



D25/18101

19 March 2025

Mr Nicholas Craft  
Acting Secretary  
Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Craft

**Budget estimates hearings – Department of the Senate**

In accordance with the usual practice, I attach statistics (updated as of 14 March) about the operations of committees supported by the Senate Committee Office.

For this round of estimates I have provided information about the level of committee activity from the commencement of the 47<sup>th</sup> Parliament and statistical information that compares the level of committee activity in the 47<sup>th</sup> Parliament with the level of activity in previous Parliaments.

The Senate Committee Office currently supports the eight paired legislation and references standing committees, two select committees, one joint select committee and four joint standing committees.

If the committee would like additional information, I would be happy to provide it.

Yours sincerely

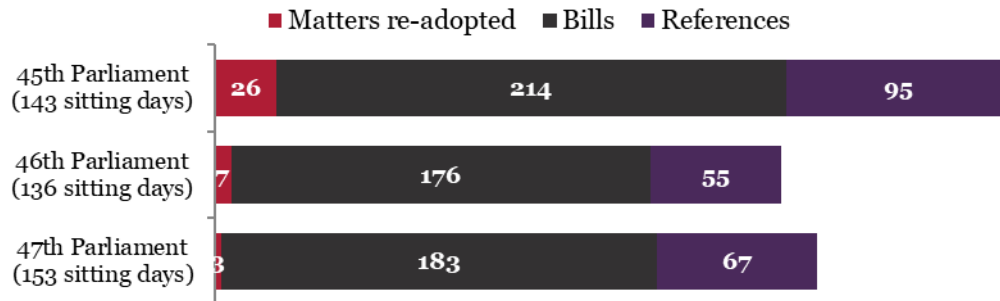
(Richard Pye)  
Clerk

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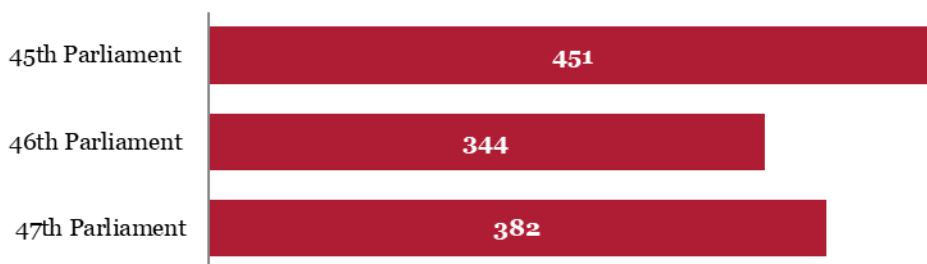
# Senate Standing Committee activity

(Summary as at 14 March 2025)

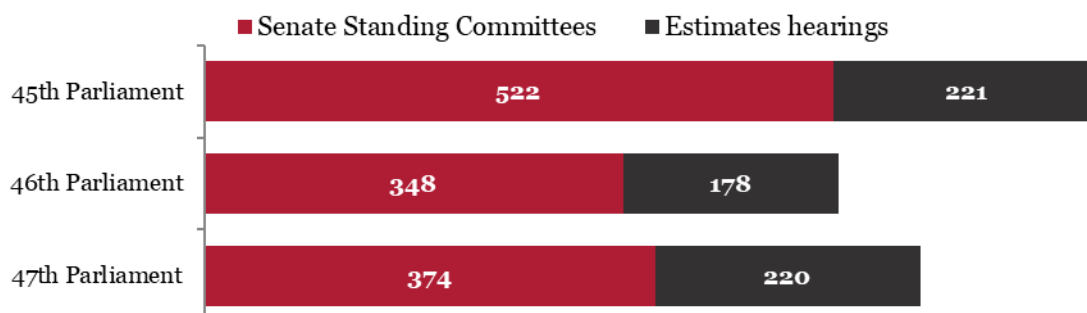
## 1. References—comparison at same point of last 3 Parliaments



## 2. Reports—comparison at same point of last 3 Parliaments



## 3. Hearings held—comparison at same point of last 3 Parliaments



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# Select committee activity

(Summary as at 14 March 2025)

The Committee Office supports all Senate select committees and a number of joint select committees.

Select committee activity during the **46<sup>th</sup> Parliament** rose to levels not experienced before, requiring the Committee Office to at one point support 12 select committees concurrently and, over the life of the Parliament, requiring 255 months of support.

In the **47<sup>th</sup> Parliament** to 14 March 2025:

- 14 Senate select committees have been established
- 5 joint select committees have been established - 3 supported by the department
- currently there are 2 Senate select committees and 1 joint select committee supported by the department, and
- the department's commitment of secretariat support to select committees is a total of 185 months, with the longest single commitment being 33 months.

