

Question: 3

Topic: Committee workload

Asked: 27 February 2017

Senator McAllister asked: Of the 34 references in the last Parliament which were supported by the Government in the Chamber? [based on divisions].

Answer: From context, the question appears to be about references to references committees in this Parliament. Thirty-four matters have been referred to References Committees to date in the 45th Parliament. Divisions were called in 12 cases. The government supported two of the 12 divisions, as shown in the following table.

Cases where a division is called

Committee	Inquiry	Reference date	Government support in division
Community Affairs References Committee	Protheses list framework	21 November 2016	No
Economics References Committee	Consumer protection in the banking, insurance and financial services sector	29 November 2016	No
Environment and Communications References Committee	Impacts of climate change on marine fisheries and biodiversity	14 September 2016	No
Environment and Communications References Committee	Construction of Perth Freight link in the face of significant environmental breaches	16 February 2017	No
Finance and Public Administration References Committee	Commonwealth funding of Indigenous Tasmanians	12 October 2016	Yes
Finance and Public Administration References Committee	Administrative Arrangements Order	1 December 2016	No
Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee	Nauru and Manus Regional Processing Centres	12 September 2016	No
Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee	Nature and scope of the consultations prior to the making of the Legal Services Amendment (Solicitor-General Opinions) Direction 2016	15 September 2016	No
Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee	Proceeds of liquidation of the Bell group of companies	29 November 2016	No

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee	Biosecurity risks associated with imports of seafood (Reference proposed by Senator Sterle)	16 February 2017	No
Standing Committee of Privileges	Implications of the use of intrusive powers by law enforcement and intelligence agencies on the privileges and immunities of members of Parliament	28 November 2016	No

In the following three cases where no division was called, the Minister made a statement indicating that the government did not support the reference:

Committee	Inquiry	Reference date	Government indication in statement
Economics References Committee	2016 Census	31 August 2016	The government does not believe this inquiry is needed
Environment and Communications References Committee	Closures of electricity generators	13 October 2016	Any inquiry established prior to the reporting of the review is premature
Environment and Communications References Committee	Rehabilitation of mining and resources projects	8 February 2017	The proposed inquiry would duplicate much of this work [COAG Energy Council Land Access for Resources Working Group]

Six Senate select committees have been established so far in the 45th Parliament, with a seventh scheduled to be established on 27 March 2017. Of these seven motions, a division was called for on only one occasion; in relation to the Select Committee on Lending to Primary Production Customers. The government supported the appointment of the committee.