



SENATE
REPORT

Appropriations and Staffing Committee

Estimates for the Department of the Senate
2011–12

52nd report

May 2011

The Senate

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Members of the Committee

The President of the Senate, Senator the Hon. John Hogg (Chairman)

The Leader of the Government in the Senate, Senator the Hon. Chris Evans

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator the Hon. Eric Abetz

Senator the Hon. John Faulkner

Senator the Hon. Kate Lundy

Senator Stephen Parry

Senator the Hon. Nick Sherry

Senator John Williams

Senator Nick Xenophon

The Committee

The Standing Committee on Appropriations and Staffing, appointed under standing order 19, determines the amounts for inclusion in the parliamentary appropriation bills and reports to the Senate on its determinations prior to the Senate's consideration of those bills.

The Committee examines matters affecting the staffing and administration of the Department of the Senate, including proposals to vary the staffing structure, and other matters referred to it by the Senate. The Committee makes an annual report to the Senate on the operations of the Senate's appropriations and staffing and related matters (standing order 19(3)).

The Committee has the explicit capacity to scrutinise security funding and administration and to advise the President and the Senate as appropriate. Under a resolution of the Senate agreed to in 1987 the Committee also examines proposed changes in the structure and responsibilities of the parliamentary departments.

The Committee is chaired by the President and includes the Senate Leaders of the Government and the Opposition as *ex officio* members.

Secretary

James Warmenhoven
Senate Table Office

52nd Report

Introduction

Standing order 19 (2) and (3) requires that the Committee determine the amount to be included in the parliamentary appropriation bill for the Department of the Senate.

Proposed Appropriations for 2011-12

The Committee notes that the Senate Department's 2011-12 appropriations have been calculated in accordance with current Commonwealth funding policy. Under this policy, the forward estimates reflect:

- an increase in the efficiency dividend from 1.25 per cent to 1.5 per cent;
- funding for an agreed budget measure – the Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform; and
- parameter adjustments (comprising partial cost of living supplementation).

The one significant change to the department's budget is the increased funding for the new budget measure, which totals \$1.355m over three years commencing in 2010-11. Funding for 2010-11 will be appropriated in the 2011-12 budget period.

The Committee notes that funding for the Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform is the only approved budget measure of the three proposals endorsed by the Committee and submitted to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Finance and Deregulation. The other two proposals were:

- funding for legislative drafting and advice to meet a higher demand for private senators' bills arising from new opportunities resulting from the parliamentary reform proposals; and
- funding for enhanced information management capacity associated with Government 2.0 and new generation web technology to enable the Senate to maintain an appropriate presence on the Internet.

The Committee notes that there has been no response to its correspondence and no reason given for varying the proposals endorsed by the committee. The committee draws the attention of the government to resolutions of the Senate on 2 December 1985 and 30 November 1988 which set out processes to be followed in these circumstances.

The proposed appropriation has been calculated as follows:

Part 1 - Departmental Annual Appropriation

The current year's budget for departmental expenses (as disclosed in the 2010-11 PBS)	\$20.540m
Adjust for: parameter adjustments; and	+0.289m
Additional efficiency dividend (1.5% for 2011-12)	-0.101m
Agreed budget measure: Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform:	
Budget year 2010-11	+0.330m
Budget year 2011-12	+0.511m
Total departmental appropriation for 2011-12	<u>\$21.569m</u>

Part 2 – Accumulated Prior Year Appropriations, Operating Results and Capital Expenditure

Balance of prior year appropriations (as at 30 April 2011)	\$10.457m
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Part 3 - Special Appropriations (senators' remuneration and entitlements)

Made up of the following three components (for this and next year):

2010-11:

<i>Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990</i>	\$ 0.736m
<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	\$ 1.010m
<i>Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973</i>	<u>\$14.081m</u>
Total Special Appropriations for 2010-11	<u>\$15.827m</u>

2011-12:

<i>Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990</i>	\$ 0.736m
<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	\$ 1.080m
<i>Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973</i>	<u>\$14.646m</u>
Total Special Appropriations for 2011-12	<u>\$16.462m</u>

The total appropriation to be approved by the Parliament in the appropriation bill for 2011-12 will be \$21.569m (compared to \$20.540m in 2010-11).

Special appropriations of \$16.462m will also be drawn down during the year (compared to an estimate of \$15.827m in 2010-11).

Determination

The committee determines that the total appropriation to be approved by the Parliament in the appropriation bill for 2011-12 is \$21.569m and reports to the Senate accordingly.

Senator the Hon John Hogg
Chairman

May 2011

