

The Senate

Standing Committee on
Finance and Public Administration

Additional estimates 2006-07

March 2007

Commonwealth of Australia
ISBN 978-0-642-71749-8

This document is prepared by the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee and printed by the Senate Printing Unit, Parliament House, Canberra.

Membership of the Committee

Members

Senator Brett Mason (Chair)	LP, QLD
Senator Michael Forshaw (Deputy Chair)	ALP, NSW
Senator Carol Brown	ALP, TAS
Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells	LP, NSW
Senator Mitch Fifield	LP, VIC
Senator Claire Moore	ALP, QLD
Senator Andrew Murray	AD, WA
Senator John Watson	LP, TAS

Participating members

Senators Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Boswell, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carr, Chapman, Conroy, Crossin, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Fielding, Heffernan, Hogg, Joyce, Ludwig, Lundy, Ian Macdonald, McGauran, McLucas, Marshall, Milne, Nettle, O'Brien, Parry, Payne, Ray, Ronaldson, Sherry, Siewert, Stephens, Trood and Webber.

NOTE: all senators may attend a meeting of a legislation committee in relation to estimates, question witnesses and participate in the deliberation of the committee at such a meeting (see Standing Order 26(8)).

Secretariat

Alistair Sands	Committee Secretary
Sharon Babyack	Research Officer
Emma Hardman	Executive Assistant

Committee Address

SG.60

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Tel: 02 6277 3530 Fax: 02 6277 5809

Email: fpa.sen@aph.gov.au Internet: <http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/fpa>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Membership of the Committee	iii
Introduction	1
Portfolio coverage	1
Hearings	2
General issues	2
Parliamentary Departments	5
Department of the Senate	5
Department of Parliamentary Services	5
Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio	7
Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor General	7
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	7
Finance and Administration Portfolio	9
Department of Finance and Administration	9
Australian Electoral Commission	9
Human Services Portfolio	11
Department of Human Services and agencies	11
Department of Human Services	11
Centrelink	11
Medicare Australia	12
Acknowledgements	12
Next hearings—Budget estimates 2007-08	12
Appendix 1	
Departments and agencies under the four portfolios for which the Committee has oversight	13
Parliamentary departments	13
Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio	13
Finance and Administration Portfolio	13
Human Services Portfolio	13
Appendix 2	
Index to Hansard Transcripts	15
Monday, 12 February 2007	15
Tuesday, 13 February 2007	15
Friday, 16 February 2007	16
Appendix 3	
Trends in bills referral to Senate committees	17

