



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**  
**SENATOR THE HONOURABLE SUE LINES**

**Finance and Public Administration Additional Budget Estimates February 2025 - Opening Statement**

Chair and members of the Committee,

Before the Department of Parliamentary Services officials answer your questions today, I would like to provide the Committee with the following information relating to the former Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services.

On 17 December 2024, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and I, in our roles as Presiding Officers, concluded the appointment of the former Secretary under section 61 of the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999* due to a loss of trust and confidence. This decision was made after a report was considered from the Parliamentary Services Commissioner and after procedural fairness had been afforded. It was not a decision that was taken lightly.

The former Secretary was eligible for compensation for early loss of office in accordance with the relevant Determination.

Staff of DPS were informed via an all-staff email on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2024. I will provide a copy of this opening statement and that email for tabling and for the reference of the Committee.

Thank you,

**Senator Sue Lines**  
President of the Senate

24 February 2025