



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

REFERENCES COMMITTEE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Telephone: + 61 2 6277 3530
Facsimile: + 61 2 6277 5809

27 March 2003

INQUIRY INTO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT STAFF (MOPS)

On 19 March 2003 the Senate referred the above matter to the Finance and Public Administration References Committee for inquiry and report by 18 October 2003. Key aspects of the inquiry will include:

- the adequacy and appropriateness of the framework for employment, management and accountability of staff under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (the MOPS Act);
- the role of ministerial advisers, their accountability to the government, Parliament and public, and the interface between ministerial offices and government departments;
- the remuneration and conditions of employment of MOPS staff; and
- the role of departmental liaison officers (ie, public servants working for ministers) and their interaction with MoPS staff and departments.

The full terms of reference are attached.

The Committee will consider all submissions and may invite individuals and organisations to give evidence at public hearings. Submissions become committee documents on receipt and can be made public only after a decision by the Committee. Persons making submissions can not release them without advice from the secretariat that the permission of the committee has been granted.

All communications with the Committee and its Secretariat are protected by parliamentary privilege. The Committee is keen to get as much material as possible on the public record. However, there is provision for the Committee to consider requests that it receive information on a confidential basis. Submissions are covered by parliamentary privilege but their unauthorised release is not. As indicated above, people making submissions must not disclose them without the prior approval of the Committee as communicated by the secretariat.

Details on the inquiry and other explanatory material, the terms of reference and submission guidelines, are available on the Committee's web site, http://www.apf.gov.au/senate_fpa, or by the Committee Secretary Alistair Sands on 02 6277 3530.

The closing date for submissions is **23 May 2003**. The Committee prefers submissions to be provided in electronic form on floppy disc or e-mailed to fpa.sen@aph.gov.au. Alternatively, submissions may be faxed or posted. If you are likely to experience any difficulty meeting the deadline please contact the secretariat.

Alistair Sands
Secretary

