power to confer with a similar committee of the House of Representatives.