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The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

# Appropriations and Administration Committee

House of Representatives  
Annual Report 2017-2018

October 2018  
Canberra

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## Membership of the Committee – 45<sup>th</sup> Parliament

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

## Annual Report 2017-2018

### 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 2017-18.

- 1.4 Standing order 222A(a)(vi) requires the Committee to make an annual report to the House on its operations, the subject of this report being the reporting period of 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

## Reports

- 1.5 In 2017-2018, the Committee tabled two reports:
- *Report no.14 – Annual Report 2016-2017; and*
  - *Report no. 15 - Budget Estimates 2018-2019 for the Department of the House of Representatives.*

### *Report no. 15*

- 1.6 Report no. 15 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 10 May 2018 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) 2018-2019 was \$25.063m, compared to \$25.202m in 2017-18.
- 1.7 The Committee was pleased to note that the Department had secured supplementary funding over four years commencing in 2017-18 which is enabling the Department to strengthen its procedural capacity and to provide further support to parliamentary committees administered by the Department.

## Meetings of the Committee of the 45<sup>th</sup> Parliament

- 1.8 During the reporting period the Committee met four times, on 6 September 2017 and 28 February, 28 March and 9 May 2018.
- 1.9 The following were among the matters considered at the meetings:
- Security related capital works at Parliament House with particular reference to the House of Representatives wing.
  - The Parliament House draft Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) policy.
  - The Parliament House Accommodation Strategy.
  - The Electronic Access Control System at Parliament House.

*Security Related Works*

- 1.10 The Committee focussed primarily on security related matters during the year. To fulfil its obligations under standing order 222A (a)(vii) and (viii), the Committee received confidential briefings from the Department of Parliamentary Services on the construction of security related capital works in the Parliamentary precincts, the implementation of a new CCTV policy and a proposed new policy for access control to the building. The later included the rollout of electronic door locks for Members' (and Senators') suites and certain other rooms. The Committee endorsed the rollout of the Electronic Access Control System, as it is referred to.
- 1.11 The Committee notes that the Parliament House CCTV Policy has now been endorsed in both its unabridged and public versions by the Presiding Officers. The Committee will continue to seek progress reports on the remaining security enhancements and capital works during 2018-19.

Hon Tony Smith MP  
Chair  
October 2018