

ATTORNEY-GENERAL THE HON. DARYL WILLIAMS AM QC MP

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Procedure Com Secretaria

Mrs Margaret May MP Chair House of Representatives Standing Committee on Procedure Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600 1 1 NOV 2002

Dear Madam Chair

I refer to your letter dated 19 August 2002 advising of the Committee's inquiry into the adequacy of House procedures for examining the estimates of expenditure, and inviting submissions to the Committee on the matter.

I have considered your letter and note that it is not intended to duplicate the approach of the Senate and its Committees in scrutinising the budgetary process. I note also the view that the Opposition has the opportunity to scrutinise the Government through Question Time. I agree that the recent consideration in detail stage, conducted in the Main Committee, has provided additional opportunity for the House to scrutinise the budgetary process. In the circumstances I believe that sufficient opportunities exist under current arrangements to ensure there are adequate opportunities for Members of the House to contribute to the examination of the estimates of proposed expenditure.

I look forward with interest to the inquiry outcome.

Yours sincerely

Darry Williams

DARYL WILLIAMS