

The Senate

Finance and Public Administration
Legislation Committee

Budget estimates 2019–20

May 2019

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Membership of the Committee

Members

Senator James Paterson (Chair)	LP, VIC
Senator Jenny McAllister (Deputy Chair)	ALP, NSW
Senator Kimberley Kitching	ALP, VIC
Senator Dean Smith	LP, WA
Senator Amanda Stoker	LP, QLD
Senator Rachel Siewert	AG, WA

Substitute Member

Senator Slade Brockman (for Senator Amanda Stoker on 08.04.2019)

Senators in attendance

Senators Abetz, Askew, Ciccone, Dodson, Farrell, Gallacher, Hume, Kitching, Lines, McAllister, McCarthy, Moore, Paterson, Patrick, Polley, Rice, Siewert, Dean Smith, Spender, Stoker, Storer, Waters, Wong.

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Chapter 1

Budget Estimates 2019–20

Reference

1.1 On 2 April 2019, the Senate referred the following to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee (the committee) for examination and report:

Particulars of proposed and certain expenditure for 2019–20

- Particulars of proposed expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2020;
- Particulars of certain proposed expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2020; and
- Particulars of proposed expenditure in relation to the parliamentary departments in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2020.¹

Portfolio coverage

1.2 The committee has responsibility for examining the expenditure and outcomes of the following departments and agencies:

- Parliament;²
- Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) Portfolio; and
- Finance Portfolio.³

1.3 Pursuant to an order of the Senate, the committee also holds a separate hearing on cross-portfolio Indigenous matters.⁴

1.4 Departments and agencies under the committee's oversight are listed in Appendix 1 of this report.

1 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 141, 2 April 2019, p. 4815.

2 As a matter of comity between the Houses neither House inquires into the operations of the other House. For this reason, neither the annual report of, nor the proposed expenditure for, the Department of the House of Representatives is referred to a Senate committee for review.

3 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 2, 31 August 2016, pp. 75–76; Amended on 12 February 2018 (*Journals of the Senate*, No. 84, 12 February 2018, p. 2668–2669), 15 February 2018 (*Journals of the Senate*, No. 87, 15 February 2018, p. 2740) and 17 September 2018 (*Journals of the Senate*, No. 118, 17 September 2018, pp. 3770–3771).

4 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 22, 26 August 2008, p. 683; *Journals of the Senate*, No. 100, 23 June 2015, p. 2772.

Portfolio Budget Statements 2019–20

1.5 The Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) 2019–20 for the PM&C Portfolio, the Finance Portfolio and the Parliamentary departments were tabled in the Senate on 2 April 2019.⁵

Establishment of a new Executive Agency

1.6 On 1 March 2019, the North Queensland Livestock Industry Recovery Agency was established as an Executive Agency under the *Public Service Act 1999*, and within PM&C portfolio.⁶

Hearings

1.7 The committee held public hearings on 4, 8 and 9 April 2019. A multi-portfolio day was held on 4 April 2019 that covered the PM&C and Finance portfolios in addition to the examination of cross-portfolio Indigenous matters.

1.8 The Parliamentary departments and departments and agencies in the PM&C Portfolio (excluding Indigenous matters) were examined on 8 April 2019, and agencies and departments in the Finance Portfolio were examined on 9 April 2019.

1.9 The committee took evidence from the President of the Senate, Senator the Hon. Scott Ryan, and the following Ministers accompanied by officers of relevant departments and agencies:

- Senator the Hon. Mathias Cormann, Minister representing the Prime Minister, Minister for Finance and the Public Service;
- Senator the Hon. Marise Payne, Minister representing the Minister for Women (on 4 April 2019);
- Senator the Hon. Anne Ruston, Minister representing the Minister for Women (on 8 April 2019);
- Senator the Hon. Zed Seselja, Assistant Minister for Treasury and Finance; and
- Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

1.10 The committee expresses its appreciation for the assistance of the President, Ministers and the officers who appeared.

1.11 Over the course of the hearings, the committee took evidence from the following departments, agencies and statutory offices:

5 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 141, 2 April 2019, p. 4816.

6 See: *Order to Establish the North Queensland Livestock Industry Recover Agency as an Executive Agency*, dated 21 February 2019, Gazetted 1 March 2019.

Parliament

- Department of the Senate
- Parliamentary Budget Office
- Department of Parliamentary Services

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (including the Office for Women and excluding Outcome 2—Indigenous)
- Australian Public Service Commission
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency
- Digital Transformation Agency
- Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General
- Australian National Audit Office

Finance Portfolio

- Department of Finance
- ASC Pty Ltd
- Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd
- Future Fund Management Agency
- Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation
- Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
- Australian Electoral Commission

Cross Portfolio Indigenous Matters

- Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Outcome 2—Indigenous)
- Department of Health (in relation to Indigenous Health issues)

Questions on notice and Hansard transcripts

1.12 The committee has fixed 24 May 2019 as the date for the return of answers to questions on notice arising from the Budget Estimates 2019–20 hearings.

1.13 Responses to questions on notice once received, together with the Hansard transcripts of proceedings of hearings, are published on the committee's website at: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Senate_Estimates/fpa/2019-20_Budget_estimates.

