



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

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CLERK OF THE SENATE

D14/29147

15 October 2014

Ms Lyn Beverley  
Secretary  
Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverley

**ESTIMATES HEARING 20 OCTOBER 2014 – DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE**

In accordance with the usual practice, I attach the latest information, statistics and graphs of recent committee activity.

Yours sincerely

(Rosemary Laing)

# SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

## REPORT TO THE FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – OCTOBER 2014

#### RECENT TRENDS

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The following data shows trends and comparisons in the activities of Senate standing committees:

- At 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014 there have been a total of 148 references in the 44<sup>th</sup> parliament. At a similar period in the 43<sup>rd</sup> parliament there were 109 references and in the 42<sup>nd</sup> parliament there were 110 references. This is shown in **graph 1**.
- At 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014 in the 44<sup>th</sup> Parliament, a total of 158 reports have been tabled. In comparison, in the 43<sup>rd</sup> parliament there were 153 reports and in the 42<sup>nd</sup> parliament there were 139 reports tabled for the same period respectively. This is shown in **graph 3**.
- The busiest committees at any one time during the 44<sup>th</sup> parliament have been the Legal and Constitutional Affairs committees, which have so far dealt with a maximum of 15 references at one time, in July 2014. During June 2014, the Economics committees and the Community Affairs committees managed 12 references at one time.

