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The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

# **Report concerning the registration and declaration of Members' interests during 2021**

**House of Representatives  
Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests**

February 2022  
Canberra

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# Membership of the Committee

## 46th Parliament

<b>Chair</b>	Hon Kevin Andrews MP (Chair from 16 February 2022)
	Mr Russell Broadbent MP (to 8 February 2022)
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Mr Patrick Gorman MP
<b>Members</b>	Hon Anthony Byrne MP (to 18 October 2021)
	Hon Damien Drum MP
	Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP (nominee of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition)
	Ms Nicolle Flint MP
	Mr Ian Goodenough MP
	Mr Julian Leeser MP (nominee of the Leader of the House)
	Ms Joanne Ryan MP (from 18 October 2021)
	Hon Warren Snowdon MP
	Ms Anika Wells MP
	Mr Trent Zimmerman MP

## **Committee secretariat**

**Secretary** Mr Peter Banson  
**Registrar of Members' Interests**

**Research Officer** Ms Peggy Danaee

**Assistant** Ms Debbie Hardie

## Introduction

1. Under the provisions of standing order 216 by which the committee is established, the committee is required, as soon as practicable after each 31 December, to prepare and table in the House a report on its operations in connection with the registration and declaration of Members' interests during that year.
2. This is the report of the committee for the calendar year 2021.

## Responsibilities of the committee

3. Standing order 216 sets out the following terms of reference for the committee:
  - (a) A Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests shall be appointed to:
    - (i) inquire into and report on complaints of breach of privilege or contempt which may be referred to it by the House under *standing order 51* or by the Speaker under *standing order 52*, or any other related matter referred to it by or in accordance with a resolution of the House;
    - (ii) inquire into and report on the arrangements made for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of a Register of Members' Interests;
    - (iii) consider proposals by Members and others on the form and content of the Register of Members' Interests;
    - (iv) consider specific complaints about registering or declaring interests;
    - (v) consider possible changes to any code of conduct adopted by the House; and
    - (vi) consider whether specified persons (other than Members) ought to be required to register and declare their interests.
  - (b) The committee shall consist of 11 members: the Leader of the House or his or her nominee, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition or his or her nominee and nine other members, five government and four non-government Members. When the Opposition is composed of two parties, the non-government Members shall consist of at least one member of the smaller opposition party.
  - (c) The committee may call for witnesses and documents, but when considering a matter concerning the registration or declaration of Members' interests it must not exercise that power or undertake an investigation of a person's private interests unless the action is approved by at least 6 members of the committee other than the Chair.

(d) The committee may report when it sees fit, and must report to the House on its operations in connection with the registration and declaration of Members' interests during the year as soon as possible after 31 December each year.

4. A report in accordance with these terms of reference follows.

## **Arrangements made for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of the Register**

5. Since 1986 arrangements approved by the committee provide that the Register may be inspected, by appointment, between 10 am and 12 noon and 2 pm and 4 pm on working days in the office of the Registrar. In addition the Registrar may grant permission for the Register to be inspected outside those hours if the Registrar is satisfied that the circumstances surrounding the request warrant the exercise of such a discretion.
6. Statements of Members' interests have been published on the Parliament's website since the commencement of the 43rd Parliament. This has been a very significant change to accessibility of the statements.
7. The physical Register was inspected five times in 2021. The Register's homepage on the Parliament of Australia website was viewed 24,473 times during the year.
8. Proposals made by Members and others on the form and content of the Register
9. There were no proposals to alter the form and content of the Register in 2021 and no changes to the Explanatory Notes.

## **Specific complaints made about the registering or declaring of interests**

10. In October 2021 the committee received a specific complaint about a Member's compliance with the House resolutions on registration of Members' interests. The committee considered the complaint and corresponded with the Member whose statement was the subject of the complaint. The Committee did not uphold the complaint, but in its report, presented to the House in November, the Committee indicated that additional detail within the requirements of the Register would assist Members in meeting the expectations of the House. Accordingly, the Committee undertook to consider necessary changes to the requirements.

## **Changes to any code of conduct**

11. The House has not adopted a code of conduct for Members.

## **Registration of interests by other classes of person**

12. No issues were considered in this area during the year.

Hon Kevin Andrews MP  
CHAIR