

# **Response by the President of the Senate to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee Report on the performance of the Department of Parliamentary Services**

At the Additional Estimates hearing of 11 February 2013, noting the response prepared by the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) with my approval and tabled on my behalf in the Senate on 7 February 2013, I undertook to respond to the recommendations, and in particular Recommendation 1, contained in the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee's report on the performance of the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS).

This is my response as President of the Senate in keeping with my responsibilities for the Department in accordance with the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*. This response does not reflect the views of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

**Recommendation 1 – The committee recommends that the funding and administration of the Department of Parliamentary Services be overseen by the Senate Appropriations and Staffing Committee and the House Appropriations and Administration Committee meeting jointly for that purpose, and that standing orders be amended as necessary.**

## *Response*

With respect to the changes to Senate Standing Order 19 recommended by the Committee, these are appropriately a matter for consideration, firstly, by the Standing Committee on Appropriations and Staffing, and secondly, by the Senate following a report by the Standing Committee on Appropriations and Staffing.

Accordingly, I will bring the Committee's Report and Recommendation 1 to the Standing Committee on Appropriations and Staffing for its consideration.

## **Recommendations 2 to 22**

### *Response*

Supported, noting that DPS has already commenced action to address the issues identified in each recommendation.

**Recommendation 23 - The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth exempt the Department of Parliamentary Services from any future one-off, additional efficiency dividends.**

### *Response*

This recommendation is more appropriately one for the Government to respond to. Therefore I have brought the Committee's Report and this recommendation to the attention of the relevant Minister in the Government.