



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

REFERENCES COMMITTEE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600
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Inquiry Into Members of Parliament Staff (MOPS)

Terms of Reference

On 19 March 2003 the Senate referred to the Finance and Public Administration References Committee the following matter for inquiry and report by 8 October 2003:

- (a) the adequacy and appropriateness of the framework for employment and management of staff under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (the MOPS Act)
- (b) the role and functions of MOPS staff in assisting and advising their employers and interacting with the Australian Public Service and other stakeholder groups
- (c) the remuneration and conditions of employment of MOPS staff
- (d) the means by which MOPS staff are accountable to government, the Parliament and the public
- (e) suitable means by which the accountability of MOPS staff could be enhanced
- (f) the merits of introducing a code of conduct for MOPS staff reflecting the Values and Code of Conduct of the *Public Service Act 1999*, the key elements such a code should contain and the process by which such a code should be developed and introduced
- (g) suitable means by which the accountability of the Government for the employment of MOPS staff can be enhanced
- (h) the role of departmental liaison officers and their interaction with MOPS staff and departments; and
- (i) appropriate amendments to the MOPS Act flowing from the above