



DEPARTMENT  
OF THE SENATE

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D22/18778

21 March 2022

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

Dear Ms Redden

**Budget estimates hearings – Department of the Senate**

In accordance with the usual practice, I attach statistics (updated as of 17 March) 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, 1 joint select committee and five joint standing committees. If the committee would like additional information, I would be happy to provide it.

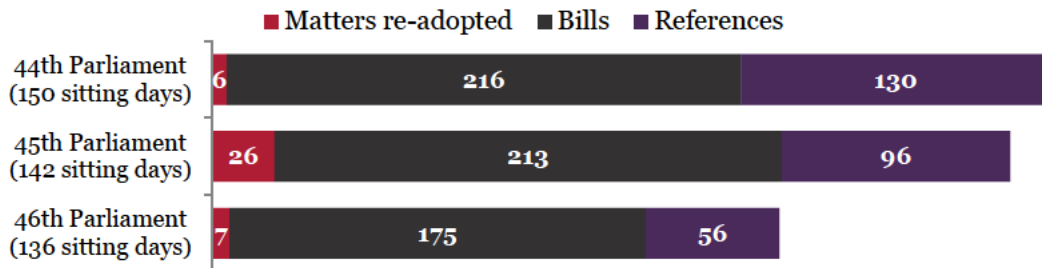
Yours sincerely

(Richard Pye)  
Clerk

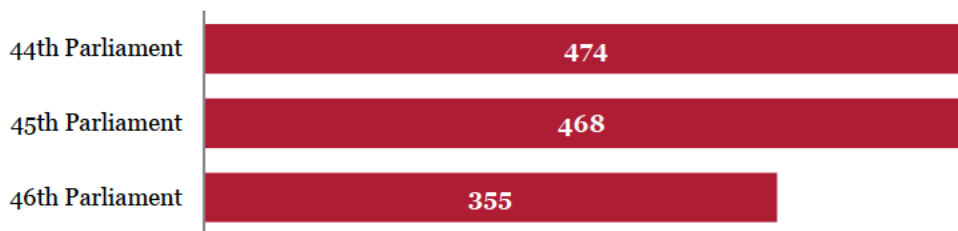
# Senate standing committee activity

(Summary as at 17 March 2022)

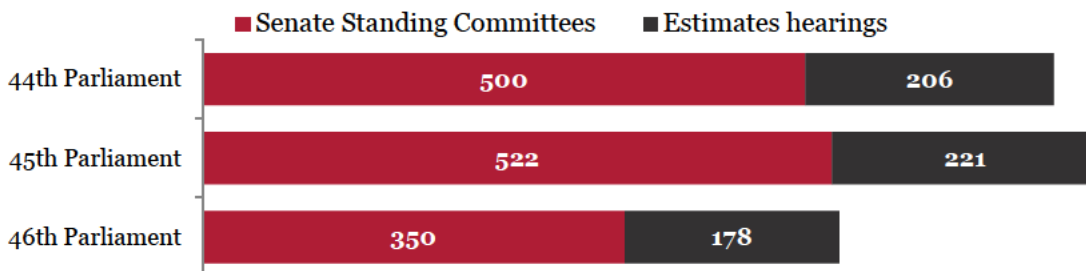
## 1. References—comparison at same point of last 3 Parliaments



