



D22/2119

4 February 2022

Ms Sarah Redden
Acting Secretary
Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Redden

Additional estimates hearings – Department of the Senate

In accordance with the usual practice, I attach statistics (updated as of 28 January) about the operations of committees supported by the Senate Committee Office. The statistics cover the same ground as those provided in the previous parliament and includes additional information about the support provided to select and joint committees in this parliament. The department is currently supporting four select committees and five joint standing committees. If the committee would like additional information, I would be happy to provide it.

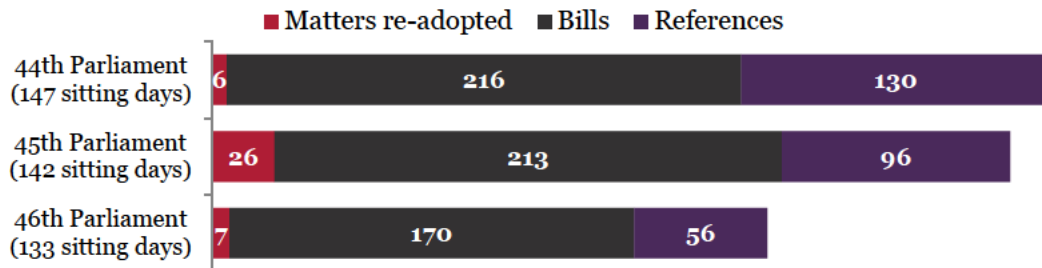
Yours sincerely

(Richard Pye)
Clerk

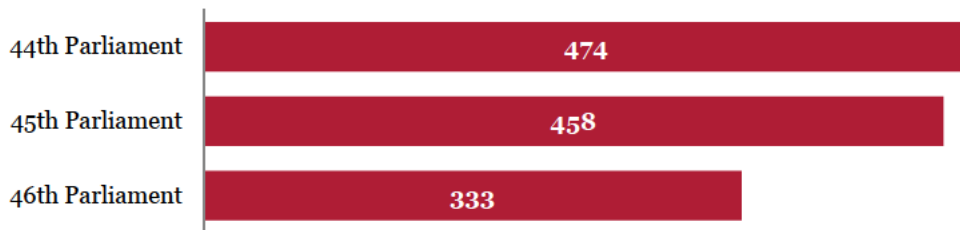
Senate standing committee activity

(Summary as at 28 January 2022)

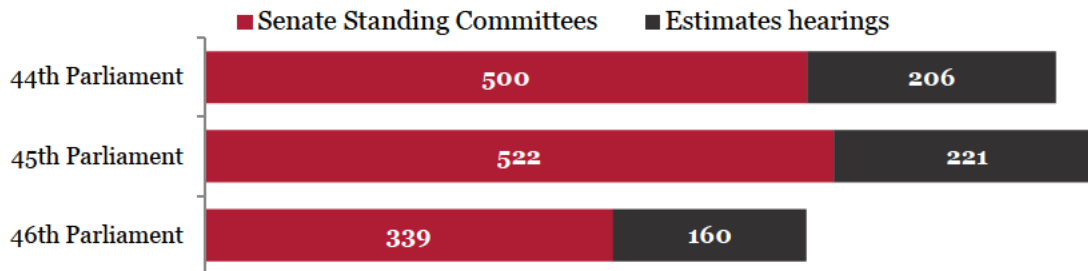
1. References—comparison at same point of last 3 Parliaments



