

The Senate

Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee

Estimates for the Department of the Senate 2015-16

57th report

May 2015

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Members of the Committee

The President of the Senate, Senator the Hon. Stephen Parry (Chairman)

The Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Gavin Marshall

The Leader of the Government in the Senate, Senator the Hon. Eric Abetz

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator the Hon. Penny Wong

Senator Chris Back

Senator the Hon. Jacinta Collins

Senator David Fawcett

Senator the Hon. Mitch Fifield

Senator John Madigan

The Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: (02) 6277 3015
Facsimile: (02) 6277 3448
Email: approps@aph.gov.au

Internet: www.aph.gov.au

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)

57th 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 2015-16

The Committee notes that the Senate Department's 2015-16 appropriations have been calculated in accordance with current Commonwealth funding policy. Under this policy, the forward estimates reflect:

- a reduction in funding of \$0.64m due to the cessation of funding for the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples;
- an increase in funding of \$0.2m, ongoing, to offset the department's increased fringe benefits tax liability arising from the introduction of paid parking in the parliamentary triangle; and
- a one-off funding measure for 2015-16 of \$1.5m to provide additional resources for each of the eight standing committee secretariats in response to ongoing elevated levels of committee activity.

The proposed appropriation has been calculated as follows:

Part 1 - Departmental Annual Appropriation

The current year's budget for departmental expenses
(as disclosed in the 2014-15 PBS)

\$20.627m

Agreed budget measures:

FBT supplementation	+0.207m
Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (cessation)	-0.643m
Committee secretariat support supplementation	+1.500m
Parameter and other adjustments	-0.188m

Total departmental appropriation for 2015-16

\$21.503m

should they continue, may necessitate the revisiting of the matter in the context of future Budgets.

Determination

The Committee determines that the total appropriation to be approved by the Parliament in the Appropriations (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No 1) 2015-16 is \$21.503m and reports to the Senate accordingly.

Senator the Hon Stephen Parry
Chairman

May 2015