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



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



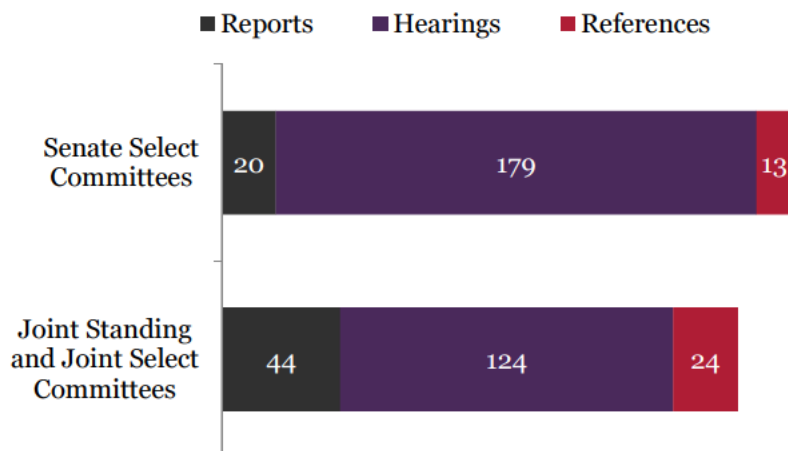
## Select committee activity

- Select committee (including joint select committee) activity during the 46<sup>th</sup> Parliament rose to levels not experienced before, requiring the Senate department to at one point support 12 select committees concurrently. Currently, there are four select committees and 1 joint select committee.
- The table below compares the number of select and joint select committees across the last four parliaments.
- From the commencement of the 46<sup>th</sup> Parliament, the Senate department is committed to providing a total of 265 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 <sup>rd</sup>	5 (4)	10	90
44 <sup>th</sup>	12 (2)	11	154
45 <sup>th</sup>	15 (1)	10	160
46 <sup>th</sup> (from commencement)	12 (3)	18	265

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

## Senate Select Committee and Joint Committee activity in the 46<sup>th</sup> Parliament

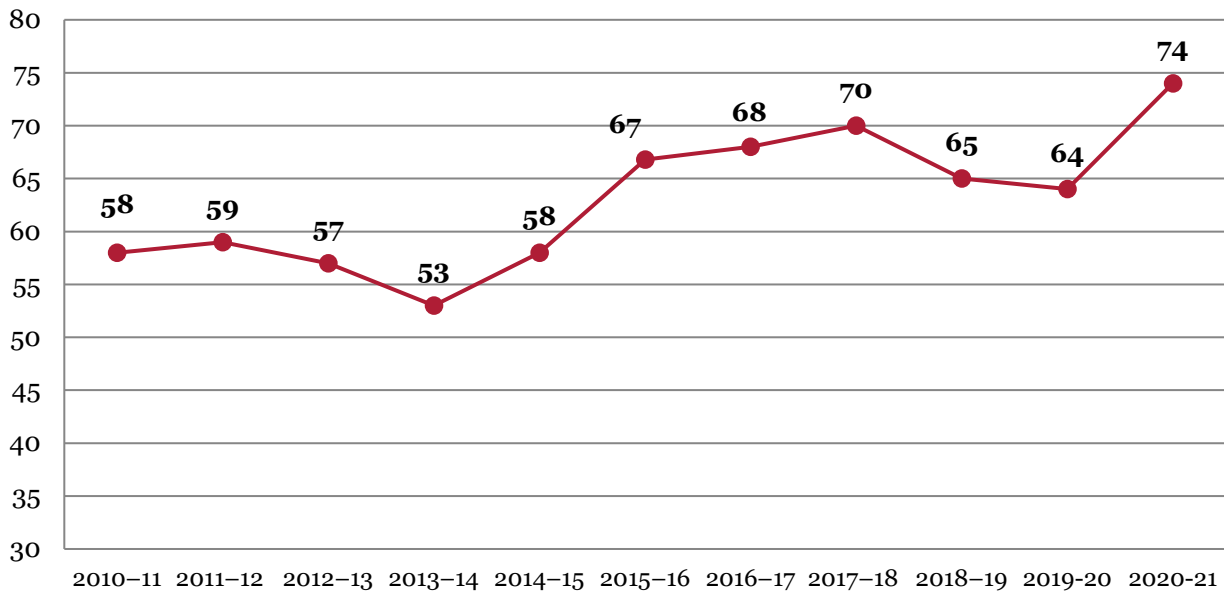


# Staffing

*Staffing:* At 17 March 2022, there were 75.4 full time equivalent staff (FTE) in the Committee Office, compared with an average FTE of 74 in 2020-21 completed financial year. 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 \$9.9 million. This includes employee expenses of \$9.7 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 28 February 2022), the Committee Office actual expenditure was \$6.5 million.

## Expenditure by completed financial year

