

**SPEAKER'S SCHEDULE OF THE STATUS OF GOVERNMENT  
RESPONSES TO COMMITTEE REPORTS  
(as at 5 December 2018)**

## **SPEAKER'S SCHEDULE OF THE STATUS OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Speaker's schedule to the House of Representatives on the status of government responses to committee reports is presented at six monthly intervals, usually in the last sitting weeks of the winter and spring sittings. The schedule presents a list of committee reports that contain recommendations requiring a government response. The last schedule was presented in the House on 13 August 2018. Government responses received during the period are included in the schedule and the report it relates to is then removed from subsequent schedules.

The timeframe for government responses to committee reports in this schedule is determined by the resolution adopted by the House on 29 September 2010, in which government responses to House and Joint committee reports are required within a six month period from the presentation of the report in the House. The Senate has resolved to require government responses to Senate and Joint committee reports within three months of a report being tabled.<sup>A</sup>

This schedule does not list reports that do not require a government response. In the past, the practice was to include all reports tabled in the House in the Speaker's schedule. However, the intent of this schedule is to provide an update to the House on the status of government responses to committee reports.

The schedule does not include advisory reports on bills introduced into the House of Representatives unless the reports make recommendations that are wider than the provision of the bill and would therefore be the subject of a government response. The Government's response to bill inquiry reports is apparent in the resumption of consideration of the relevant legislation by the House. Also not included are reports from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, the House of Representatives Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests, and the Publications Committee (other than reports on inquiries). Government responses to reports of the Public Works Committee are usually reflected in motions for the approval of works after the relevant report has been presented and considered. The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights' regular scrutiny reports on the human rights compatibility of bills and legislative instruments are not listed, as the timeframe for a response is specified in correspondence to the relevant minister.

Reports of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit primarily make administrative recommendations but may make policy recommendations. A government response is required in respect of such policy recommendations made by the committee. Responses to administrative recommendations are made in the form of an Executive Minute provided to, and subsequently tabled by, the committee. Agencies responding to administrative recommendations are required to provide an Executive Minute within six months of the tabling of a report. Executive Minutes are included in this schedule.

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<sup>A</sup> This practice has arisen from a Senate resolution of 14 March 1973, in which the Senate declared its opinion that the government should provide a response to committee reports within three months of tabling. Successive governments have affirmed their commitment to providing such responses.

The table below provides a summary of received and outstanding government responses spanning the last four parliaments.

Table of responses received and outstanding (as at 5 December 2018):

<b>Parliament</b>	<b>Awaiting response</b>	<b>Awaiting response (time has not expired)</b>	<b>Response received (time has expired)</b>	<b>Response received (time not expired)</b>
<b>42nd</b>	1	-	-	-
<b>43rd</b>	5	-	1	-
<b>44th</b>	20	-	1	-
<b>45th</b>	28	30	9	4

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (House, Standing)</b>			
Everybody's Business: Remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Stores	16/11/09	No response to date	No
<b>Agriculture and Industry (House, Standing)</b>			
Smart farming—Inquiry into agricultural innovation	4/5/16	No response to date	No
<b>Agriculture and Water Resources (House, Standing)</b>			
Making every drop count	20/12/17	No response to date	No
APVMA Regulatory Reforms	21/5/18	26/11/18	No
<b>Australia Fund Establishment (Joint, Select)</b>			
Joint Select Committee on the Australia Fund Establishment: Report 2015	25/6/15	No response to date	No
<b>Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
Integrity of overseas Commonwealth law enforcement operations	24/6/13	No response to date	No
Inquiry into the jurisdiction of the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	5/5/16	No response to date	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
<b>Communications and the Arts (House, Standing)</b>			
Report on the inquiry into the Australian film and television industry	7/12/17	No response to date	No
<b>Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (Joint, Select)</b>			
Progress report	27/10/14	No response to date	No
Final report	25/6/15	No response to date	No
<b>Constitutional Recognition Relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (Joint, Select)</b>			
Final report: Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples	29/11/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>Corporations and Financial Services (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
Inquiry into the impairment of customer loans	4/5/16	No response to date	No
Whistleblower Protections: Report on the inquiry into Whistleblower protections in the corporate, public and not-for-profit sectors	13/9/17	No response to date	No
Inquiry into the life insurance industry report	27/3/18	No response to date	No
Report on the 2016-2017 annual reports of bodies established under the ASIC Act	26/7/18	13/11/18	Yes

<b>Description of Report</b>	<b>Date Tabled or Published<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Date of Government Response<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Responded in Period Specified<sup>3</sup></b>
Inquiry into options for greater involvement by private sector life insurers in worker rehabilitation report	24/10/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>Economics (House, Standing)</b>			
Review of the Four Major Banks (Third Report)	7/12/17	No response to date	No
<b>Education and Employment (House, Standing)</b>			
Innovation and Creativity	19/6/17	No response to date	No
<b>Employment, Education and Training (House, Standing)</b>			
Unique Individuals, Broad Skills	30/5/18	No response to date	No
Australian Government funding arrangements for non-NHMRC research	26/11/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>Electoral Matters (Joint, Standing)</b>			
Second interim report on the inquiry into the conduct of the 2013 federal election: An assessment of electronic voting options	20/11/14	No response to date	No
The 2013 Federal Election: Report on the conduct of the 2013 election and matters related thereto	15/4/15	No response to date	No
Second interim report on the inquiry into the conduct of the 2016 federal election: Foreign donations	10/3/17	26/11/18	No

