



DEPARTMENT *of the*  
HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

## 2008–09 ANNUAL REPORT



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Unless otherwise acknowledged, all photographs in this report were taken by staff of the Department of the House of Representatives.

#### **Front cover images**

Left to right: The Speaker (Mr Harry Jenkins MP) and Deputy Speaker (Ms Anna Burke MP) meeting with the Clerk (Mr Ian Harris) and the Deputy Clerk (Mr Bernard Wright). Photo courtesy of Auspic.

Members rising in their places in the House Chamber as a mark of respect to the victims of the Victorian bushfires and Queensland floods, 9 February 2009. Photo courtesy of Auspic.

#### **Back cover images**

The House Health and Ageing Committee playing basketball with students of St John the Evangelist Primary School, Melbourne, as part of its inquiry into obesity in Australia, 24 October 2008.

Left to right: Speaker's Panel Member Mr Steve Georganas MP, Ms Joanne Towner and Mr Paul Thomas in the Main Committee, 25 June 2009. Photo courtesy of Auspic.

The department welcomes your comments on this report.

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PARLIAMENT *of* AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

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19 October 2009

Mr Harry Jenkins MP  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Speaker

I have pleasure in submitting to you, for presentation to the House, the Annual Report of the Department of the House of Representatives for the year ended 30 June 2009, pursuant to section 65 of the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'I C Harris'.

I C Harris

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Department of the House of Representatives provides services that allow the House to fulfil its role as a representative and legislative body of the Australian Parliament.

This annual report details our activities during the 2008–09 financial year.

The **overviews** section includes a report by the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Ian Harris, who is also the chief executive of our department. A departmental overview describes our purpose, role, structure and outputs.

The **performance** section describes the main activities of our five output groups, and measures our performance against our targets during the year.

The **management and accountability** section spells out our approach to corporate governance, the management of our people and assets, and our obligations under various laws. This section also provides an outlook on the next financial year.

The **appendixes** give detailed information about our work for the House, its committees and visitors, and about our publications and our staffing.

The **financial statements** show how we spent the money allocated to us by the Parliament.

Finally, to aid in navigating and interpreting the report, there is a list of abbreviations and acronyms, a compliance index and a general index.

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