



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Budget Estimates 2024–25

Report No. 29

House of Representatives

**Standing Committee on
Appropriations and Administration**

May 2024
Canberra

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Membership of Committee

Chair Hon Milton Dick MP (Speaker)

Deputy Chair Hon Mark Coulton MP

Members Ms Sharon Claydon MP
Mr Steve Georganas MP
Dr Helen Haines MP
Mr Julian Leeser 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 2024–25

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 2024–25

Departmental Annual Appropriation

- 1.2 The appropriation for the department (as included in the Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2024–2025) 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 of \$2.238 million has been provided over the four-year period commencing in 2024–25. The additional funding is for transformation work to implement and support the proposed changes to the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*. This is an ongoing measure.
- 1.4 Further supplementary departmental funding of \$1.647 million has been provided over the two-year period commencing in 2024–25. The additional funding is to enable the department to support the modernisation of parliamentary business applications project, which is being led by the Department of Parliamentary Services.
- 1.5 As noted in the committee’s earlier report 28, supplementary departmental funding of \$1.930 million has been provided over

the four-year period commencing 2023–24, to assist the department in coordinating parliamentary engagement activities between Pacific and Australian parliaments, and in providing support for additional Guest of Parliament visits from Pacific Parliaments to the Australian Parliament.

- 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 2023–24 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS).

Item	Departmental \$'000	Administered \$'000	Total \$'000
Estimate of appropriation 2024–25 as reported in the May 2023–24 PBS	27,577	357	27,934
Adjustment for prices and wages indices	-	-	-
Expense Measures			
Guest of Parliament (GoP) Pacific Delegation	544	-	544
Supporting House and Senate Transformation	594	-	594
Modernisation of Parliamentary Business Applications	954	-	954
Other movements			
Efficiency dividend increase	-	-	-
Total available appropriation for 2024–25	29,669	357	30,026
<i>Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2024–2025</i>	29,669	357	30,026

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. These resources can also be used to fund operational losses should the situation arise.

Estimated Actuals as at Budget May 2024–25	2024–25 (\$'000)
Prior year departmental appropriation	25,982

Special Appropriations (Members' Remuneration and Work Expenses)

- 1.9 Special appropriations for 2024–25 comprise the following amounts:

Department of Finance	(\$'000)
<i>Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017</i>	45,870
<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	6,220
<i>Commonwealth of Australia Constitution (section 66)</i>	4,950

- 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) 2024–2025, will be **\$30.026 million**.
- 1.12 The department estimates it will draw down on **special appropriations of \$57.040 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
15 May 2023