



DEPARTMENT OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# Annual Report

2020–21

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### **Acknowledgment**

The Department of the House of Representatives acknowledges the Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continued connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to their Cultures, Country and Elders past, present and emerging.

### **Disclaimer**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this publication may contain names and images of deceased persons.

### **Use of the Coat of Arms**

The terms under which the Coat of Arms can be used are detailed on the website of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet at [www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/government/commonwealth-coat-arms-information-and-guidelines](http://www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/government/commonwealth-coat-arms-information-and-guidelines).

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Unless otherwise acknowledged, all photographs in this report were taken by staff of the Department of the House of Representatives.

Front cover: Autumn leaves in the courtyard of Parliament House. Image: Penny Bradfield, Auspic/DPS.

Back cover: View of the front of Parliament House at sunrise. Image: David Foote, Auspic/DPS.

The department welcomes your comments on this report. To make a comment, or to request more information, please contact:

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Web address for report: [www.aph.gov.au/dhr/annualreport](http://www.aph.gov.au/dhr/annualreport)



15 October 2021

The Hon. Tony Smith MP  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Speaker

Pursuant to section 65 of the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999* and section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, I have pleasure in submitting to you, for presentation to the House, the annual report of the Department of the House of Representatives for the year ended 30 June 2021.

As required by section 10 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014, I certify that:

- the department has prepared fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans
- the department has in place appropriate mechanisms for fraud prevention, detection, investigation, recording and reporting mechanisms that meet the department's specific needs
- all reasonable measures have been taken to deal appropriately with fraud relating to the department.

Yours sincerely

Claessa Surtees  
Clerk of the House

# About this report

The Department of the House of Representatives supports the House of Representatives, and the wider parliament, in the role of a representative and legislative body.

This annual report details our activities during the 2020–21 financial year.

## Overviews

The overviews section includes a review by the Clerk of the House of Representatives, who is the department's chief executive and accountable authority. The departmental overview describes the department's purpose, role and functions, organisational structure, and outcome and program structure.

## Performance

The performance section includes the annual performance statement, which assesses the department's performance against measures and targets set out in its corporate plan. This section also includes a summary of financial performance, including the entity resource statement, and reports on the main activities supported during the year for each program area.

## Management and accountability

The management and accountability section describes the department's approach to corporate governance, details of external scrutiny of the department's operations, the management of its people and assets, its obligations under various laws, and the management of financial resources.

## Financial statements

The financial statements section includes an independent auditor's report, a statement by the Clerk and Chief Finance Officer, and financial statements showing how the department spent the money allocated to it by the parliament.

## Appendixes

The appendixes give detailed information about the department's work in supporting the House, the parliament, committees and visitors. The appendixes also include a contact directory, and a list of mandatory requirements for annual reports and where each component can be found throughout this report.

## Abbreviations and acronyms, and index

Finally, to aid in navigating and interpreting the report, there is a list of abbreviations and acronyms, and an index.

# Contents

Letter of transmittal		iii
About this report		iv
Our department—a snapshot		vii
<b>Part 1</b> → <b>Overviews</b>	<b>1</b>	
Clerk's review	2	
Departmental overview	6	
<b>Part 2</b> → <b>Performance</b>	<b>11</b>	
Annual performance statement	12	
Financial performance	27	
Chamber and Federation Chamber	29	
Committee support	42	
Inter-parliamentary relations and capacity-building	50	
Community relations and awareness	53	
Members' and corporate support	58	
Schools hospitality	65	
<b>Part 3</b> → <b>Management and accountability</b>	<b>67</b>	
Corporate governance	68	
External scrutiny	82	
Management of people	83	
Management of financial resources	98	
<b>Part 4</b> → <b>Financial statements</b>	<b>101</b>	
<b>Appendixes</b>	<b>145</b>	
1. Chamber and Federation Chamber	146	
2. Committee activity	149	
3. Committee inquiries and reports	151	
4. Publications	161	
5. Correction of material errors	163	
6. Contact directory	164	
7. List of requirements	165	
<b>Abbreviations and acronyms</b>	<b>172</b>	
<b>Index</b>	<b>173</b>	

