

## Committees administered by the Senate Committee Office

### Introduction

During the reporting period, the Senate Committee Office provided staffing and resources for the following committees:

- Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committees;
- Specific Joint Statutory Committees; and
- Senate Select Committees

### Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committees

Following an order of the Senate on 13 May 2009, the Senate's eight legislative and general purpose standing committees each now comprise a pair of committees: A **Legislation Committee** whose purpose is to deal with bills referred by the Senate, the Estimates process and oversee the performance of departments, including their annual reports, and a **References Committee** whose purpose is to deal with all other matters referred by the Senate.

This reverts to a system that was in place between 1994 and 2006 when the eight legislative and general purpose standing committees of the Senate each had a legislation and a references committee. The committees will be governed by Senate Standing Order 25 which can be accessed at: [http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/pubs/standing\\_orders/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/pubs/standing_orders/index.htm)

The Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committees and the relevant portfolio/subject areas allocated to them are as follows:

#### Community Affairs

- Legislation
- References
- Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Health and Ageing

#### Economics

- Legislation
- References
- Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- Resources, Energy and Tourism
- Treasury

#### Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

- Legislation
- References
- Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

#### Environment, Communications and the Arts

- Legislation
- References
- Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
- Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

#### Finance and Public Administration

- Legislation
- Parliament
- Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Finance and Deregulation

- References
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
  - Legislation
  - References
- Legal and Constitutional Affairs
  - Legislation
  - References
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
  - Legislation
  - References
- Human Services
- Defence (including Veterans' Affairs)
- Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Attorney-General
- Immigration and Citizenship
- Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

### **Joint Statutory Committees**

During the reporting period, the Senate Committee Office also administered three Joint Statutory Committees comprising members of the House of Representatives and Senators. These are:

- Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity
- Australian Crime Commission, and
- Corporations and Financial Services

### **Senate Select Committees**

During the reporting period, the Senate Committee Office provided staffing and resources for the following Senate Select Committees:

- Agricultural and Related Industries (appointed 14 February 2008)
- Fuel and Energy (appointed 25 June 2008)
- National Broadband Network (appointed 25 June 2008)
- Reform of the Australian Federation (agreed to 17 March 2010, commenced 17 June 2010)
- Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities (appointed 19 March 2008)