



D23/49286

13 October 2023

Dr Patrick Hodder
Secretary
Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Hodder

Supplementary Budget estimates hearings – Department of the Senate

In accordance with the usual practice, I attach statistics (updated as of 12 October) 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 47th Parliament and statistical information that compares the level of committee activity in the 47th Parliament with the level of activity in previous Parliaments.

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

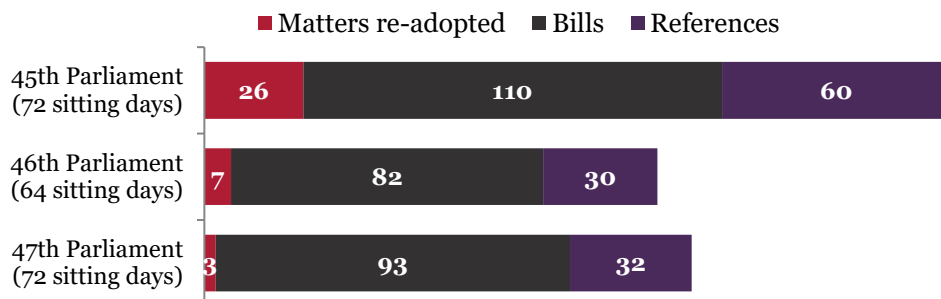
Yours sincerely

(Richard Pye)
Clerk

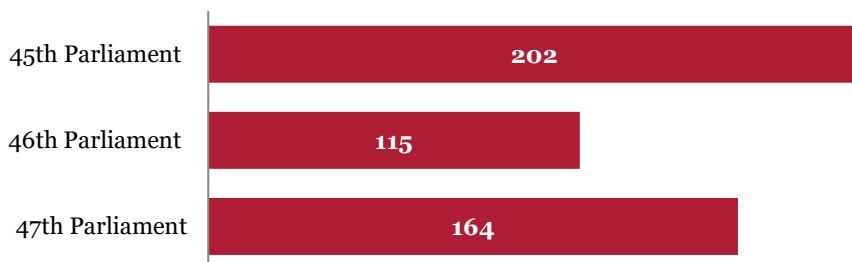
Senate Standing Committee activity

(Summary as at 12 October 2023)

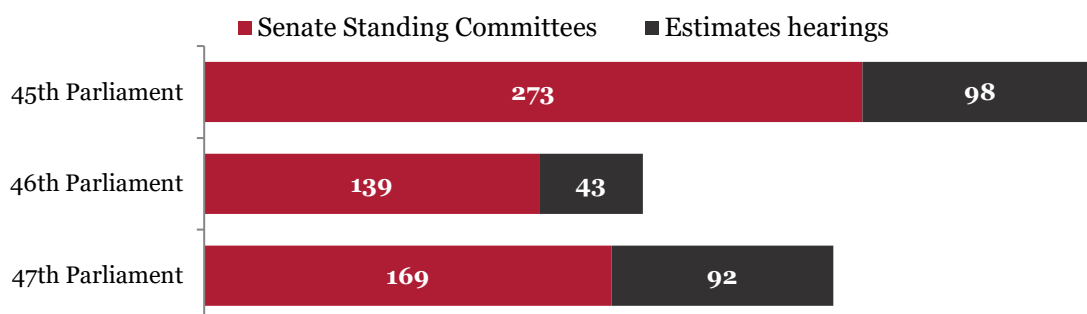
1. References—comparison at same point of last 3 Parliaments



