The Senate		
Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee		
Estimates for the Department of the Senate 2021-22		
63rd report		

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Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham (Leader of the Government in the Senate)

Senator the Hon. Penny Wong (Leader of the Opposition in the Senate)

Senator Raff Ciccone (Victoria)

Senator the Hon. Jonathon Duniam (Tasmania)

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The Committee

The Standing Committee on Appropriations, Staffing and Security, appointed under standing order 19, determines the amounts for inclusion in the parliamentary appropriation bills and reports to the Senate on its determinations prior to the Senate's consideration of those bills.

The Committee examines matters affecting the staffing and administration of the Department of the Senate, including proposals to vary the staffing structure, and other matters referred to it by the Senate. The Committee makes an annual report to the Senate on the operations of the Senate's appropriations and staffing and related matters (standing order 19(3)).

Under a resolution of the Senate agreed to in 1987 the Committee also examines proposed changes in the structure and responsibilities of the parliamentary departments and, following the adoption by the Senate on 27 November 2012 of the recommendation in the Committee's 54th Report, the Committee may advise the President and the Senate on the administration and funding of information and communications technology services for the Parliament.

Following the adoption by the Senate on 25 March 2015 of a recommendation in the Procedure Committee's First Report of 2015, the Committee also considers the administration, operation and funding of security measures affecting the Senate, and advises the President and the Senate accordingly.

The Committee is chaired by the President and includes the Deputy President and the Senate Leaders of the Government and the Opposition as *ex officio* members.

John Begley (Secretary)

63rd Report

Introduction

Standing order 19 (2) and (3) requires that the Committee determine the amounts to be included in the parliamentary appropriation bills for the Department of the Senate.

Proposed Appropriations for 2021-22

The Committee notes that the Senate Department's 2021-22 appropriations have been calculated in accordance with the current Commonwealth funding policy.

The proposed appropriation for 2021-22 (which rounds to \$26.0m in the Portfolio Budget Statement) is as follows:

Part 1 - Departmental Annual Appropriation

The prior year's budget for departmental expenses (as disclosed in the 2021-20 PBS)	<u>\$26.211m</u>
Agreed budget measures: 2020-21 one off additional funding	(\$2.241m)
Parliamentary Departments – additional funding	\$2.022m
Other adjustments (economic parameters)	\$0.019m
Total departmental appropriation for 2021-22	<u>\$26.011m</u>

The total appropriation includes one off supplementation to support the continued elevated levels of committee activity which was sought with the Committee's agreement.

The total appropriation to the Senate Department to be approved by the Parliament in the *Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2021-2022*, as a part of the federal budget delivered is \$26.011m (compared to \$26.211m in 2020-21).

Part 2 – Accumulated Prior Year Appropriations, Operating Results and Capital Expenditure

Balance of prior year appropriations (estimate as at 30 June 2021)

\$12.507m

\$26.084m

Part 3 - Special Appropriations (senators' remuneration and entitlements)

Made up of the following components (for this and next year):

Total Special Appropriations for 2021-22

2020-21:

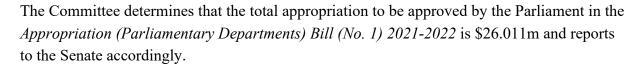
Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017	\$21.608m
Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004	\$2.760m
Australian Constitution	\$1.553m
Total Special Appropriations for 2020-21	<u>\$25.921m</u>
2021-22:	
Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017	\$21.972m
Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004	\$2.804m
Australian Constitution	\$1.308m

An estimated amount totalling \$26.084m of special appropriations will be drawn down during the year to facilitate third party payments on behalf on Department of Finance (compared to an estimate of \$25.921m in 2020-21).

Conclusions

As noted on page 11 of the Department's *Portfolio Budget Statements 2021-22*, the department welcomes further supplementation of \$2.0m for 2021-22 to support the continued elevated levels of committee activity, and in particular select committee activity, during the financial year. If the number and duration of committees established by the Senate continues at this level in future parliaments, the department will seek additional resources over the forward estimates to ensure the requirements of the Senate and senators can continue to be met.

Determination



Senator the Hon Scott Ryan Chair