



D24/29300

20 May 2024

Ms Bonnie Allan  
Secretary  
Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Allan

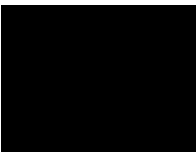
**Budget estimates hearings – Department of the Senate**

In accordance with the usual practice, I attach statistics (updated as of 16 May) about the operations of committees supported by the Senate Committee Office.

For this round of estimates I have provided information about the level of committee activity from the commencement of the 47<sup>th</sup> Parliament and statistical information that compares the level of committee activity in the 47<sup>th</sup> Parliament with the level of activity in previous Parliaments.

The Senate Committee Office currently supports the eight paired legislation and references standing committees, five select committees, two joint select committees and four joint standing committees. If the committee would like additional information, I would be happy to provide it.

Yours sincerely

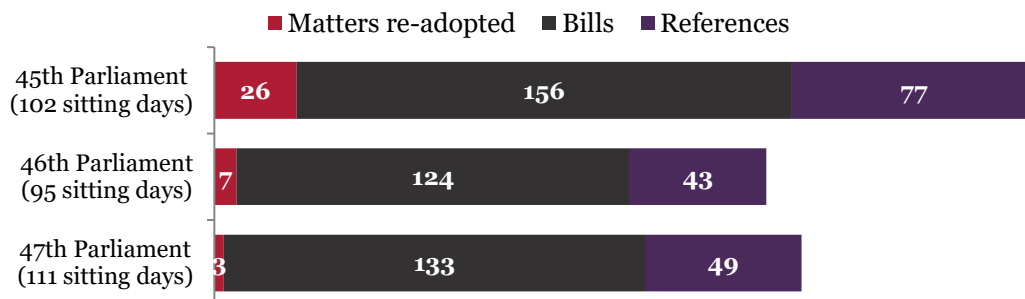


(Richard Pye)  
Clerk

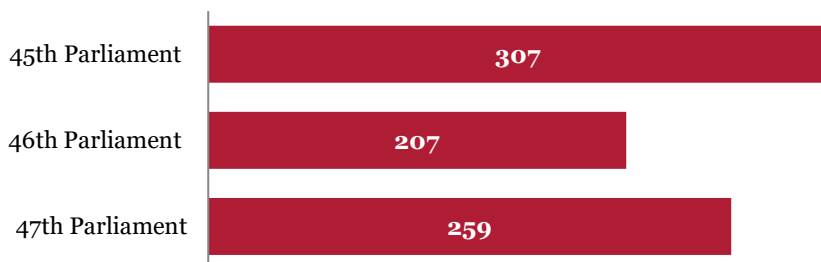
# Senate Standing Committee activity

(Summary as at 16 May 2024)

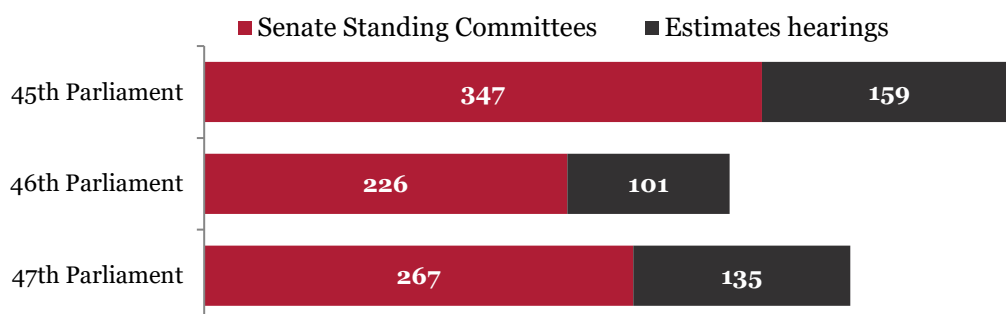
## 1. References—comparison at same point of last 3 Parliaments



