



Appendix F: Committee positions

This appendix contains detailed calculations relating to the structure of the committee system, including the theoretical distribution of committee work as a product of changes to both the number of committees and the number of positions available on each committee. A summary of the contents of each table appears below, followed by some notes relating to the data contained in this appendix.

List of tables

Table 1: The total number of House and joint committee positions available to Members of the House, with details given for each committee.

Table 2: The number of government and non-government Members, private Members, and backbench Members.

Tables 3, 4, and 5: Distribution of committee positions under various membership models for general purpose standing committees (10, 8, 7, 6, 5 and 3 members), assuming the number of general purpose standing committees is 10, 8 and 6 respectively. Membership is assumed to be open to all private Members, including non-government frontbench Members.

Tables 6 and 7: The same as Tables 3 and 4, but also assuming the membership of each domestic committee (excluding the Petitions Committee and the Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests) is reduced to five.

Table 8: Compares the distribution of committee work calculated in Tables 3 to 7, with calculations based on non-government frontbench Members (Shadow Ministers and Shadow Parliamentary Secretaries) being excluded from permanent membership of committees.

Notes on calculations in this appendix

General

- Unless otherwise specified, all calculations are as at December 2009.
- Calculations include only ongoing House or joint standing or statutory committees (that is, select committees are not included).

Tables 3 to 8

- Calculations of the number of positions available exclude *ex-officio* positions.
- For joint committees, calculations include only positions available to Members of the House of Representatives.
- The overall reduction in number of positions (Tables 3 to 7) provides a comparison with the current situation, where there are 256 committee positions in total.
- Although technically a domestic committee, the House Petitions Committee's current membership level is 10 and is therefore treated as a general purpose standing committee for the purpose of adjusting its membership composition.
- Unless otherwise specified:
G = government positions;
N = non-government positions.

Table 1 Committee positions available to Members of the House

Type	Committee name	Total	Ex-officio	Ordinary positions	
				Govt	Non-govt
House general purpose standing	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	10	–	6	4
	Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts	10	–	6	4
	Communications	10	–	6	4
	Economics	10	–	6	4
	Education and Training	10	–	6	4
	Employment and Workplace Relations	10	–	6	4
	Family, Community, Housing and Youth	10	–	6	4
	Health and Ageing	10	–	6	4
	Industry, Science and Innovation	10	–	6	4
	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	10	–	6	4
	Legal and Constitutional Affairs	10	–	6	4
	Primary Industries and Resources	10	–	6	4
	House domestic	House	7	1	3
Petitions		10	–	6	4
Privileges and Members' Interests		11	–	6	5
Procedure		7	–	4	3
Publications		7	–	4	3
Joint (standing or statutory)	Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	5	–	3	2
	Australian Crime Commission	5	–	3	2
	Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings	6	1	3	2
	Corporations and Financial Services	5	–	3	2
	Electoral Matters	5	–	3	2
	Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	22	–	13	9
	Intelligence and Security	5	–	3	2
	Migration	6	–	3	3
	National Capital and External Territories	6	1	3	2
	Parliamentary Library	7	–	4	3
	Public Accounts and Audit	10	–	6	4
Public Works	6	–	3	3	
Treaties	9	–	6	3	
Totals	<i>30 committees</i>	259	3	151	105
				256	

Table 2 Composition of the House, as at 17 February 2010

	All Members	Private Members ¹	Backbench Members ²
Government	83	49	49
Non-government	67	66	37
Total	150	115	86

NOTES

- 1 Private Members are all Members, excluding Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. These are the Members who are currently considered to be available for committee duties.
- 2 Backbench Members are all Members, excluding Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, Shadow Ministers and Shadow Parliamentary Secretaries.

Table 3 Alternative models of committee membership; no reduction in the number of committees

