



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Budget Estimates 2022–23

Report No. 23

Department of the House of Representatives

**Standing Committee on
Appropriations and Administration**

March 2022
Canberra

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ISBN 978-1-76092-395-2 Printed version

ISBN 978-1-76092-396-9 HTML version

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Membership of Committee — 46th Parliament

Chair

Hon Andrew Wallace MP (Speaker)
(from 23 November 2021)

Hon Tony Smith MP (until 23 November 2021)

Deputy Chair

Ms Julie Owens MP

Members

Mr John Alexander OAM MP

Hon Kevin Andrews MP

Ms Libby Coker MP

Mr Vince Connelly MP

Mr Chris Hayes MP

Mr Rob Mitchell MP

Mr Bert van Manen MP

Secretary

Mr James Catchpole

Ms Kate Moore



Standing Order 222A

(a) A House Appropriations and Administration Committee shall be appointed to:

(i) consider estimates of the funding required for the operation of the Department of the House of Representatives each year;

(ii) provide to the Speaker for presentation to the House and transmission to the Minister for Finance and Deregulation, the committee's estimates of amounts for inclusion in appropriation and supply bills for the Department of the House of Representatives;

(iii) consider proposals for changes to the administration of the Department of the House of Representatives or variations to services provided by the Department;

(iv) consider and report to the Speaker on any other matters of finance or services as may be referred to it by the Speaker;

(v) consider and report to the House on any other matters of finance or services as may be referred to it by the House;

(vi) consider and report to the Speaker on matters relating to the provision of facilities in Parliament House affecting the House, its committees or its Members;

(vii) make an annual report to the House on its operations;

(viii) consider the administration and funding of security measures affecting the House and advise the Speaker and the House as appropriate; and

(ix) consider any proposals for works in the parliamentary precincts that are subject to parliamentary approval and report to the House on them as appropriate.

(b) When conferring with the Senate Standing Committee on Appropriations and Staffing, the House Appropriations and Administration Committee may:

(i) consider estimates of the funding required for the operation of the Department of Parliamentary Services each year; and

(ii) provide to the Speaker for presentation to the House and transmission to the Minister for Finance and Deregulation, estimates of amounts for inclusion in appropriation and supply bills for the Department of Parliamentary Services.

(c) The committee shall consist of nine members: the Speaker as Chair, four government Members and four non-government/nonaligned Members. A quorum shall be three members of the committee.

(d) The committee shall be assisted by the Clerk, Serjeant-at-Arms and officers of the Department of the House of Representatives appropriate to any matters under consideration.



Budget Estimates 2022–23

Role of the Committee

- 1.1 Pursuant to Standing Order 222A(a)(ii), the committee is required to ‘provide to the Speaker for presentation to the House and transmission to the Minister for Finance, the committee’s estimates of amounts for inclusion in appropriation and supply bills for the Department of the House of Representatives’ (the department).

Proposed Appropriation for 2022–23

Departmental Annual Appropriation

- 1.2 The appropriation (as included in the Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2022–2023) for the department is calculated in accordance with Commonwealth funding policy. Under this policy, the prior year’s departmental appropriation is adjusted for the efficiency dividend, any wages and prices indices and any applicable Budget measures.
- 1.3 It is expected that the beginning of the 2022-23 financial year will see the opening of the 47th Parliament and a resumption of parliamentary activity following an election period hiatus. Both committee office domestic travel in support of hearings and incoming and outgoing official international delegation activities are anticipated to increase in 2022-23 as a result and as COVID-19 travel restrictions are lifted. At the same time, the department will be seeking to maximise the benefits of its previous investment in video conferencing technologies to support committee meetings and virtual attendance at conferences without the need for physical travel. The department will also continue close monitoring of its staff costs and of the increasing use of software-as-a-service as it affects expenses, rather than the capital budget.

- 1.4 The department's balance sheet remains in a strong position with sufficient cash reserves to cover its liabilities. The departmental capital budget is also strong. The department will continue to draw down on its capital budget to replace, redevelop or maintain furniture, equipment and other non-financial assets as necessary.
- 1.5 In the 2022–23 Budget round the department did not seek or receive any additional funding.
- 1.6 The table below illustrates the movement in the department's appropriation since the 2022–23 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS).

Item	Departmental	Administered	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Estimate of appropriation 2022–23 as reported in the 2021–22 PBS	24,993	333	25,326
Adjustment for prices and wages indices	99	1	100
Expense Measures			
Nil	-	-	-
Other movements			
Efficiency dividend increase	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2022–2023	25,092	334	25,426
<i>Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Act (No. 1) 2021–2022</i>	25,664	327	25,991

Departmental Capital Appropriation

- 1.7 The annual departmental appropriation includes an amount for capital expenditure of \$0.646m as disclosed in the departmental capital budget.

Accumulated Prior Year Appropriation and Operating Results

- 1.8 The department has access to resources accumulated from prior years. The department can use these resources to fund liabilities (including provisions for employee expenses) and capital purchases that are not provided for in the department's capital budget. They can also be used to fund operational losses should the situation arise.

Estimated Actuals as at Budget March 2022	2022–23 (\$'000)
Prior year departmental appropriation	20,584

Special Appropriations (Members' Remuneration and Work Expenses)

1.9 Special appropriations for 2022–23 comprise the following amounts:

Department of Finance	(\$'000)
<i>Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017</i>	44,269
<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	5,897
<i>Commonwealth of Australia Constitution (section 66)</i>	4,064

1.10 The department accesses these special appropriations through third-party payments on behalf of the Department of Finance. The amounts are disclosed in the Department of Finance's resource statement.

Conclusion

- 1.11 The **total appropriation** to be approved by the Parliament for the department in the Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2022–2023 will be **\$25.426m** (compared to \$25.991m in 2021–22).
- 1.12 The department estimates it will draw down on **special appropriations of \$54.230m** (compared to an estimated actual of \$54.003m for 2021–22).
- 1.13 The Committee will continue to monitor the department's financial position into the future and will report to the House accordingly.

Hon Andrew Wallace MP
Chair