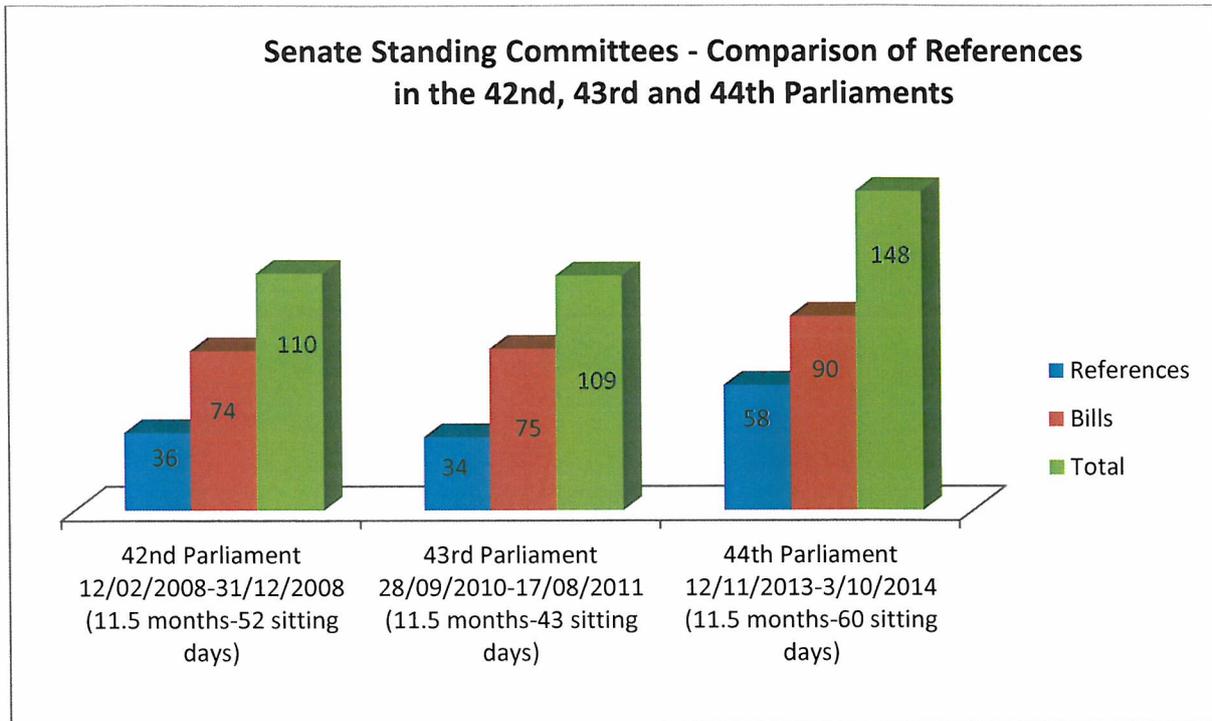
#### Background

- The 43<sup>rd</sup> parliament experienced an increase in the total number of matters referred to standing committees. There were a total of 321 references to standing committees in the 43<sup>rd</sup> parliament compared to 300 references in the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 234 in the 41<sup>st</sup> respectively.
- During the 43<sup>rd</sup> parliament, there was also an increase in the number of committee reports tabled. A total of 506 reports were tabled in the last parliament, an increase from 462 reports in the 42<sup>nd</sup> parliament and 388 in the 41<sup>st</sup> parliament.
- The number of public hearings (excluding estimates hearings) increased in 2012-13 to 183. 144 public hearings were held in 2011-12 and 118 in 2010-11 (**see graph 4**).
- The busiest committees at any one time during the 43<sup>rd</sup> parliament were the Legal and Constitutional Affairs committees, which twice dealt with a maximum of 12 references at one time (in November 2010 and May 2011) and the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport committees, which managed 12 references simultaneously during March 2013.
- At present, the Senate Department is also supporting 4 Select committees, 2 Joint Select committees and 1 new Joint Standing committee (NDIS).

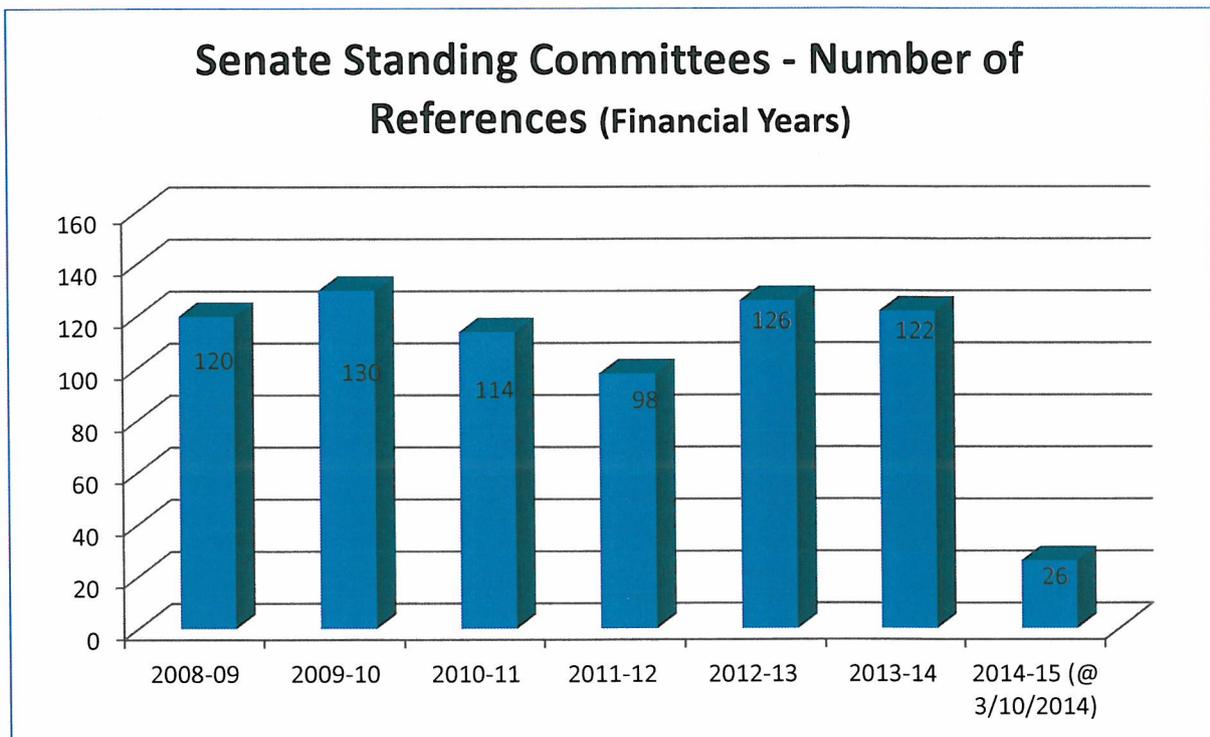
*Average staffing for 2014-15:* to date this financial year there are 55 Full Time Equivalent staff in the Committee Office (**see FTE graph**). Recruitment has been undertaken to ensure there is adequate support for Committees as the Committee Office workload has increased.

*Cost of running Senate committees (2013-14):* operational costs for the Committee Office in 2013-14 were \$6.5 million. The attached financial summary includes estimated costs incurred 'by category of committee' for the four years 2010-11 to 2013-14.

