

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION TO THE REVIEW OF THE MOP(S) ACT

Andrew Podger AO

My original submission focused on the Review's terms of reference. Here I would like to comment on the Review process itself.

The central argument in my submission was that ministerial staff should be distinguished from staff of Members and Senators recognising the first are within the executive arm of government and the second are within the legislature. Management of the second group should be under the control of the Parliament.

This argument would also imply that any review of the management of the second group should report directly to the Parliament rather than be conducted by a department that is responsible to the Prime Minister. The Parliament will also, of course, be closely interested in any suggested changes to the management of the first group and consequential amendments to the legislation.

Given the work already done by this Review, however, I would not recommend starting totally afresh with a new review even if it would have been preferable to establish a more independent review process.

I suggest instead that the Review's final report be made public and tabled in the Parliament and that the Government not respond ahead of some Parliamentary examination of the report (perhaps by the JCPAA or the Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee).

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