

The Senate

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Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee

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Estimates for the Department of the Senate 2020-21

62nd report

October 2020

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ISSN: 2205-0884 (print)

ISSN: 2205 0892 (online)

Printed by the Senate Printing Unit, Parliament House, Canberra

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Senator Sue Lines (Deputy President of the Senate, Deputy Chair)

Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann (Leader of the Government in the Senate)

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

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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 54<sup>th</sup> 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)

# 62nd 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 2020-21

The Committee notes that the Senate Department's 2020-21 appropriations have been calculated in accordance with the current Commonwealth funding policy.

The proposed appropriation for 2020-21 (which rounds to \$26.2m in the Portfolio Budget Statement) has been calculated as follows:

### *Part 1 - Departmental Annual Appropriation*

The prior year's budget for departmental expenses  
(as disclosed in the 2019-20 PBS)

**\$23.853m**

#### Agreed budget measures:

Parliamentary Departments – additional funding

\$2.241m

Other adjustments (economic parameters)

\$0.117m

**Total departmental appropriation for 2020-21**

**\$26.211m**

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

With the 2020 Federal Budget being delivered following the commencement of the 2020-21 financial year, the department's funds have been divided into two bills. *Supply (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2020-2021* which appropriated the department \$13.983m and received assent on 24 March 2020. The balance of the department's 2020-21 appropriation, \$12.228m, is included in the *Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2020-21*, as a part of the federal budget delivered on 6 October 2020.

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

**Balance of prior year appropriations (as at 30 June 2020) \$12.507m**

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

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

**2019-20:**

<i>Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017</i>	\$21.312m
<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	\$2.550m
<i>Australian Constitution</i>	\$1.417m
<b>Total Special Appropriations for 2019-20</b>	<b><u>\$25.279m</u></b>

**2020-21:**

<i>Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017</i>	\$21.608m
<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	\$2.550m
<i>Australian Constitution</i>	\$1.553m
<b>Total Special Appropriations for 2020-21</b>	<b><u>\$25.711m</u></b>

Special appropriations of \$25.711m will be drawn down during the year to facilitate third party payments on behalf on Department of Finance (compared to an estimate of \$25.279m in 2019-20).

**Conclusions**

As noted on page 11 of the Department's *Portfolio Budget Statements 2020-21*, the Department expects to be able to meet these demands within existing resources in the current (2020-21) year, as a result of the welcome receipt of additional funding. However, if the level of activity continues or increases, the Department will seek a continuation of the additional funding over the forward estimates to ensure the requirements of the Senate and senators can be met.

## **Determination**

The Committee determines that the total appropriation to be approved by the Parliament in the *Appropriations (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2020-21* is \$12.228m which contributes to overall funding for the department in 2020-21 of \$26.211m and reports to the Senate accordingly.

Senator the Hon Scott Ryan  
Chair