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



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



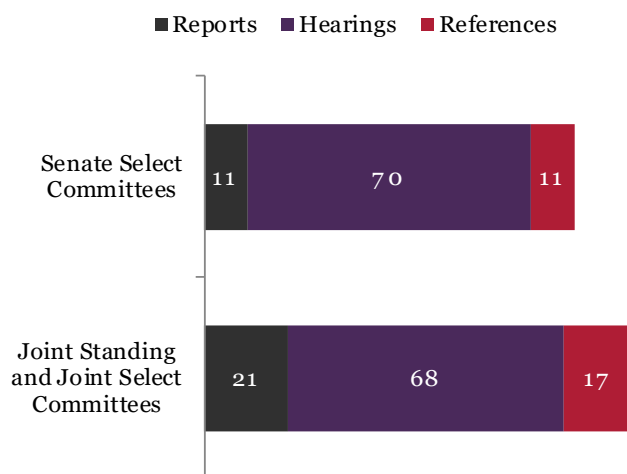
## Select committee activity

- 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 in the 47<sup>th</sup> Parliament, there are five Senate select committees and two joint select committees.
- The table below compares the number of Senate select and joint select committees across the last five parliaments.
- From the commencement of the 47<sup>th</sup> Parliament, the Senate department is committed to providing a total of 148 months of secretariat support to select committees, with the longest single commitment being 33 months.

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>	12 (3)	17	255
47 <sup>th</sup> (from commencement)	10 (3)	11	148

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

## Senate Select Committee and Joint Committee activity in the 47<sup>th</sup> Parliament

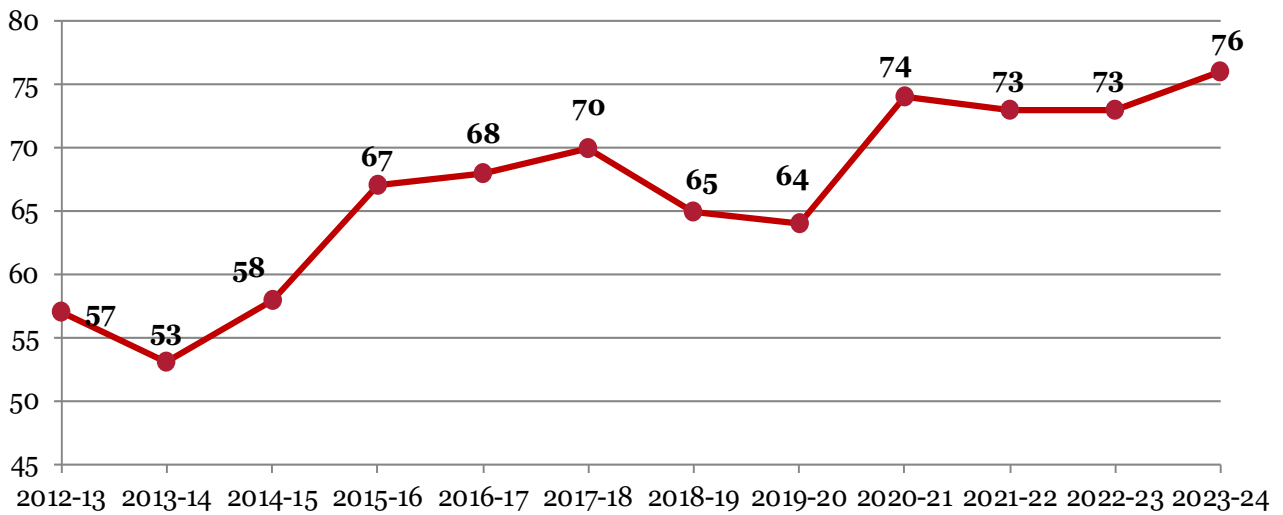


# Staffing

*Staffing:* The current staffing level in the Committee Office is 76 FTE. The following chart shows changes in average staffing levels over time.

## Senate Committee Office

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



# Administration

The current annual budget for the Committee Office is approximately \$11.1 million. This includes employee expenses of \$10.8 million and administrative expenses of \$0.3 million. So far in the 2023-24 financial year (as at 30 April 2024), the Committee Office actual expenditure is \$9.5 million.

## Expenditure by completed financial year

