



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MEMBERS PARLIAMENTARY REFORM COMMITTEE

The Federal Government Members Parliamentary Reform Committee is examining how Federal Parliament should be improved.

The Committee, chaired by the Government Whip, Senator Fred Chaney, is seeking the views of all Government Members as well as those of the community.

The Committee will consider the recently tabled joint Parliamentary Committee Report on Committees, and will examine all aspects of the Parliamentary process, and the relationship between the Parliament and the public.

Specific areas to be considered include the relationship between Parliament and the executive, parliamentary privilege, methods of filling casual vacancies in the Senate, the future size of Parliament, and parliamentary scrutiny of legislation.

The Committee hopes to make its initial recommendations during the Budget session. For this reason the Committee will be seeking submissions before the end of July.

People wishing to have their views considered should send submissions to Senator Chaney, Parliament House, Canberra.

Note: A list of the areas of inquiry is attached.

GOVERNMENT PARLIAMENTARY REFORM COMMITTEE

AREAS OF INQUIRY

1. Parliamentary Committee System
2. Parliamentary Sessions
 - . Duration of Sittings
 - . Sitting Hours
3. Parliament and the Executive
4. Parliamentary Privilege
 - . Scope
 - . Enforcement
5. Publication and Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings
6. Parliamentary Scrutiny of Legislation
7. Special problems of Territorial Senators
8. Parliamentary Term
 - . Synchronisation of elections
9. Filling Casual Vacancies in the Senate
10. Future Size of Parliament
11. Parliament and the Public
 - . Community standing of the Parliamentarian
 - . Knowledge of Parliamentary activities
12. Orientation and In-Service Training for Parliamentarians and Staff Members
13. Parliamentary Secretaries/Honorary Assistant Ministers
14. Appointment of Members and Senators to Public Boards/Advisory Bodies
15. Other Matters