2. Reports—comparison at same point of last 3 Parliaments



3. Hearings held—comparison at same point of last 3 Parliaments



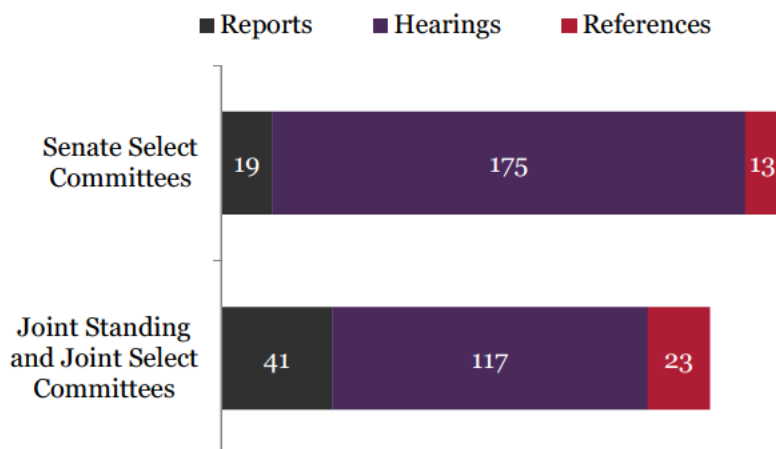
Select committee activity

- Select committee (including joint select committee) activity during the 46th Parliament has risen to levels not experienced before, requiring the Senate department to at one point support 12 select committees concurrently. Currently, there are four select committees.
- The table below compares the number of select and joint select committees across the last four parliaments.
- From the commencement of the 46th Parliament, the Senate department is committed to providing a total of 254 months of secretariat support to select committees, which is more than the total support required for any previous parliament.

Parliament	Number of selects and (joint selects)	Average length in months	Total months requiring support
43 rd	5 (4)	10	90
44 th	12 (2)	11	154
45 th	15 (1)	10	160
46 th (from commencement)	12 (2)	18	254

- In addition, the department supports five joint standing committees.

Senate Select Committee and Joint Committee activity in the 46th Parliament

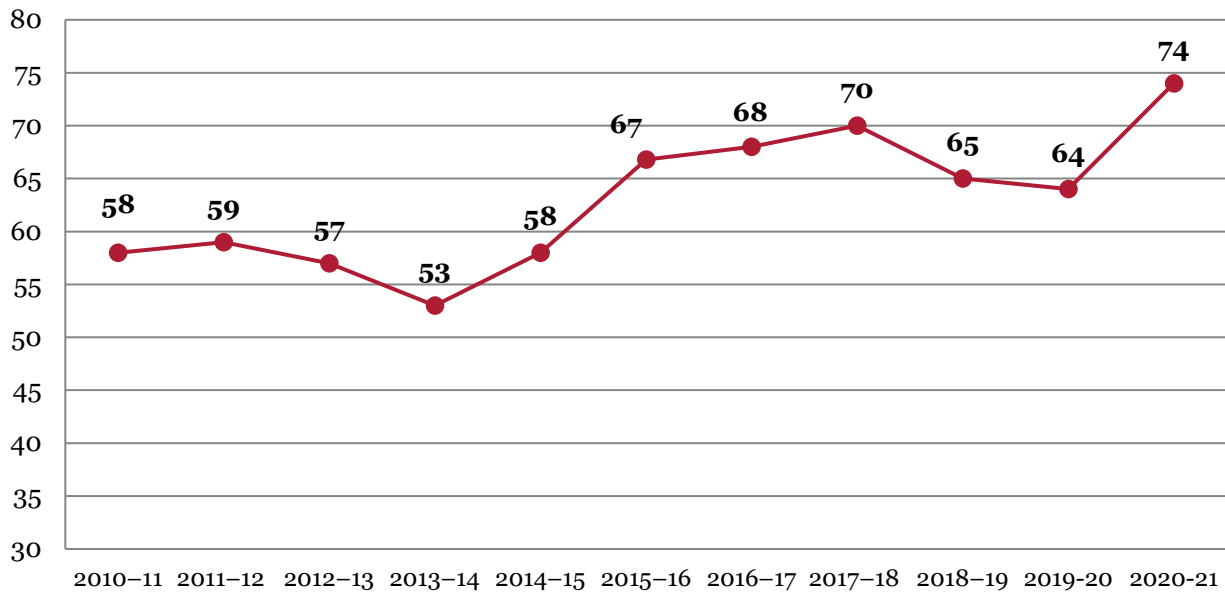


Staffing

Staffing: At 2 February 2022, there were 73.6 full time equivalent staff in the Committee Office, compared with an average FTE of 74 in 2020-21. The current staffing level in the Committee Office reflects ongoing high levels of committee activity. The following chart shows changes in average staffing levels over time.

Committee Office

Average Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staffing levels by completed financial year



Administration

The current annual budget for the Committee Office is approximately \$10.2 million. This includes employee expenses of \$10.0 million and administrative expenses (including reduced budget for secretariat travel, accommodation and venues for hearings due to COVID-19) of \$0.2 million. So far in the 2021-22 financial year (as at 31 January 2022), the Committee Office actual expenditure was \$5.7 million.

Expenditure by completed financial year

