

The Senate

Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee

Estimates for the Department of the Senate 2024-25

67th report

June 2024

© Commonwealth of Australia 2024

ISSN: 2205-0884 (print)

ISSN: 2205 0892 (online)

Printed by the Senate Printing Unit, Parliament House, Canberra

Members of the Committee

Senator the Hon Sue Lines (President of the Senate, **Chair**)

Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC (Deputy President and Chair of Committees,
Deputy Chair)

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

Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham (Leader of the Opposition in the Senate)

Senator Raff Ciccone (Victoria)

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister (New South Wales)

Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie (Victoria)

Senator the Hon Anne Ruston (South Australia)

Senator Marielle Smith (South Australia)

Appropriations, Staffing and Security Committee
The Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: (02) 6277 3398

Email: approps@aph.gov.au

Internet: www.aph.gov.au

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs
4.0 International License.



The details of this licence are available on the Creative Commons website:
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

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)

67th 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 2024-25

The Committee notes that the Senate Department's 2024-25 appropriations have been calculated in accordance with the current Commonwealth funding policy.

The proposed appropriation for 2024-25 in the Portfolio Budget Statements is as follows:

Part 1 - Departmental Annual Appropriation

The budget for departmental expenses ¹ (as disclosed in the 2023-24 PBS)	\$27.265m
---	------------------

Agreed budget measures:

2024-25 additional funding	\$1.140m
----------------------------	----------

Other adjustments (economic parameters)	\$0.656m
---	----------

Total departmental appropriation for 2024-25	<u>\$29.061m</u>
---	-------------------------

The total appropriation to the Senate Department to be approved by the Parliament in the *Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2024-2025*, as a part of the Budget 2024 is \$29.061m (compared to \$27.265m in 2023-24).

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

Balance of prior year appropriations (estimate as at 30 June 2024)	\$14.493m
--	------------------

¹ Excluding expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year - made up of depreciation/amortisation, audit fees and resources received free of charge where recognition of an expense is required.

Part 3 - Special Appropriations (senators' remuneration and entitlements) ²

Made up of the following components:

2023-24:

<i>Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017</i>	\$22.872m
<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	\$2.995m
<i>Australian Constitution</i>	\$0.868m
Total Special Appropriations for 2023-24	<u>\$26.735m</u>

2024-25:

<i>Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017</i>	\$23.787m
<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 2004</i>	\$3.115m
<i>Australian Constitution</i>	\$0.903m
Total Special Appropriations for 2024-25	<u>\$27.805m</u>

An estimated amount, totalling \$27.805m of special appropriations, will be drawn down during the year to facilitate third party payments on behalf on Department of Finance (compared to \$26.735m in 2023-24).

Conclusions

The department's appropriation includes the additional on-going funding to support the changes to parliamentary payroll and funding for 2024-25 and 2025-26 for the Department of Parliamentary Services-led initiative to modernise parliamentary business applications. The Committee endorsed measures for additional funding in relation to the department's workforce capacity for legislative drafting, parliamentary education outreach and membership costs for an international parliamentary organisation. The Government considered these proposals, but they were not funded in the Budget. The Committee acknowledges the Government's expenditure and staffing policies and agreed to the budget outcomes.

Determination

The Committee determines that the total appropriation to be approved by the Parliament in the *Appropriations (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 1) 2024-25* is \$29.061m and reports to the Senate accordingly.

Senator the Hon Sue Lines

Chair

² Limits per third party access agreement with the Department of Finance for access to the appropriation