

The Senate

Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee

Estimates for the Department of the Senate 2019-20

61st report

April 2019

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ISSN: 2205-0884 (print)

ISSN: 2205 0892 (online)

This document was produced by the Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee, and printed by the Senate Printing Unit, Parliament House, Canberra

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The Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Sue Lines

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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 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.

Following the adoption by the Senate on 25 March 2015 of a recommendation in the Procedure Committee's First Report of 2015, the Committee also considers the administration, operation and funding of security measures affecting the Senate, and advises the President and the Senate accordingly.

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.

James Warmenhoven
(Secretary)

61st Report

Introduction

Standing order 19 (2) and (3) requires that the Committee determine the amounts to be included in the parliamentary appropriation bills for the Department of the Senate.

Proposed Appropriations for 2019-20

The Committee notes that the Senate Department's 2019-20 appropriations have been calculated in accordance with the current Commonwealth funding policy.

The proposed appropriation for 2019-20 (which rounds to \$23.9m in the Portfolio Budget Statement) has been calculated as follows:

Part 1 - Departmental Annual Appropriation

The current year's budget for departmental expenses
(as disclosed in the 2018-19 PBS)

\$24.238m

Agreed budget measures:

Reduction in capital funding

-0.374m

Other adjustments (economic parameters)

-0.011m

Total departmental appropriation for 2019-20

\$23.853m

Part 2 – Accumulated Prior Year Appropriations, Operating Results and Capital Expenditure

Balance of prior year appropriations (estimate as at Budget April 2019) \$11.328m

Part 3 - Special Appropriations (senators' remuneration and entitlements)

Made up of the following components (for this and next year):

2018-19:

<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	\$2.553m
<i>Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1901</i>	\$1.539m
<i>Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017</i>	\$21.268m
Total Special Appropriations for 2017-18	<u>\$25.360m</u>

2019-20:

<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	\$2.655m
<i>Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017</i>	\$21.250m
<i>Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1901</i>	\$1.550m
Total Special Appropriations for 2018-19	<u>\$25.455m</u>

The total appropriation to be approved by the Parliament in the appropriation bill for 2019-20 will be \$23.853m (compared to \$24.238m in 2018-19).

Special appropriations of \$25.455m will also be drawn down during the year (compared to an estimate of \$25.360m in 2018-19).

Conclusions

As noted on page 11 of the Department's *Portfolio Budget Statements 2019-20*, the Department expects to be able to meet these demands within existing resources in the current (2018-19) and budget (2019-20) years. However, if the level of activity continues or increases, the Department will seek additional resources over the forward estimates to ensure the requirements of the Senate and senators can be met.

Determination

The Committee determines that the total appropriation to be approved by the Parliament in the Appropriations (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2019-20 is \$23.853m and reports to the Senate accordingly.

Senator the Hon Scott Ryan
Chair

April 2019