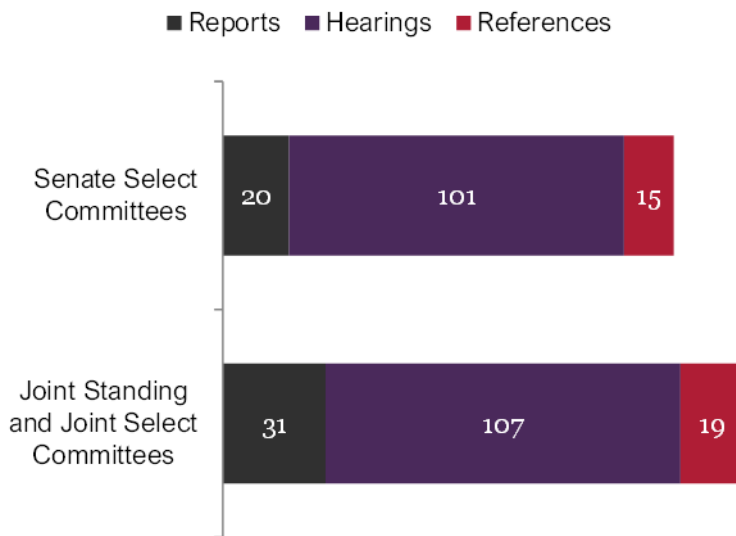
The table below compares the number of Senate select and joint select committees supported by the Committee Office across the last five parliaments.

Parliament	Number of selects (and joint selects)	Average length in months	Total months requiring support
43 <sup>rd</sup>	5 (4)	10	90
44 <sup>th</sup>	12 (2)	11	154
45 <sup>th</sup>	15 (1)	10	160
46 <sup>th</sup>	12 (3)	17	255
47 <sup>th</sup> (from commencement)	14 (3)	11	185

In addition, the Committee Office supports four other joint committees.

## Senate Select Committee and Joint Committee activity - 47<sup>th</sup> Parliament

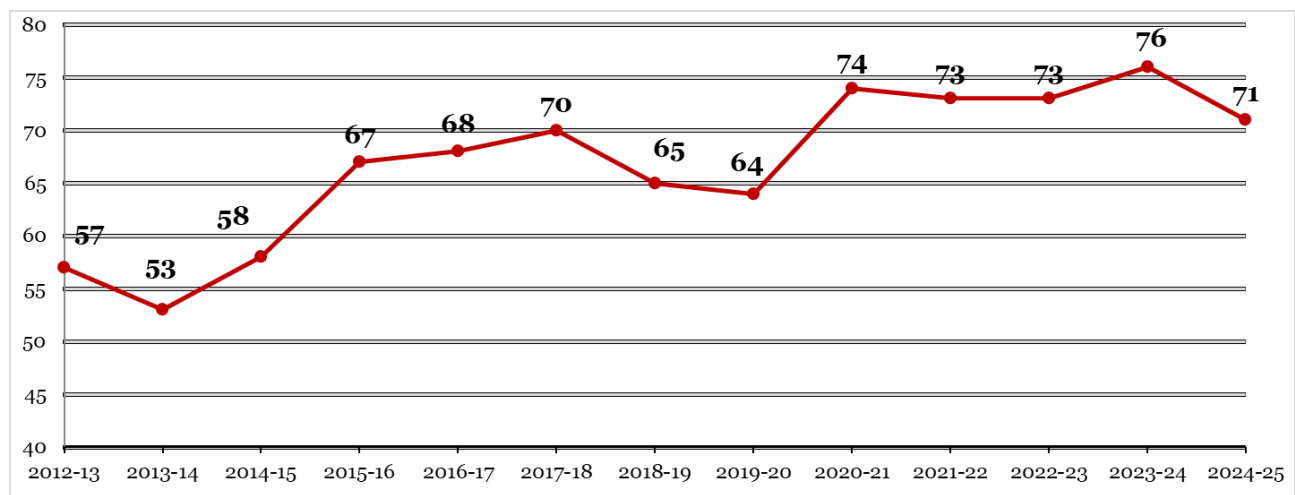
Activity supported by the Committee Office is as follows.



## Staffing

At the end of the 2023-2024 financial year, there was an average of 76.1 full time equivalent (FTE) staff in the Committee Office. The current (12 March 2025) staffing level is 67.4 FTE, with the year-to-date average being 71.4 FTE. The following chart shows changes in average staffing levels over time.

### Senate Committee Office - Average FTE staffing levels by financial year



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# Administration

The current (2024-25) annual budget for the Committee Office is approximately \$10.8 million. This includes employee expenses of \$10.6 million and administrative expenses of \$0.2 million. So far in the 2024-25 financial year (as at 28 February 2025), the Committee Office actual expenditure is \$7.1 million.

**Senate Committee Office - Expenditure by completed financial year**

