
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Appropriations and Administration Committee

House of Representatives
Annual Report 2016-2017

September 2017
Canberra

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Membership of the Committee – 45th Parliament

Chair	Hon Tony Smith MP
Deputy Chair	Ms Julie Owens MP
Members	Mr Ross Hart MP
	Mr Chris Hayes MP
	Mrs Nola Marino MP
	Mr Rob Mitchell MP
	Mr Ben Morton MP
	Mr Rowan Ramsey MP
	Mr Bert van Manen MP
Secretary	Mr James Catchpole
Researcher	Ms Kay Saunders

Annual Report 2016-2017

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. The Committee provides its estimates of amounts for inclusion in the appropriation and supply bills for the Department to the Speaker for presentation to the House and transmission to the Minister for Finance.
- 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 The Committee may confer with the Senate Standing Committee on Appropriations, Staffing and Security to consider estimates of the funding required for the operation of the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) each year. The Committee may provide to the Speaker for presentation to the House and transmission to the Minister for Finance, estimates of amounts for inclusion in appropriation and supply bills for DPS. The two committees did not confer in this manner in 2016-17.

- 1.4 Standing order 222A(a)(vi) requires the Committee to make an annual report to the House on its operations, the subject of this report being the reporting period of 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

Reports

- 1.5 In 2016-2017, the Committee tabled two reports:
- *Report no. 12- Annual Report 2015-2016; and*
 - *Report no. 13 - Budget Estimates 2017-2018 for the Department of the House of Representatives.*

Report no. 13

- 1.6 Report no. 13 was presented in accordance with standing order 222A(a)(ii) which requires the Committee to provide to the Speaker for presentation to the House the amounts for inclusion in the appropriation bills for the Department of the House of Representatives. The report was tabled in the House on Thursday 11 May 2017 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) 2017-2018 was \$25.202m, compared to \$25.123m in 2016-17.
- 1.7 The Committee was pleased to note that the Department had secured supplementary funding over four years commencing in 2017-18 which will enable the Department to strengthen its procedural capacity and to provide further support to parliamentary committees administered by the Department.

Meetings of the Committee of the 45th Parliament

- 1.8 During the reporting period the Committee met three times, on 23 November 2016, 28 November 2016 and 10 May 2017.
- 1.9 The following were among the matters considered at the meetings:
- an endorsement of the Presiding Officers' in principle support for the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) to be held in Canberra in 2023;
 - Security related capital works at Parliament House with particular reference to the House of Representatives wing.

APPF

- 1.10 The APPF was formed in 1993 and brings together members of 27 national parliaments across the Asia-Pacific region. The APPF is intended to enable parliamentarians to discuss issues of common concern, and to deepen their understanding of the region and the interests and experiences of its diverse countries. The APPF conducts its business through annual meetings hosted in turn by the member countries. The meetings are typically held in mid-to-late January, with Australia usually sending a small delegation of Members of Parliament.
- 1.11 The Australian Parliament has been asked to host the event in 2023, having last hosted the Annual Meeting in 2000. The Committee endorsed the proposal of the Presiding officers to agree, in principle, to support the 2023 Annual Meeting in Canberra.

Security Related Capital Works

- 1.12 In accordance with standing order 222A (a)(vii) and (viii), the Committee met and received a confidential briefing from the Department of Parliamentary Services on proposed works for security enhancements in the Parliamentary precincts. Following deliberations, the Committee endorsed the Speaker presenting the proposed works to the House, which were approved by that chamber on 1 December 2016.
- 1.13 A similar motion was introduced and passed in the Senate.

Hon Tony Smith MP
Chair
September 2017