

## **Inquiry into transparency and accountability to Parliament of Commonwealth public funding and expenditure**

On 21 June 2006, the Senate referred the following matter to the Finance and Public Administration References Committee for inquiry and report by 19 October 2006:

That the Committee inquire into and report on the transparency and accountability to Parliament of Commonwealth public funding and expenditure, including:

- (a) the impact on the Parliament's ability to scrutinise, approve and monitor proposed and actual expenditure of:
  - (i) outcome budget appropriations and reporting.
  - (ii) Multiple sources of funding including special appropriations, advances to the Minister for Finance, annual departmental carry-over surpluses, revenue retained under section 31 of the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997, special accounts and goods and services tax appropriations, and
  - (iii) The use of ordinary annual services to fund activities including non-annual services;
- (b) options for improving the transparency and specificity of budget papers and related documents; and
- (c) other measures to improve the Parliament's oversight of proposed and actual Commonwealth funding and expenditure.