<b>Description of Report</b>	<b>Date Tabled or Published<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Date of Government Response<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Responded in Period Specified<sup>3</sup></b>
Third interim report on the inquiry into the conduct of the 2016 federal election: AEC modernisation	21/6/17	No response to date	No
Advisory report on the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017	9/4/18	26/11/18	No
Excluded: The impact of section 44 on Australian democracy	17/5/18	No response to date	No
Second advisory report into the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017	15/10/18	26/11/18	Yes
Report on the conduct of the 2016 federal election and matters related thereto	5/12/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>Environment (House, Standing)</b>			
Streamlining environmental legislation: Inquiry into streamlining environmental regulation, 'green tape', and one stop shops	23/2/15	No response to date	No
Inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations	4/5/16	No response to date	No
<b>Environment and Energy (House, Standing)</b>			
Living with fruit bats: Inquiry into flying-fox management in the eastern states	27/2/17	No response to date	No
Powering our future: Inquiry into modernising Australia's electricity grid	5/2/18	No response to date	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
<b>Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (Joint, Standing)</b>			
Australia's trade and investment relationships with countries of the Middle East	4/5/16	No response to date	No
Modern slavery and global supply chains – interim report	17/8/17	No response to date	No
Hidden in Plain Sight	7/12/17	No response to date	No
Review of the Defence Annual Report 2015-16	7/12/17	15/8/18	No
Contestability and consensus: A bipartisan approach to more effective parliamentary engagement with Defence	26/11/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
Inquiry into the management of PFAS contamination in and around Defence bases	3/12/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
Compassion, Not Commerce: An inquiry into human organ trafficking and organ transplant tourism	3/12/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
Use of the Quinoline anti-malarial drugs Mefloquine and Tafenoquine in the Australian Defence Force	4/12/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>Health (House, Standing)</b>			
Inquiry into Chronic Disease Prevention and Management in Primary Health Care	5/5/16	No response to date	No



Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
<b>Health and Ageing (House, Standing)</b>			
Lost in the labyrinth: Report on the inquiry into registration processes and support for overseas trained doctors	19/3/12	No response to date	No
Diseases have no borders: Report on the inquiry into health issues across international borders	20/3/13	20/8/18	No
Bridging the dental gap: Report on the inquiry into adult dental services	17/6/13	No response to date	No
<b>Health, Aged Care and Sport (House, Standing)</b>			
Still waiting to be heard... Inquiry into the Hearing Health and Wellbeing of Australia	13/9/17	14/8/18	No
Inquiry into the Use and Marketing of Electronic Cigarettes and Personal Vaporisers in Australia	28/3/18	No response to date	No
Report on the inquiry into Biotxin-related Illnesses in Australia	17/10/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
Report on the inquiry into the quality of care in residential aged care facilities in Australia	22/10/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>Human Rights (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
Eleventh Report of 2013: Review of Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Act 2012 and related legislation – Interim report	26/6/13	No response to date	No
2016 Review of Stronger Futures measures: Final Report	16/3/16	No response to date	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
Freedom of speech in Australia: Inquiry into the operation of Part IIA of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 ( <i>Cth</i> ) and related procedures under the Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 ( <i>Cth</i> )	28/2/17	Partial response	No
<b>Indigenous Affairs (House, Standing)</b>			
Interim report: First steps for improving educational opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students	4/5/16	No response to date	No
The power of education from surviving to thriving: Educational opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students	15/12/17	No response to date	No
<b>Industry, Innovation, Science &amp; Resources (House, Standing)</b>			
Social issues relating to land-based automated vehicles in Australia	11/9/17	28/6/18	No
Internet Competition Inquiry: Inquiry into impacts on local businesses in Australia from global internet-based competition	11/4/18	No response to date	No
Keep it in the regions: Mining and resources industry support for businesses in regional economies	3/12/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>Infrastructure, Transport and Cities (House, Standing)</b>			
Smart ICT: Report on the inquiry into the role of smart ICT in the design and planning of infrastructure	15/3/16	No response to date	No

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
Building up & Moving Out	17/9/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>Intelligence and Security (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
ASIO's questioning and detention powers	10/5/18	No response to date	No
Review of the re-declaration of Mosul District, Ninewa Province, Iraq	20/6/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
Review of the re-listing of Hizballah's External Security Organisation as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code	20/6/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
Review of the re-listing of five organisations and the listing of two organisations as terrorist organisations under the Criminal Code	20/9/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>Law Enforcement (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
Inquiry into financial related crime	7/9/15	No response to date	No
Inquiry into human trafficking	18/7/17	No response to date	No
Inquiry into crystal methamphetamine (ice): First Report	6/9/17	No response to date	No
Inquiry into crystal methamphetamine (ice): Final Report	27/3/18	No response to date	No
Examination of the Australian Federal Police Annual Report 2015-16	28/3/18	No response to date	No

