
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Report concerning the registration and declaration of Members' interests during 2022

House of Representatives
Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests

February 2023
Canberra

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Membership of the Committee

46th Parliament

Chair Hon Kevin Andrews MP (Chair from 16 February 2022)

Mr Russell Broadbent MP (to 8 February 2022)

Deputy Chair Mr Patrick Gorman MP

Members

Hon Damien Drum MP

Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP (nominee of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition)

Ms Nicolle Flint MP

Mr Ian Goodenough MP

Mr Julian Leeser MP (nominee of the Leader of the House)

Ms Joanne Ryan MP (from 18 October 2021)

Hon Warren Snowdon MP

Ms Anika Wells MP

Mr Trent Zimmerman MP

47th Parliament

Chair Mr Rob Mitchell MP

Deputy Chair Mr James Stevens MP

Members Mr Russell Broadbent MP

Hon Scott Buchholz MP

Hon Darren Chester MP

Ms Sharon Claydon MP

Hon Alex Hawke MP (nominee of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition)

Dr Daniel Mulino MP

Ms Alicia Payne MP

Ms Joanne Ryan MP

Ms Anne Stanley MP (from 19 August 2022; nominee of the Leader of the House)

Ms Kate Thwaites MP

Mr Andrew Wilkie MP

Committee secretariat

Secretary Mr Peter Banson

Registrar of Members' Interests

Research Officers Ms Peggy Danaee

Ms Fleur Hall

Assistant Ms Debbie Hardie

Introduction

1. Under the provisions of standing order 216 by which the committee is established, the committee is required, as soon as practicable after each 31 December, to prepare and table in the House a report on its operations in connection with the registration and declaration of Members' interests during that year.
2. This is the report of the committee for the calendar year 2022.

Responsibilities of the committee

3. Standing order 216 sets out the following terms of reference for the committee:
 - (a) A Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests shall be appointed to:
 - (i) inquire into and report on complaints of breach of privilege or contempt which may be referred to it by the House under *standing order 51* or by the Speaker under *standing order 52*, or any other related matter referred to it by or in accordance with a resolution of the House;
 - (ii) inquire into and report on the arrangements made for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of a Register of Members' Interests;
 - (iii) consider proposals by Members and others on the form and content of the Register of Members' Interests;
 - (iv) consider specific complaints about registering or declaring interests;
 - (v) consider possible changes to any code of conduct adopted by the House; and
 - (vi) consider whether specified persons (other than Members) ought to be required to register and declare their interests.
 - (b) The committee shall consist of 13 members: the Leader of the House or his or her nominee, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition or his or her nominee, and 11 other members (six government and four opposition Members and one crossbench Member). When the Opposition is composed of two parties, the non-government Members shall consist of at least one member of the smaller opposition party.
 - (c) The committee may call for witnesses and documents, but when considering a matter concerning the registration or declaration of Members' interests it must not exercise that power or undertake an

investigation of a person's private interests unless the action is approved by at least seven members of the committee other than the Chair.

(d) The committee may report when it sees fit, and must report to the House on its operations in connection with the registration and declaration of Members' interests during the year as soon as possible after 31 December each year.

4. A report in accordance with these terms of reference follows.

Arrangements made for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of the Register

5. Since 1986 arrangements approved by the committee provide that the Register may be inspected, by appointment, between 10 am and 12 noon and 2 pm and 4 pm on working days in the office of the Registrar. In addition the Registrar may grant permission for the Register to be inspected outside those hours if the Registrar is satisfied that the circumstances surrounding the request warrant the exercise of such a discretion.
6. Statements of Members' interests have been published on the Parliament's website since the commencement of the 43rd Parliament. This has been a very significant change to accessibility of the statements.
7. The physical Register was inspected four times in 2022. The Register's homepage on the Parliament of Australia website was viewed 44,131 times during the year.

Proposals made by Members and others on the form and content of the Register

8. There were no proposals to alter the form and content of the Register in 2022. However, changes were made to the Explanatory Notes in 2022. These included five additional paragraphs in section 11, providing greater clarity on the Committee's expectations in relation to the extent and type of information provided by Members on the source of gifts, and encouraging Members to avoid accepting gifts in circumstances where this information is not able to be ascertained; and an additional paragraph in section 12, clarifying that Members are required to identify the source of any sponsored travel or hospitality disclosed.

Specific complaints made about the registering or declaring of interests

9. The committee did not receive any complaints about the registering or declaring of interests in 2022.

Changes to any code of conduct

10. The House has not adopted a code of conduct for Members.

Registration of interests by other classes of person

11. No issues were considered in this area during the year.

Mr Rob Mitchell MP
CHAIR