Type	Committee name	10 (current)		8		7		6		5		3			
		G	N	G	N	G	N	G	N	G	N	G	N		
House general purpose standing	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	Communications	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	Economics	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	Education and Training	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	Employment and Workplace Relations	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	Family, Community, Housing and Youth	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	Health and Ageing	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	Industry, Science and Innovation	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	Legal and Constitutional Affairs	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	Primary Industries and Resources	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
House domestic	House	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
	Petitions	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	Privileges and Members' Interests	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5		
	Procedure	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3		
	Publications	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3		
Joint (standing or statutory)	Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2		
	Australian Crime Commission	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2		
	Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2		
	Corporations and Financial Services	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2		
	Electoral Matters	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2		
	Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	13	9	13	9	13	9	13	9	13	9	13	9		
	Intelligence and Security	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2		
	Migration	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
	National Capital and External Territories	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2		
	Parliamentary Library	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3		
	Public Accounts and Audit	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4		
	Public Works	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
Treaties	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3			
Totals		30 committees		151	105	138	92	125	92	125	79	112	79	99	66
Average positions available per private Member		<i>government/non-government</i>		3.1	1.6	2.8	1.4	2.6	1.4	2.6	1.2	2.3	1.2	2.0	1.0
Overall reduction in the number of committee positions		overall		2.2		2.0		1.9		1.8		1.7		1.4	
				0		26		39		52		65		91	

Table 4 Alternative models of committee membership; number of general purpose standing committees reduced to 10

Type	Committee name	10 (current)		8		7		6		5		3	
		G	N	G	N	G	N	G	N	G	N	G	N
House general purpose standing	No. 1	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 2	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 3	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 4	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 5	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 6	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 7	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 8	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 9	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 10	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
House domestic	House	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Petitions	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	Privileges and Members' Interests	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5
	Procedure	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
	Publications	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
Joint (standing or statutory)	Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Australian Crime Commission	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Corporations and Financial Services	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Electoral Matters	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	13	9	13	9	13	9	13	9	13	9	13	9
	Intelligence and Security	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Migration	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	National Capital and External Territories	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Parliamentary Library	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
	Public Accounts and Audit	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4
	Public Works	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Treaties	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3
Totals	28 committees	139	97	128	86	117	86	117	75	106	75	95	64
Average positions available per private Member	<i>government/non-government</i>	2.8	1.5	2.6	1.3	2.4	1.3	2.4	1.1	2.2	1.1	1.9	1.0
Overall reduction in the number of committee positions	overall	2.1		1.9		1.8		1.7		1.6		1.4	
		20		42		53		64		75		97	

Table 5 Alternative models of committee membership; number of general purpose standing committees reduced to eight

Type	Committee name	10 (current)		8		7		6		5		3			
		G	N	G	N	G	N	G	N	G	N	G	N		
House general purpose standing	No. 1	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	No. 2	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	No. 3	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	No. 4	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	No. 5	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	No. 6	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	No. 7	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	No. 8	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
House domestic	House	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
	Petitions	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1		
	Privileges and Members' Interests	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5		
	Procedure	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3		
	Publications	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3		
Joint (standing or statutory)	Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2		
	Australian Crime Commission	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2		
	Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2		
	Corporations and Financial Services	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2		
	Electoral Matters	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2		
	Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	13	9	13	9	13	9	13	9	13	9	13	9		
	Intelligence and Security	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2		
	Migration	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
	National Capital and External Territories	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2		
	Parliamentary Library	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3		
	Public Accounts and Audit	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4		
	Public Works	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
	Treaties	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3		
Totals			26 committees	127	89	118	80	109	80	109	71	100	71	91	62
Average positions available per private Member			<i>government/non-government</i>	2.6	1.3	2.4	1.2	2.2	1.2	2.2	1.1	2.0	1.1	1.9	0.9
Overall reduction in the number of committee positions			overall	1.9		1.7		1.6		1.6		1.5		1.3	
				40		58		67		76		85		103	

Table 6 Alternative models of committee membership; number of general purpose standing committees reduced to 10; domestic committee membership reduced to five (except Petitions, which is treated as a general purpose standing committee, and Privileges and Members' Interests)

Type	Committee name	10 (current)		8		7		6		5		3	
		G	N	G	N	G	N	G	N	G	N	G	N
House general purpose standing	No. 1	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 2	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 3	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 4	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 5	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 6	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 7	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 8	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 9	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 10	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
House domestic	House	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Petitions	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	Privileges and Members' Interests	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5
	Procedure	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Publications	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
Joint (standing or statutory)	Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Australian Crime Commission	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Corporations and Financial Services	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Electoral Matters	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	13	9	13	9	13	9	13	9	13	9	13	9
	Intelligence and Security	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Migration	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	National Capital and External Territories	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Parliamentary Library	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
	Public Accounts and Audit	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4
	Public Works	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Treaties	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3
Totals	28 committees	136	94	125	83	114	83	114	72	103	72	92	61
Average positions available per private Member	<i>government/non-government</i>	2.8	1.4	2.6	1.3	2.3	1.3	2.3	1.1	2.1	1.1	1.9	0.9
Overall reduction in the number of committee positions	overall	2.0		1.8		1.7		1.6		1.5		1.3	
		26		48		59		70		81		103	

