

The Senate

Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee

Estimates for the Department of the Senate 2022-23

65th report

October 2022

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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.

John Begley (Secretary)

65th 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. This report supersedes the 64th Report prepared for the 2022-23 March Budget.

Proposed Appropriations for 2022-23 (October Budget)

The Committee notes that the Senate Department's 2022-23 appropriations have been calculated in accordance with the current Commonwealth funding policy.

The proposed appropriation for 2022-23 in the Portfolio Budget Statements is as follows:

Part 1 - Departmental Annual Appropriation

The budget for departmental expenses ¹ (as disclosed in the 2021-22 PBS)	\$26.011m
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Agreed budget measures:

2021-22 one off additional funding	(\$2.022m)
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Other adjustments (economic parameters)	\$0.016m
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Total departmental appropriation for 2022-23	<u>\$24.202m</u>
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The total appropriation to the Senate Department to be approved by the Parliament in the *Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2022-2023*, as a part of the October Budget 2022 is \$24.202m (compared to \$26.011m in 2021-22).

¹ Excluding expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year - made up of depreciation/amortisation, audit fees and resources received free of charge where recognition of an expense is required.

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

Balance of prior year appropriations (estimate as at 30 June 2022) **\$15.864m**

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

Made up of the following components:

2021-22:

<i>Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017</i>	\$21.972m
<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	\$2.804m
<i>Australian Constitution</i>	\$1.454m
Total Special Appropriations for 2021-22	<u>\$26.230m</u>

2022-23:

<i>Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017</i>	\$21.972m ²
<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	\$2.904m ²
<i>Australian Constitution</i>	\$0.854m ²
Total Special Appropriations for 2022-23	<u>\$25.730m</u>

An estimated amount, totaling \$25.730m of special appropriations, will be drawn down during the year to facilitate third party payments on behalf on Department of Finance (compared to \$26.230m in 2021-22).

Conclusions

The departmental appropriation is unchanged compared to the 64th Report from the March Budget. As noted on page 10 of the Department's *Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23*, the establishment of select committees in recent parliaments far exceeds the levels on which the department's funding was based. If the number and duration of committees established by the Senate continues at this level in future parliaments, the department will seek additional resources over the forward estimates to ensure the requirements of the Senate and senators can continue to be met.

² Limits per third party access agreement with the Department of Finance for access to the appropriation

Determination

The Committee determines that the total appropriation to be approved by the Parliament in the *Appropriations (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2022-23* is \$24.202m and reports to the Senate accordingly.

Senator the Hon Sue Lines

Chair