

The Senate

Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee

Estimates for the Department of the Senate 2023-24

66th report

May 2023

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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)

66th 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 2023-24

The Committee notes that the Senate Department's 2023-24 appropriations have been calculated in accordance with the current Commonwealth funding policy.

The proposed appropriation for 2023-24 in the Portfolio Budget Statements is as follows:

Part 1 - Departmental Annual Appropriation

The budget for departmental expenses¹ (as disclosed in the October 2023 PBS) **\$24.202m**

Agreed budget measures:

2023-24 additional funding \$2.202m

Changes to price and wages indices (Apr 2023) \$0.095m

Other adjustments (economic parameters) \$0.766m

Total departmental appropriation for 2023-24 \$27.265m

The total appropriation to the Senate Department to be approved by the Parliament in the *Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2023-2024*, as a part of the Budget 2023 is \$27.265m (compared to \$24.202m in 2022-23).

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

Balance of prior year appropriations (estimate as at 30 June 2022) **\$15.660m**

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 3 - Special Appropriations (senators' remuneration and entitlements) ²

Made up of the following components:

2022-23:

<i>Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017</i>	\$22.872m
<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	\$2.957m
<i>Australian Constitution</i>	\$0.854m
Total Special Appropriations for 2022-23	<u>\$26.683m</u>

2023-24:

<i>Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017</i>	\$22.872m
<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	\$2.945m
<i>Australian Constitution</i>	\$0.973m
Total Special Appropriations for 2022-23	<u>\$26.790m</u>

An estimated amount, totaling \$26.790m of special appropriations, will be drawn down during the year to facilitate third party payments on behalf on Department of Finance (compared to \$26.683m in 2022-23).

Conclusions

As noted on page 10 of the Department's *Portfolio Budget Statements 2023-24*, the continuing trend for increased committee activity required the department to seek additional ongoing funding. This agreed measure, of between \$2.2m and \$2.3m for the 2023-24 and forward years, will ensure that the department can continue to meet the needs of the Senate and senators.

Determination

The Committee determines that the total appropriation to be approved by the Parliament in the *Appropriations (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2023-24* is \$27.265m and reports to the Senate accordingly.

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
Chair

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