



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

# **Budget Estimates 2023–24**

Report No. 26

House of Representatives

**Standing Committee on  
Appropriations and Administration**

May 2023  
Canberra

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# Membership of Committee — 47th Parliament

**Chair** Hon Milton Dick MP (Speaker)

**Deputy Chair** Hon Mark Coulton MP

**Members** Mr Russell Broadbent MP

Ms Sharon Claydon MP

Mr Steve Georganas MP

Dr Helen Haines MP

Ms Sally Sitou MP

Ms Anne Stanley MP

Mr Bert van Manen MP

*This committee is supported by staff of the Department of the House of Representatives.*



## 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/non-aligned 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 2023–24

## 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 2023–24

### Departmental Annual Appropriation

- 1.2 The appropriation for the department (as included in the Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2023–2024) 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 Supplementary departmental funding totalling \$1.279m has been provided over the four-year period commencing in 2023–24. The additional funding is to provide additional support to the Parliamentary Joint Committee for Intelligence and Security.
- 1.4 The departmental capital budget has been reclassified to the departmental operating budget to align with the accounting treatment of software as a service systems that are hosted in the cloud.
- 1.5 An amount of \$0.798m was provided during the 2019–20 Budget round for the 2021–22 financial year to support the Parliament to host the biennial Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth, which was expected to take place in

January 2022. Due to COVID-19 the conference was rescheduled to January 2023. Approval was received for the department to make a loss up to \$0.798m, to allow for expenses associated with hosting the conference in 2022–23.

- 1.6 The department’s balance sheet remains in a strong position with sufficient cash reserves to cover its liabilities.
- 1.7 The table below indicates the movement in the department’s appropriation since the October 2022–23 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS).

Item	Departmental	Administered	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Estimate of appropriation 2023–24 as reported in the October 2022–23 PBS	25,861	347	<b>26,208</b>
Adjustment for prices and wages indices	122	-	<b>122</b>
<b>Expense Measures</b>			
Intelligence Agencies	306	-	<b>306</b>
<b>Other movements</b>			
Efficiency dividend increase	-	-	-
Capital budget movement of funds	640	-	<b>640</b>
<b>Total available appropriation for 2023–24</b>	<b>26,929</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>27,276</b>
Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Act (No. 1) 2023–2024	26,929	347	27,276

## 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. They can also be used to fund operational losses should the situation arise.

Estimated Actuals as at Budget May 2023–24	2023–24 (\$'000)
Prior year departmental appropriation	23,153



## Special Appropriations (Members' Remuneration and Work Expenses)

- 1.9 Special appropriations for 2023–24 comprise the following amounts:

Department of Finance	(\$'000)
<i>Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017</i>	45,616
<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	5,980
<i>Commonwealth of Australia Constitution (section 66)</i>	4,632

- 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, as set out in the Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2023–2024, will be **\$27.276 million**.
- 1.12 The department estimates it will draw down on **special appropriations of \$56.228 million**.
- 1.13 The Committee will continue to monitor the department's financial position into the future and will report to the House accordingly.

Hon Milton Dick MP  
Chair  
10 May 2023