

The Senate

Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee

Estimates for the Department of the Senate 2018-19

60th report

June 2018

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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.

James Warmenhoven
(Secretary)

60th 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 2018-19

The Committee notes that the Senate Department's 2018-19 appropriations have been calculated in accordance with the current Commonwealth funding policy. The additional funding of \$3.7 million per annum that commenced in 2017-18 (and was previously endorsed by the Committee) has enabled the department to better align its resources to support that demand.

The proposed appropriation for 2018-19 (which rounds to \$24.3m in the Portfolio Budget Statement) has been calculated as follows:

Part 1 - Departmental Annual Appropriation

The current year's budget for departmental expenses
(as disclosed in the 2017-18 PBS)

\$24.301m

Agreed budget measures:

Other adjustments (economic parameters)

-0.063m

Total departmental appropriation for 2018-19

\$24.238m

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

Balance of prior year appropriations (estimate as at Budget May 2017) \$9.062m

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

Made up of the following components (for this and next year):

2017-18:

<i>Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990</i>	\$0.083m
<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	\$2.379m
<i>Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973</i>	\$9.605m
<i>Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1901</i>	\$1.637m
<i>Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017</i>	\$10.296m
Total Special Appropriations for 2017-18	<u>\$24.000m</u>

2018-19:

<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	\$2.564m
<i>Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017</i>	\$20.919m
<i>Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1901</i>	\$1.500m
Total Special Appropriations for 2018-19	<u>\$24.983m</u>

The total appropriation to be approved by the Parliament in the appropriation bill for 2018-19 will be \$24.238m (compared to \$24.301m in 2017-18).

Special appropriations of \$24.983m will also be drawn down during the year (compared to an estimate of \$24.000m in 2017-18).

Conclusions

The Committee welcomes the Department's ongoing supplementation of \$3.7m in 2017-18 which continues to assist in realigning the Department's resourcing requirements given continuing elevated levels of legislative and, particularly, committee activity.

Determination

The Committee determines that the total appropriation to be approved by the Parliament in the Appropriations (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2018-19 is \$24.238m and reports to the Senate accordingly.

Senator the Hon Scott Ryan

Chair

June 2018