

The Senate

Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee

Estimates for the Department of the Senate 2017-18

59th report

May 2017

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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.

James Warmenhoven
(Secretary)

59th 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 2017-18

The Committee notes that the Senate Department's 2017-18 appropriations have been calculated in accordance with current Commonwealth funding policy. Under this policy, the forward estimates include a Government decision to provide ongoing departmental supplementation of \$3.7m per annum, which responds to a proposal, endorsed by the Committee, to realign the Department's resources to a level required to support continuing elevated levels of committee and legislative activity.

The proposed appropriation for 2017-18 has been calculated as follows:

Part 1 - Departmental Annual Appropriation

The current year's budget for departmental expenses
(as disclosed in the 2016-17 PBS)

\$23.758m

Agreed budget measures:

Department of the Senate – additional funding	+3.700m
Reversal of \$3.0m supplementation for 2016-17	-3.000m
Whole of government saving – superannuation administration fees	-0.001m
Capital funding rephased	-0.150m
Other adjustments (economic parameters)	-0.006m

Total departmental appropriation for 2017-18

\$24.301m

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

Balance of prior year appropriations (estimate as at Budget May 2017) \$9.948m

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

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

2016-17:

<i>Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990</i>	\$0.200m
<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	\$2.351m
<i>Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973</i>	\$20.058m
<i>Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1901</i>	\$1.865m
Total Special Appropriations for 2016-17	<u>\$24.474m</u>

2017-18:

<i>Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990</i>	\$0.200m
<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	\$2.588m
<i>Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973</i>	\$20.359m
<i>Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1901</i>	\$1.857m
Total Special Appropriations for 2016-17	<u>\$25.004m</u>

The total appropriation to be approved by the Parliament in the appropriation bill for 2017-18 will be \$24.301m (compared to \$23.758m in 2016-17).

Special appropriations of \$25.004m will also be drawn down during the year (compared to an estimate of \$24.474m in 2016-17).

Conclusions

The Committee welcomes the Department's ongoing supplementation of \$3.7m in 2017-18 which will assist in realigning the Department's resourcing requirements given continuing elevated levels of legislative and, particularly, committee activity.

Determination

The Committee determines that the total appropriation to be approved by the Parliament in the Appropriations (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2017-18 is \$24.301m and reports to the Senate accordingly.

Senator the Hon Stephen Parry
Chairman

May 2017