Answers to questions on notice—Additional Budget Estimates 2018–19

1.14 The committee's examination of the Additional Budget Estimates 2018–19 took place on 18 February for the Parliamentary departments and the PM&C portfolio, 19 February 2019 for the Finance portfolio and 22 February 2019 for the cross-portfolio Indigenous matters. The committee fixed 29 March 2019 as the date for the return of answers to questions on notice.

Timeliness of answers to questions on notice

1.15 The committee had a total of 318 questions taken on notice⁷ with a total of 152 answers being received by the due date.

1.16 The Finance portfolio did not provide any of its answers to questions on notice from its hearings on 19 February 2019 by the due date of 29 March 2019. All answers were returned on 4 April 2019.

1.17 The Department of Parliamentary Services provided 35 out of 43 responses to questions on notice from its hearing on 18 February 2019 by the due date of 29 March 2019. The remaining questions on notice were responded to by 3 April 2019.

1.18 The PM&C Portfolio (including cross-portfolio) provided 111 of its 175 answers to questions on notice from its hearings on 19 and 22 February 2019 by the due date of 29 March 2019. The remaining 64 questions on notice were provided by 8 April 2019. As part of cross-portfolio Indigenous matters, the Department of Health provided 6 of its 12 answers to questions on notice from the hearing on 2 February 2019 by the due date. 5 questions were provided between 1 April 2019 and 9 April 2019. As at 10 April 2019, the Department of Health has 1 question outstanding.



Senator James Paterson
Chair

7 This figure includes both questions taken during the hearings for Additional Budget Estimates 2018–19, and written questions on notice provided by Senators after the hearing.

Appendix 1

Departments and agencies under the committee's oversight

Parliamentary Departments

- Department of the Senate
- Parliamentary Budget Office
- Department of Parliamentary Services
- Parliamentary Service Commissioner

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (including Office for Women)
- Australian National Audit Office
- Australian Public Service Commission
- Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal
- Digital Transformation Agency
- National Australia Day Council
- North Queensland Livestock Industry Recovery Agency
- Office of National Intelligence
- Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General
- Remuneration Tribunal
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency

Indigenous Agencies

- Aboriginal Hostels Limited
- Aboriginal Land Commissioner
- Anindilyakwa Land Council
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- Central Land Council
- Department of Health
- Executive Director of Township Leasing
- Indigenous Business Australia
- Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation

- Northern Land Council
- Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
- Outback Stores Pty Ltd
- Tiwi Land Council
- Torres Strait Regional Authority
- Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council

Finance Portfolio

- Department of Finance
- ASC Pty Ltd
- Australian Electoral Commission
- Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd
- Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation
- Future Fund Management Agency
- Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

Appendix 2

Tabled documents

Thursday, 04 April 2019

Finance Portfolio

- Ms Rosemary Huxtable PSM, Secretary, Department of Finance—Updated information on Government advertising and information campaigns.
- Ms Rosemary Huxtable PSM, Secretary, Department of Finance—Personal Employee Positions as at 1 April 2019; Personal Employee Position Variances—Government; Personal Classifications as at 1 April 2019; and Salaries above the range as at 1 April 2019.
- Senator the Hon. Don Farrell Tabled—document from the Budget Estimates 2012-13 hearings of the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee—Personal classifications as at 1 May 2012.

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

- Ms Esther Boggart, Assistant Secretary, Office for Women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet—Responses to correspondence from Senator Jenny McAllister to the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Monday, 08 April 2019

Parliamentary Departments

- Mr Rob Stefanic, Secretary, Department of Parliamentary Services—Opening Statement.
- Mr Rob Stefanic, Secretary, Department of Parliamentary Services—Organisational Chart.

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

- Senator the Hon. Mathias Cormann, Minister representing the Prime Minister—Response to questions taken on notice at Budget Estimates on Thursday 4 April 2019.
- Senator the Hon. Mathias Cormann, Minister representing the Prime Minister—Departmental and agency appointments and vacancies for the Indigenous Affairs Group of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet from 29 January to 12 March 2019.

Tuesday, 09 April 2019

Finance Portfolio

- Senator the Hon. Mathias Cormann, Minister for Finance and the Public Service—ASC 2018-23 Statement of Corporate Intent.
- Senator the Hon. Mathias Cormann, Minister for Finance and the Public Service—Financial highlights extract from the 2017-18 ASC Annual Report.
- Senator the Hon. Penny Wong—Extract of an August 2016 report prepared for ASC and obtained through a freedom of information request.
- Mr David Knox, CEO, Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd—Photograph of progress in construction of the Osborne South Development Project.
- Senator the Hon. Zed Seselja, Assistant Minister for Treasury and Finance—Items of correspondence, dated August 2013, from the Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC MP, Special Minister of State and Minister for the Public Service and Integrity; and the Hon. Tony Burke MP, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship; to Mr Martin Bowles, Secretary, Department of Immigration and Citizenship, relating to Government information and advertising campaigns.
- Ms Rosemary Huxtable PSM, Secretary, Department of Finance—Personal Employee Positions as at 1 April 2019; Personal Employee Position Variances—Government; Personal Classifications as at 1 April 2019; and Salaries above the range as at 1 April 2019.
- Ms Rosemary Huxtable PSM, Secretary, Department of Finance—Measures from the 2019–20 Budget which were previously classified as 'decisions taken but not yet announced'.