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Trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn	19/9/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>National Broadband Network (Joint, Standing)</b>			
The rollout of the NBN in rural and regional areas—Second report	19/11/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>National Capital and External Territories (Joint, Standing)</b>			
Etched in stone? Inquiry into the administration of the <i>National Memorials Ordinance 1928</i>	23/11/11	No response to date	No
Maintaining Australia's national interests in Antarctica: Inquiry into Australia's Antarctic Territory	18/6/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
Commonwealth approvals for ACT light rail: Commonwealth and Parliamentary approvals for the proposed Stage 2 of the Australian Capital Territory light rail project	22/10/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>National Disability Insurance Scheme (Joint, Standing)</b>			
The provision of hearing services under the National Disability Insurance Scheme	21/6/18	24/10/18 <sup>4</sup>	Yes
Market readiness for provision of services under the NDIS	20/9/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>Northern Australia (Joint, Standing)</b>			
Northern Horizons – Unleashing Our Tourism Potential	28/6/18	No response to date	Time has not expired

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<b>Procedure (House, Standing)</b>			
Role of the Federation Chamber: Celebrating 20 years of operation	22/6/15	No response to date	No
Maintenance of the standing orders	2/5/16	No response to date	No
Division required? Electronic voting in the House of Representatives	2/5/16	No response to date	No
Maintenance of the standing orders – Interim Report	21/5/18	No response to date	No
Maintenance of the standing orders – Final Report	4/12/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>Public Accounts and Audit (Joint, Statutory)</b>			
Report 460: Public Sector Governance – Inquiry based on Auditor-General’s report 29 (2015- 16)	16/2/17	No response to date	No
Report 463: Commonwealth Financial Statements	5/9/17	Partial response received	No
Report 467: Cybersecurity Compliance	25/10/17	No response to date	No
Report 470: Defence Sustainment Expenditure	20/3/18	9/11/18	No
Report 471: Security of Overseas Missions	8/5/18	No response to date	No
Report 472: Commonwealth Procurement — Second Report	17/10/18	No response to date	Time has not expired

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
Report 473:Defence Major Projects Report (2016-17)	18/9/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>Publications (Joint)</b>			
Inquiry into the printing standards for documents presented to Parliament 2017 Report	5/12/17	23/10/18	No
<b>Regional Development and Decentralisation (House, Select)</b>			
Regions at the ready: investing in Australia's future	28/6/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>Social Policy and Legal Affairs (House, Standing)</b>			
Surrogacy Matters: Inquiry into the regulatory and legislative aspects of international and domestic surrogacy	4/5/16	29/11/18	No
A better family law system to support and protect those affected by family violence	7/12/17	19/9/18	No
Breaking barriers: A national adoption framework for Australian children	26/11/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>Tax and Revenue (House, Standing)</b>			
Taxpayer Engagement with the Tax System	10/9/18	No response to date	Time has not expired

Description of Report	Date Tabled or Published <sup>1</sup>	Date of Government Response <sup>2</sup>	Responded in Period Specified <sup>3</sup>
<b>Trade and Investment Growth (Joint, Select)</b>			
Inquiry into Australia's Future Research and Innovation	3/5/16	No response to date	No
Trade and the digital economy	20/9/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
<b>Treaties (Joint, Standing)</b>			
Report 177: Extradition – Jordan; Mutual Legal Assistance - Jordan	15/2/18	7/8/18	Yes
Report 179: Reprocessing Nuclear Fuel-France; PACER Plus Agreement	9/5/18	No response to date	No
Report 181: Comprehensive and progressive Agreement for Trans- Pacific partnership	22/8/18	No response to date	Time has not expired
Report 183: Aspects of the Peru- Australia Free Trade Agreement revisited	19/11/18	No response to date	Time has not expired

## Notes

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- 1 The date of tabling is the date the report was presented to the House of Representatives or to the Speaker, whichever is earlier. In the case of joint committees, the date shown is the date of first presentation to either the House or the Senate or to the President or Speaker (if presented earlier out of session). Reports published when the House (or Houses) are not sitting are tabled at a later date.
- 2 If the source for the government response date is not the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives or the Journals of the Senate, the source is shown in an endnote.
- 3 For reports up to the end of 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament, the time specified is three months from the date of tabling. The Government has undertaken to respond to committee reports within a six month period—see House of Representatives Standing Orders, resolution of the House of Representatives of 29 September 2010. This resolution also puts in place additional steps for reports not responded to within that six month period. The period from when the 44<sup>th</sup> Parliament was prorogued on 9 May 2016 to the commencement of the 45<sup>th</sup> Parliament on 30 August 2016 is not included in the response period.
- 4 The Committee tabled an interim report in July 2017 and received a Government Response.