

Recent Parliamentary Budgeting Developments in New Zealand

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Parliament's budget scrutiny

- Parliament's scrutiny of Government expenditure and annual performance is led by the Finance and Expenditure Committee
- One of 13 subject committees that scrutinise the budget and performance of the Executive
- A strong select committee system to counterbalance the lack of an upper house

Committee scrutiny

Committees consider Estimates of Appropriations and review the performance of government agencies each year

Allocated by FE Committee

Committees advised by Auditor-General, an independent officer of Parliament

Committee scrutiny

Ministers and chief executives appear to give evidence

Hearings public

All information released on website

Committees recommend to the House

Non-departmental appropriations

- Services delivered by bodies on behalf of the government
- Until 2009 no parliamentary scrutiny
- Standing Orders now refer all non-departmental appropriations to committees

Non-departmental appropriations

- Scrutiny slow in beginning
- Some larger reports considered
- Reports volume, timeliness and cost but not quality of service
- Auditor-General wants improved reporting

Inquiries into financial performance

- Māori Affairs Committee inquired into entities that are not subject to financial review
- Māori Television Service (statutory corporation) – revenue \$40 million
- Māori Trustee (statutory body) – revenue \$90 million

Financial scrutiny a strategic goal

- The Office of the Clerk has made improved support for Parliament's financial scrutiny a strategic goal
- Focus on working with Auditor-General to improve support
- Gathering ideas from other countries