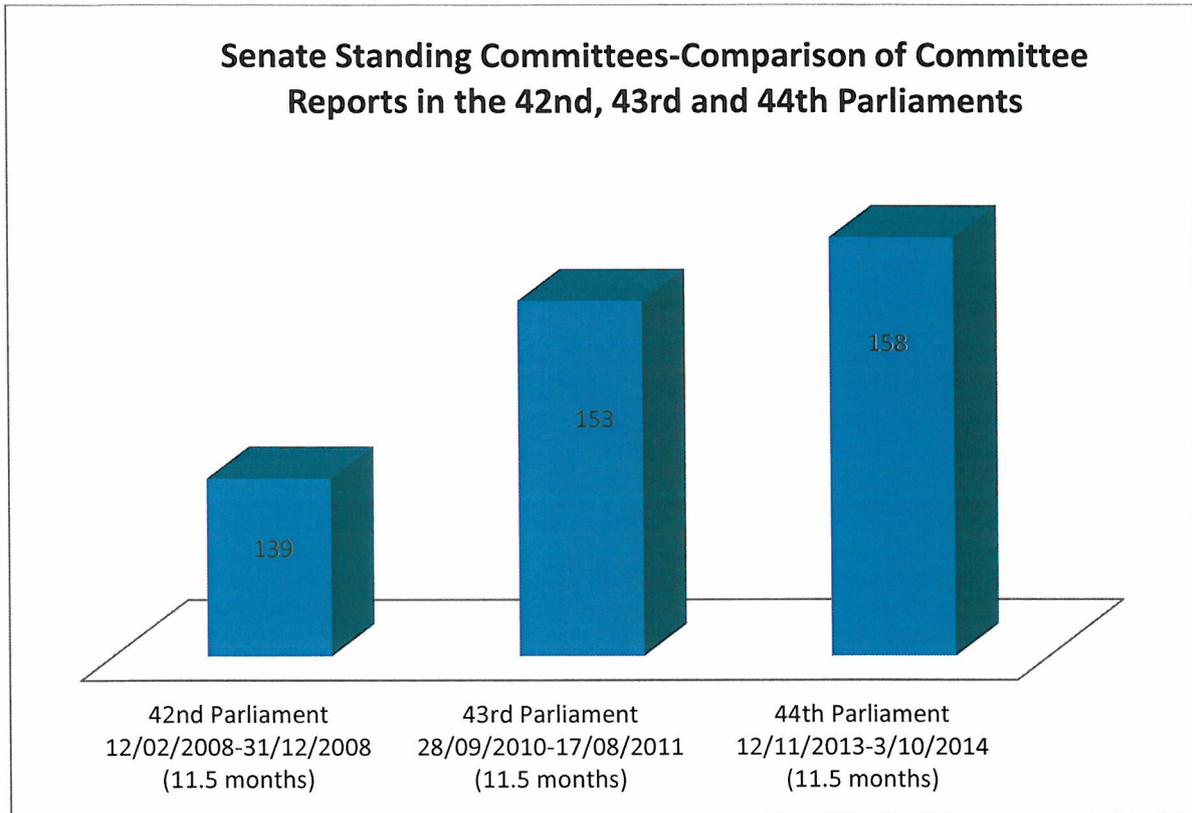
Graph 1



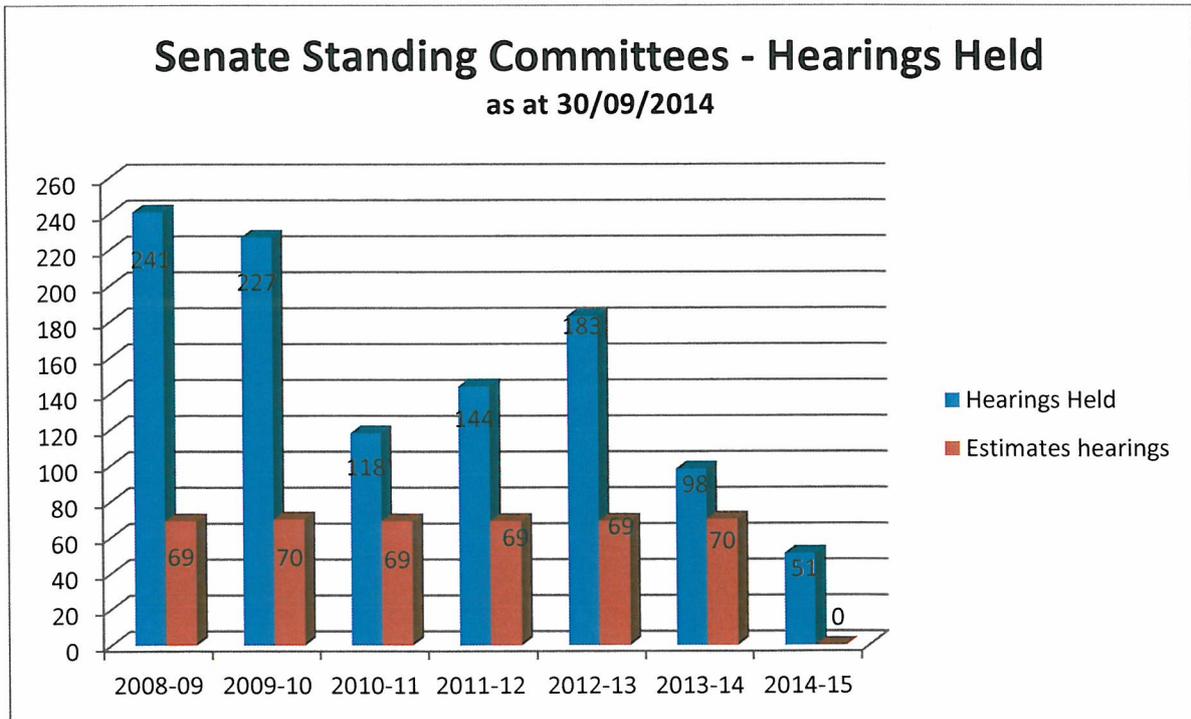
Graph 2



Graph 3



Graph 4

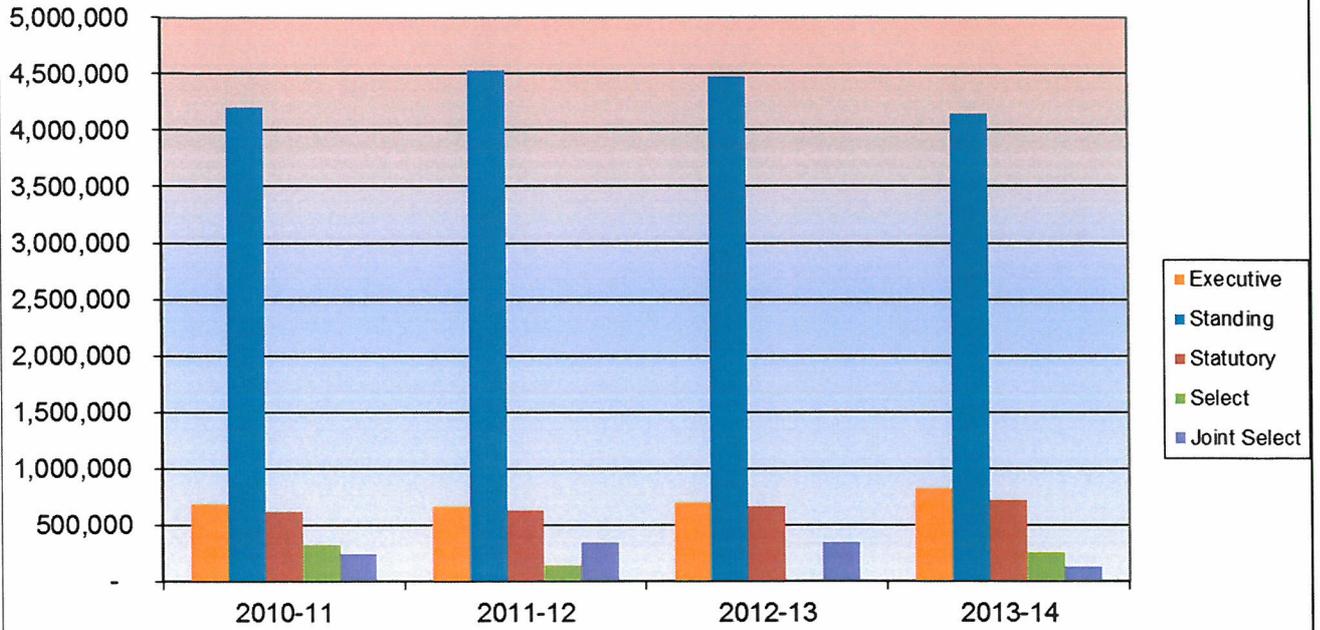


**SUMMARY COMPARISON OF COMMITTEE COSTS BY CATEGORY -  
STANDING, SELECT AND JOINT COMMITTEES – 2010-11 TO 2013-14**

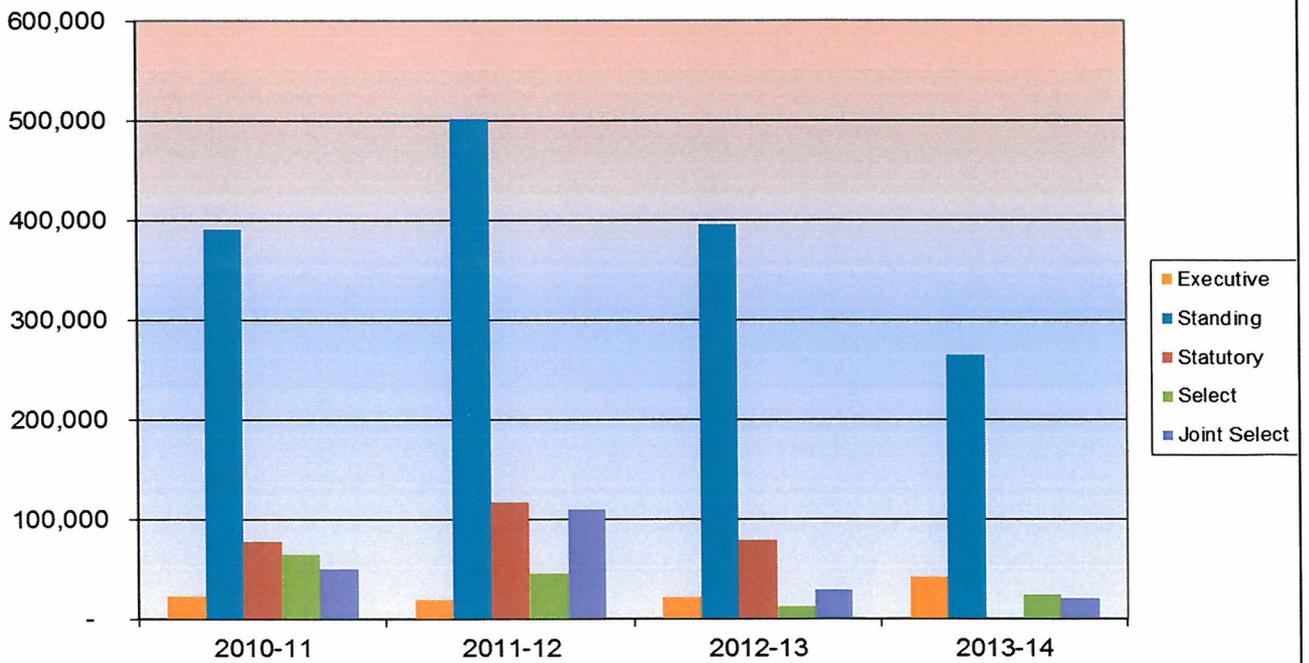
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>
<b>Executive</b>				
Staff Costs	680,982	662,744	699,960	822,952
Administrative Costs	22,767	18,944	21,876	41,541
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>703,749</b>	<b>681,688</b>	<b>721,836</b>	<b>864,493</b>
<b>Standing</b>				
Staff Costs	4,202,414	4,528,798	4,478,539	4,143,561
Administrative Costs	390,730	501,025	395,213	263,927
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,593,144</b>	<b>5,029,823</b>	<b>4,873,752</b>	<b>4,407,488</b>
<b>Statutory</b>				
Staff Costs	621,590	627,266	667,934	715,560
Administrative Costs	77,507	117,289	79,239	60,946
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>699,097</b>	<b>744,555</b>	<b>747,173</b>	<b>776,506</b>
<b>Select</b>				
Staff Costs	321,079	144,071	-	253,201
Administrative Costs	64,469	44,869	11,578 <sup>¶</sup>	23,391
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>385,549</b>	<b>188,940</b>	<b>11,578</b>	<b>276,592</b>
<b>Joint Select</b>				
Staff Costs	238,050	339,533	350,391	125,875
Administrative Costs	49,769	110,244	29,045	20,200
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>287,818</b>	<b>449,777</b>	<b>379,436</b>	<b>146,075</b>
<b>Total Program Expense</b>	<b><u>6,669,357</u></b>	<b><u>7,094,783</u></b>	<b><u>6,735,030</u></b>	<b><u>6,471,154</u></b>

