
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Appropriations and Administration Committee

House of Representatives
Annual Report 2014–15

May 2016
Canberra

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Membership of the Committee

Chair	Hon Tony Smith MP	
Deputy Chair	Ms Julie Owens MP	
Members	Mr Russell Broadbent MP	
	Mr Scott Buccholz MP	(from 13 May 2015 to 26 November 2015)
	Ms Sharon Claydon MP	
	Mr Mark Coulton MP	
	Ms Jill Hall MP	
	Mr Chris Hayes MP	
	Ms Nola Marino MP	(from 26 November 2015)
	Mr Ken O'Dowd MP	
	Hon Philip Ruddock MP	(from 3 December 2013 to 13 May 2015)
Secretary	Ms Bronwyn Notzon	
Research	Ms Kay Saunders	

Annual Report 2014-2015

The Committee

- 1.1 The Standing Committee on Appropriations and Administration, appointed under standing order 222A, considers estimates of the funding required for the operation of the Department of the House of Representatives for each year and provides to the Speaker for presentation to the House and transmission to the Minister for Finance and Deregulation, estimates of amounts for inclusion in the appropriation bills for the Department.
- 1.2 The Committee also considers proposals for changes to the administration of the Department of the House of Representatives or variations to services provided by the Department, other matters of finance or services as may be referred to it by the Speaker or the House, the administration and funding of security measures affecting the House, and proposals for works in the parliamentary precincts that are subject to parliamentary approval. The Committee reports on these matters to the Speaker or the House, as appropriate.
- 1.3 When conferring with the Senate Standing Committee on Appropriations and Staffing, the Committee may consider estimates of the funding required for the operation of the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) each year, and provide to the Speaker for presentation to the House and transmission to the Minister for Finance, estimates of amounts for inclusion in appropriation bills for the DPS. To date, the Committee has heard from DPS on its estimates and budgetary position, but has not reported to the House on these matters.
- 1.4 Standing order 222A(a) (ii) provides that the Committee make an annual report to the House on the amounts for inclusion in the appropriation bills for the Department of the House of Representatives.

- 1.5 The House Appropriations and Administration Committee was established at the beginning of the 44th Parliament on 12 November 2013, and members of the committee were first appointed on 11 December 2013.

Reports

- 1.6 In 2014–15, the Committee tabled two reports:
- *Report no. 8 – Annual Report 2013-2014; and*
 - *Report no. 9 – Budget estimates 2015-2016 for the Department of the House of Representatives.*

Reports no. 8 and 9

- 1.7 Report no. 9 was presented in accordance with standing order 222A(a) (ii) which requires the Committee to provide the Speaker for presentation to the House the amounts for inclusion in the appropriation bills for the Department of the House of Representatives. As in previous years, the report was tabled in the House on Thursday 14 May 2015 following the presentation of the Budget. In summary, the total appropriation to be approved by the Parliament for the Department of the House of Representatives in the Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2015-2016 was \$21.134m, compared to \$21.146m in 2014–15.
- 1.8 The Committee endorsed the Department’s proposal to seek support to enter into discussions in the context of the 2015-16 Budget about a revised funding model for the Department that would better suit the needs of the House, Committees and Members into the future.
- 1.9 The Committee noted the Government’s response to these proposals. The Government was supportive of the Department entering into discussions about a revised funding model and the request for exemption from the increase to the efficiency dividend was not agreed.

Oral Report

- 1.10 Following its meeting on 23 March 2015, the Committee agreed to the Chair of the Committee presenting to the House an oral report of the committee’s decision in relation to proposed security works in the parliamentary precinct. The Chair presented this oral report to the House on 26 March 2015.

Meetings of the Committee

- 1.11 During the reporting period the Committee met four times, on 29 October 2014, 23 March 2015, 13 May 2015 and 3 June 2015.
- 1.12 The following are among the matters considered at the meetings:

- the role and method of operation of the Committee was adopted
- a briefing by the Clerk of the House on the successful completion of phase one of the Departmental furniture project, and the proposed commencement of phase two
- a briefing by the Clerk of the House on the Department's current financial position and future budget projections for the Department, including the financial impact of successive efficiency dividends on the Department
- a briefing by officers of the Department of Parliamentary Services on security measures affecting the parliamentary precinct
- consideration of a revised funding model for the Department to be brought forward in accordance with future Budget processes

1.13 In brief, the Committee considers it has played a positive and responsible role in discharging its responsibilities under the standing orders, and in particular, in assessing the funding requirements of the Department of House of Representatives and bringing these requirements to the attention of government. It reports to the House accordingly.

Hon Tony Smith MP
Chair

May 2016