

The Senate

Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee

Annual Report 2024 – 25

September 2025

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Membership of the Committee

Senator the Hon Sue Lines (President of the Senate, **Chair**)

Senator Slade Brockman (Deputy President and Chair of Committees, Deputy Chair)

Senator the Hon Penny Wong (Leader of the Government in the Senate)

Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash (Leader of the Opposition in the Senate)

Senator Raff Ciccone (Victoria)

Senator the Hon Jonathon Duniam (Tasmania)

Senator Karen Grogan (South Australia)

Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie (Victoria)

Senator Jana Stewart (Victoria)

Senator Larissa Waters (Queensland)

Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee

The Senate

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The Committee

The Standing Committee on Appropriations, Staffing and Security, appointed under standing order 19, determines the amounts for inclusion in the parliamentary appropriation bills and reports to the Senate on its determinations prior to the Senate's consideration of those bills.

The committee examines matters affecting the staffing and administration of the Department of the Senate, including proposals to vary the staffing structure, and other matters referred to it by the Senate. The committee makes an annual report to the Senate on the operations of the Senate's appropriations and staffing and related matters (standing order 19(3)).

Under standing order 19(3)(d), the committee has the explicit capacity to scrutinise security funding and administration and to advise the President and the Senate as appropriate. Under a resolution of the Senate agreed to in 1987 the committee also examines proposed changes in the structure and responsibilities of the parliamentary departments and, following the adoption by the Senate on 27 November 2012 of the recommendation in the committee's 54th Report, the committee may advise the President and the Senate on the administration and funding of information and communications technology services for the Parliament.

The committee is chaired by the President and includes the Deputy President and the Senate Leaders of the Government and the Opposition as *ex officio* members.

Secretary

(John Begley)

Annual Report 2024-25

Introduction

1.1 The Standing Committee on Appropriations, Staffing and Security is appointed under Senate Standing Order 19. The committee inquires into:

- proposals for the annual estimates and the additional estimates for the Senate;¹
- proposals to vary the staff structure of the Senate, and staffing and recruitment policies;²
- the administration, operation and funding of security measures affecting the Senate, and advises the President and the Senate as appropriate;³
- proposed changes in the structure and responsibilities of the parliamentary departments;⁴
- the administration and funding of information and communications technology services for the Parliament;⁵ and
- other matters referred by the Senate.

1.2 The committee makes this annual report to the Senate in accordance with Standing Order 19(3)(c).

1.3 The committee is chaired by the President of the Senate and includes the Deputy President and eight other senators. The Senate Leaders of the Government and the Opposition are *ex officio* members.⁶

Committee membership

1.4 During the 2024-25 financial year, the following senators were committee members:

- President of the Senate, Senator the Hon Sue Lines (Chair)
- Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC
- Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator the Hon Penny Wong)
- Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham) (to 28 January 2025)

1 Standing Order (S.O.) 19(2)(a).

2 S.O. 19(2)(b).

3 *Journals of the Senate*, No 89, 25 March 2015, pp. 2412-13, S.O. 19(3)(d).

4 *Journals of the Senate*, No 200, 3 June 1987, p. 1951.

5 S.O. 19(3)(e).

6 S.O. 19(4).

- Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash) (appointed 4 February 2025)
- Senator Raff Ciccone
- Senator the Hon Jonathon Duniam (from 4 February 2025)
- Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister
- Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie
- Senator the Hon Anne Ruston (from 1 August 2022 to 4 February 2025)
- Senator Marielle Smith

Committee activities

1.5 During the reporting period, the committee met on two occasions and tabled two reports:

- *Annual Report 2023-24* (tabled on 10 September 2024); and
- *68th Report: Estimates for the Department of the Senate 2025-26* (tabled on 27 March 2025).

Senate department

1.6 The committee received and noted a quarterly update on the financial position of the Department of the Senate.

Security and information technology

1.7 At each meeting of the committee the Chair updated the committee on matters pertaining to security, information technology and building works relevant to the Senate and senators. In particular, the committee reviewed quarterly reports on the use of the Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) system and Electronic Access Control System (EACS) and noted the annual reports on the CCTV and EACS codes of practices.

1.8 In addition, the committee discussed:

- The committee's annual report for 2023-24;
- Future security upgrades of APH; and
- The referral of an inquiry into drafting and support service for non-government senators.

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
Chair