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



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



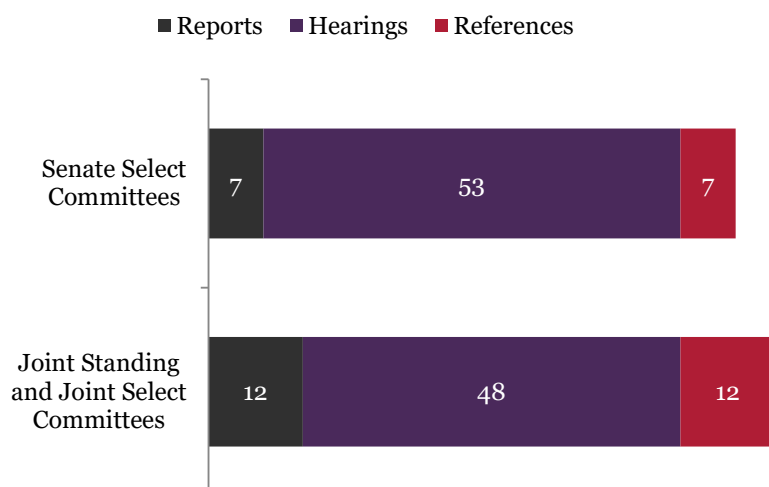
Select committee activity

- Select committee (including joint select committee) activity during the 46th Parliament rose to levels not experienced before, requiring the Senate department to at one point support 12 select committees concurrently. Currently in the 47th Parliament, there are four select committees and one joint select committee.
- The table below compares the number of select and joint select committees across the last five parliaments.
- From the commencement of the 47th Parliament, the Senate department is committed to providing a total of almost 107 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 rd	5 (4)	10	90
44 th	12 (2)	11	154
45 th	15 (1)	10	160
46 th	12 (3)	17	255
47 th (from commencement)	7 (2)	12	107

- In addition, the department supports five joint committees.

Senate Select Committee and Joint Committee activity in the 47th Parliament

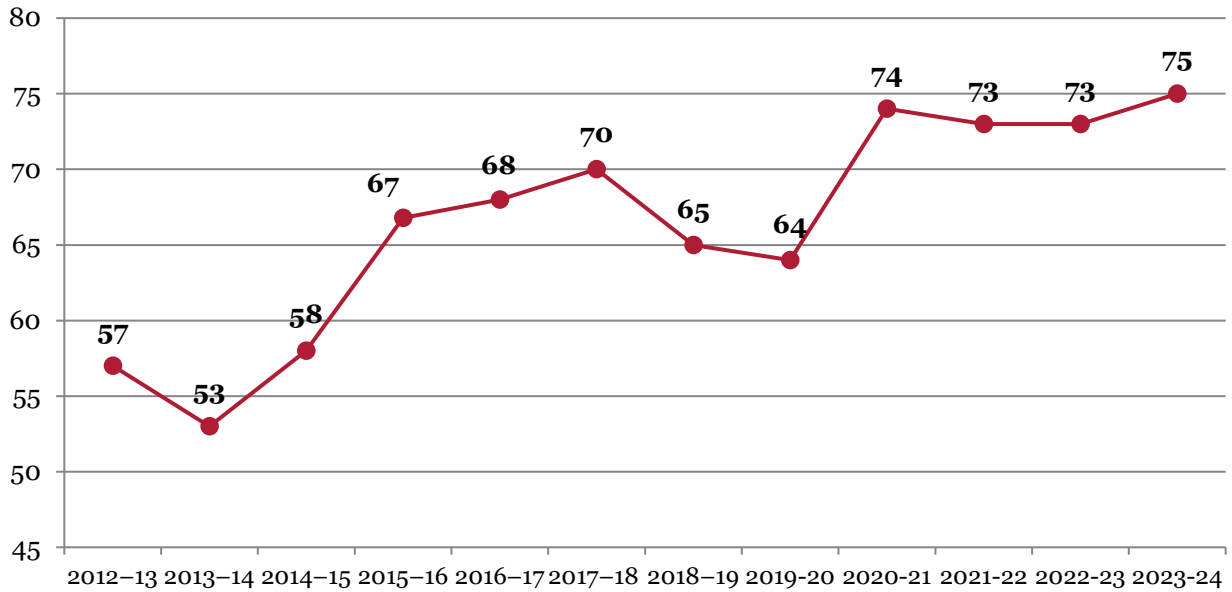


Staffing

Staffing: At the end of the 2022-2023 financial year, there was an average of 73 full time equivalent staff (FTE). The current staffing level in the Committee Office is 75 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 September 2023), the Committee Office actual expenditure is \$2.8 million.

Expenditure by completed financial year