*Staff costs - the salaries of Senate staff working within the secretariat.  
Administrative costs – includes advertising inquiries, refreshments at hearings, hire of hearing venues, flights and aircraft charters to attend hearings, printing etc.*

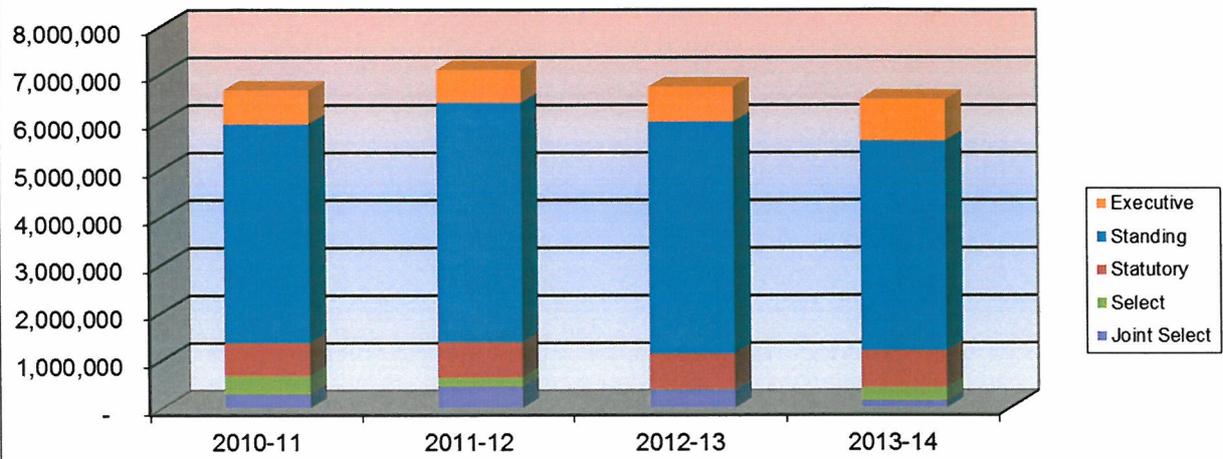
### Committee Office - Staff Costs



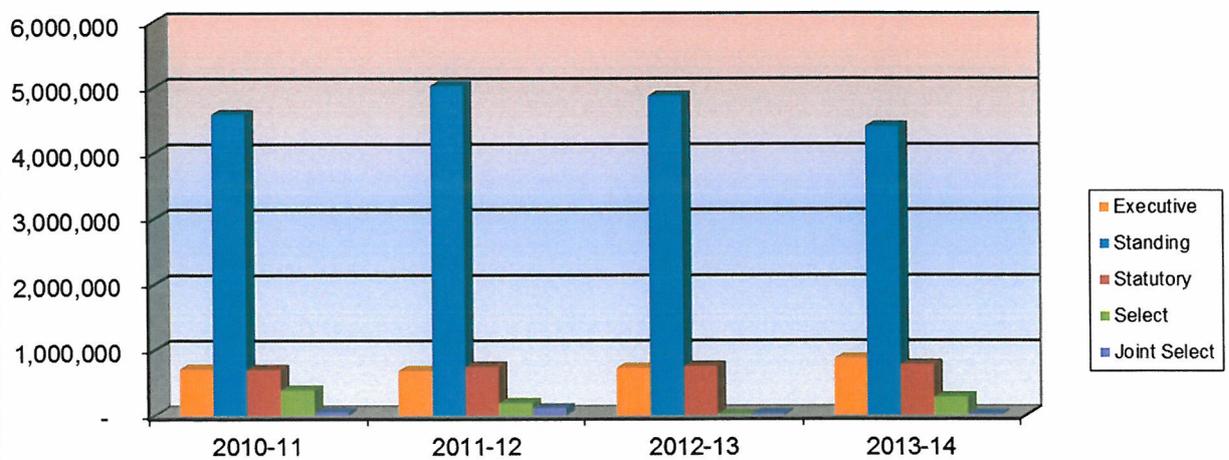
### Committee Office - Administrative Costs



**Committee Office - Total Expenditure**



**Committee Office - Total Expenditure**



# Committee Office FTE 2000/01 to 2014/15