Table 7 Alternative models of committee membership; number of general purpose standing committees reduced to eight; domestic committee membership reduced to five (except Petitions, which is treated as a general purpose standing committee, and Privileges and Members' Interests)

Type	Committee name	10 (current)		8		7		6		5		3	
		G	N	G	N	G	N	G	N	G	N	G	N
House general purpose standing	No. 1	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 2	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 3	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 4	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 5	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 6	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 7	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	No. 8	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
House domestic	House	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Petitions	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
	Privileges and Members' Interests	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5
	Procedure	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Publications	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
Joint (standing or statutory)	Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Australian Crime Commission	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Corporations and Financial Services	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Electoral Matters	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	13	9	13	9	13	9	13	9	13	9	13	9
	Intelligence and Security	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Migration	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	National Capital and External Territories	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
	Parliamentary Library	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3
	Public Accounts and Audit	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4
	Public Works	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Treaties	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3
Totals	26 committees	124	86	115	77	106	77	106	68	97	68	88	59
Average positions available per private Member	<i>government/non-government overall</i>	2.5	1.3	2.3	1.2	2.2	1.2	2.2	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.8	0.9
Overall reduction in the number of committee positions		46		64		73		82		91		109	

Table 8 Comparison of alternative membership models: effect of excluding shadow spokespersons from committee membership

		10 (current)		8		7		6		5		3	
		<i>G</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>N</i>
TABLE 3 – No reduction in number of committees													
Totals	30 committees	151	105	138	92	125	92	125	79	112	79	99	66
Average positions per private Member ¹	government/non-government	3.1	1.6	2.8	1.4	2.6	1.4	2.6	1.2	2.3	1.2	2.0	1.0
	overall	2.2		2.0		1.9		1.8		1.7		1.4	
Average positions per backbench Member ²	government/non-government	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.8
	overall	3.0		2.7		2.5		2.4		2.2		1.9	
TABLE 4 – Number of general purpose standing committees reduced to 10													
Totals	28 committees	139	97	128	86	117	86	117	75	106	75	95	64
Average positions per private Member	government/non-government	2.8	1.5	2.6	1.3	2.4	1.3	2.4	1.1	2.2	1.1	1.9	1.0
	overall	2.1		1.9		1.8		1.7		1.6		1.4	
Average positions per backbench Member	government/non-government	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.0	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.7
	overall	2.7		2.5		2.4		2.2		2.1		1.8	
TABLE 5 – Number of general purpose standing committees reduced to eight													
Totals	26 committees	127	89	118	80	109	80	109	71	100	71	91	62
Average positions per private Member	government/non-government	2.6	1.3	2.4	1.2	2.2	1.2	2.2	1.1	2.0	1.1	1.9	0.9
	overall	1.9		1.7		1.6		1.6		1.5		1.3	
Average positions per backbench Member	government/non-government	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.7
	overall	2.5		2.3		2.2		2.1		2.0		1.8	
TABLE 6 – Number of general purpose standing committees reduced to 10; domestic committee* membership reduced to five													
Totals	28 committees	136	94	125	83	114	83	114	72	103	72	92	61
Average positions per private Member	government/non-government	2.8	1.4	2.6	1.3	2.3	1.3	2.3	1.1	2.1	1.1	1.9	0.9
	overall	2.0		1.8		1.7		1.6		1.5		1.3	
Average positions per backbench Member	government/non-government	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.3	1.9	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.6
	overall	2.7		2.4		2.3		2.2		2.0		1.8	
TABLE 7 – Number of general purpose standing committees reduced to eight; domestic committee* membership reduced to five													
Totals	26 committees	124	86	115	77	106	77	106	68	97	68	88	59
Average positions per private Member	government/non-government	2.5	1.3	2.3	1.2	2.2	1.2	2.2	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.8	0.9
	overall	1.8		1.7		1.6		1.5		1.4		1.3	
Average positions per backbench Member	government/non-government	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	1.8	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.6
	overall	2.4		2.2		2.1		2.0		1.9		1.7	

NOTES

1 Private Members are all Members, excluding Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.

2 Backbench Members are all private Members, excluding Shadow Ministers and Shadow Parliamentary Secretaries.

* Except the Petitions Committee (which is treated as a general purpose standing committee) and the Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests.