## Figures

1	Departmental structure as at 30 June 2021	7
2	Outcome and program structure, 2020–21	9
3	Government and private members' business and business of the House (Chamber and Federation Chamber), 2017 to 2021 (calendar years)	33
4	Number of committee meetings supported by the Committee Office, 2016–17 to 2020–21	46
5	Number of reports presented by committees supported by the Committee Office, 2016–17 to 2020–21	46
6	Staff survey satisfaction elements, 2016–17 to 2020–21	87

## Tables

1	Performance summary, Chamber and Federation Chamber, 2016–17 to 2020–21	30
2	Questions in writing to ministers and answers to questions in writing, 2016–17 to 2020–21	32
3	Number of bills introduced in the House, and number of bills assented to, 2016–17 to 2020–21	35
4	Private members' bills introduced and amendments moved (Chamber and Federation Chamber), 2016–17 to 2020–21	36
5	Committees of the 46th Parliament supported by the Committee Office	42
6	Petitions and signatories to petitions, 2016–17 to 2020–21	47
7	Students visiting Parliament House, by location and year, 2016–17 to 2020–21	65
8	Audit and Risk Committee meeting attendance, 2020–21	72
9	Employment type by classification and gender, as at 30 June 2021	83
10	Employment type by classification and gender, as at 30 June 2020	84

## Tables (continued)

11	Employment type by employment status, as at 30 June 2020 and 30 June 2021	84
12	Employment type by office and location, as at 30 June 2020 and 30 June 2021	85
13	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander staff, as at 30 June 2020 and 30 June 2021	85
14	Staff attendance at training courses	90
15	Employment arrangements for SES and non-SES staff, as at 30 June 2021	91
16	Salary ranges of staff covered by the 2017–20 enterprise agreement, as at 30 June 2021	92
17	Key management personnel, 2020–21	93
18	Remuneration and benefits of key management personnel, 2020–21	94
19	Remuneration and benefits of senior executives, 2020–21	95
20	Reportable consultancy contracts, 2020–21	99
21	Organisations receiving a share of reportable consultancy contract expenditure, 2020–21	99
22	Reportable non-consultancy contracts, 2020–21	99
23	Organisations receiving a share of reportable non-consultancy contract expenditure, 2020–21	100

# Our department – a snapshot

## Our staff



## Our community

 **10,728**  
YouTube subscribers

 **2,326**  
Newsletter subscribers

 **8,682**  
Facebook followers

 **48,958**  
Twitter followers

## The House – we supported

 **597 hours**  
of the House sitting over  
**67 sitting days**

 **232 hours**  
of meetings held in the  
**Federation Chamber**

 **360 divisions**  
conducted in the House

 **184 bills introduced**  
and  
**153 bills assented to**

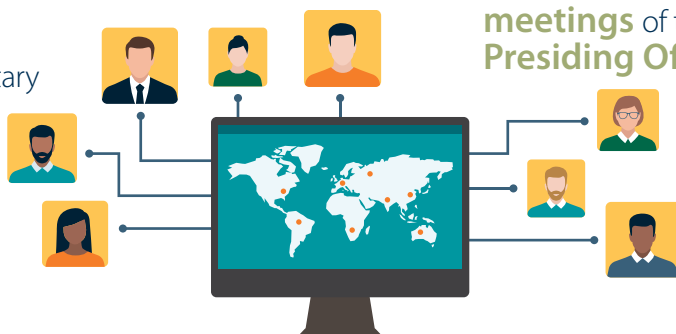
 **27 members**  
participating by  
**video link**  
a total of  
**204 times**

 **701 meetings**  
of  
**30 committees**  
which presented  
**98 reports**

 **628 petitions**  
presented with  
**1,218,579**  
signatories

## International engagement – we supported

**16 virtual**  
inter-parliamentary  
events with  
**Australian  
Parliament  
delegations**



**29 virtual**  
meetings of the  
Presiding Officers



