

PART B

Portfolio Overview

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

Structure and functions

The Attorney-General's portfolio comprises the Attorney-General's Department and a number of statutory and non-statutory bodies. The Department is the central policy and coordinating agency within the portfolio. The structure of agencies within the portfolio is aligned to the Government's overall commitment to a fairer and safer Australian society.

The portfolio covers a broad range of law and justice matters and services including legal policy and services to the Commonwealth in areas of administrative, constitutional, civil, family, and international law, law reform, bankruptcy estate administration and regulation, Commonwealth courts and tribunals, legal aid, native title, national and international human rights issues, censorship, criminal law and law enforcement, national security, emergency management, and some aspects of customs and border control.

The portfolio's agencies progress Government priorities, including direct services to the community within a legislative framework, through the purchase of services on behalf of the community, the provision of services to the Government, Ministers, Commonwealth departments and agencies, and the provision of services to other clients.

2004-05 Budget

The measures announced by the Government for the Attorney-General's portfolio in the 2004-05 Budget are summarised below. Details of measures are set out in the Agency Budget Statements.

In addition to the expense and capital funding amounts set out below in total for each measure, depreciation funding will also be provided for some measures – see Agency Budget Statements.

Investing in Australia's security

Strengthening intelligence capabilities

- \$127.3m over four years for the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) as part of a cross-portfolio package of measures to intelligence agencies to enhance Australia's counter-terrorism capabilities and increase national security capabilities.
- \$36.0m over four years for the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) to enhance its ability to collect, analyse and disseminate financial intelligence to Australia's law enforcement, revenue and national security agencies.
- \$6.2m in 2004-05 to the Attorney-General's Department for the continuation of the National Security Hotline.

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Protective security

- \$29.9m over four years to the Attorney-General's Department as part of a cross-portfolio measure to undertake a range of activities to progress key areas of critical infrastructure protection.
- \$15.7m over four years to the AFP for the expansion of the Air Security Officer Programme to priority international destinations.
- \$15.6m in 2004-05 to the Attorney-General's Department for diplomatic guarding.
- \$3.7m over four years to the Attorney-General's Department to replace the fleet of ten armoured vehicles used for protective security for Australian holders of high office and visiting dignitaries.

Securing our borders

- \$10.6m over two years to Customs to meet additional logistics costs resulting from increased levels of cargo container examinations.
- \$3.1m in 2004-05 to Customs as part of a cross-portfolio measure to develop and trial biometric technology for border control.
- \$3.0m over four years to ASIO as part of a cross-portfolio measure to further strengthen existing border control measures for Australia.
- \$2.8m in 2004-05 to Customs to increase the level of first port boarding of vessels and crew arriving in Australia.
- Border strengthening projects involving Customs and the Departments of Transport and Regional Services and Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

Enhancing security capacity and cooperation in our region

- \$36.8m over four years to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) to enhance its capacity to respond to terrorist attacks in the region and to assist in strengthening the counter-terrorism capabilities of regional law enforcement partners.
- \$36.8m over five years (including \$7.2m in 2008-09) to the AFP to support the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation.
- \$10.0m over four years to AUSTRAC to work with counterpart financial intelligence units in Southeast Asia to enhance their counter-terrorism financing capabilities.

Other measures

Regional assistance

- \$766.3m over five years from 2003–04 to the AFP to provide management, infrastructure and capacity building assistance to the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary.
- \$93.7m in 2004–05 to the AFP as part of the Government’s continuing program of assistance to the Solomon Islands Government.
- \$24.0m over eighteen months to the AFP for the cost of health services for Australian officials and police participating in the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands.
- \$20.3m over four years to the AFP and \$1.2m over four years to ASIO to continue their presence and support in Melanesia.
- \$11.4m over four years to the Attorney-General’s Department to enhance good government and security in the Pacific region.
- \$6.5m in 2004–05 to the AFP to contribute to the United Nations mission in East Timor.
- Supplementation of \$12.7m will be provided to the AFP in 2003–04 for costs incurred in investigating the Bali bombings of 12 October 2002.

Border protection

- \$84.2m over two years to Customs to conduct armed patrols of the Heard and McDonald Islands’ exclusive economic zone.
- \$17.4m over four years to the AFP to continue funding for the people smuggling strike team.
- \$4.5m in 2004–05 to Customs to enhance security arrangements at Customs facilities.

Fighting crime

- \$20.1m over four years to the Attorney-General’s Department to establish a National Community Crime Prevention Programme.
- \$16.0m over four years to the AFP, the Australian Crime Commission and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal as part of a cross-portfolio measure to enhance surveillance capabilities.
- \$3.9m in 2004–05 to the Attorney-General’s Department for a juvenile diversion scheme and Aboriginal interpreter service in the Northern Territory.

National Illicit Drug Strategy

- \$1.0m in 2007–08 to the Australian Institute of Criminology to continue drug use monitoring.

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Legal aid

- \$52.7m over four years to the Attorney-General's Department to increase funding for legal aid.

Migration litigation reforms

- \$34.2m to the Federal Magistrates Court for the appointment of eight additional magistrates to support migration litigation reforms.

Melbourne Commonwealth Games 2006

- \$13.7m over three years to the Attorney-General's Department, ASIO, AFP and Customs as part of the Government's package of assistance for the staging of the Melbourne Commonwealth Games in 2006.

Capital and other measures

- \$96.7m over five years (including \$11.8m in 2008-09) to the Attorney-Generals' Department for the Commonwealth's share of the costs of the refurbishment of the Sydney Law Courts Building.
- \$23.0m over three years to the Attorney-General's Department for fit-out costs for new office accommodation.
- \$6.2m in 2004-05 to the Attorney-General's Department to fund workload increases.
- \$6.7m over four years to the Attorney-General's Department for Australia's contribution to the operating costs of the International Criminal Court.
- \$0.7m (and an equity injection of \$0.4m) in 2004-05 to the Office of Film and Literature Classification for workload increases.
- Court security measures with costs to be absorbed.

Structure of Attorney-General's Portfolio Outcomes

<p>Attorney-General: The Hon Philip Ruddock MP</p> <p>Minister for Justice and Customs: Senator the Hon Chris Ellison</p>
<p>Attorney-General's Department</p> <p>Secretary : Mr Robert Cornall</p> <p>Outcome 1: An equitable and accessible system of federal civil justice</p> <p>Outcome 2: Coordinated federal criminal justice, security and emergency management activity, for a safer Australia</p>
<p>Administrative Appeals Tribunal</p> <p>Registrar : Mr Doug Humphreys</p> <p>Outcome 1: To provide aggrieved persons and agencies with timely, fair and independent merits review of administrative decisions over which the Tribunal has jurisdiction</p>
<p>Australian Crime Commission</p> <p>Chief Executive Officer: Mr Alastair Milroy</p> <p>Outcome 1: Enhanced Australian law enforcement capacity</p>
<p>Australian Customs Service</p> <p>Chief Executive Officer : Mr Lionel Woodward AO</p> <p>Outcome 1: Effective border management that, with minimal disruption to legitimate trade and travel, prevents illegal movement across the border, raises revenue and provides trade statistics</p>
<p>Australian Federal Police</p> <p>Commissioner : Mr Mick Keelty APM</p> <p>Outcome 1: The investigation and prevention of crime against the Commonwealth and protection of Commonwealth interests in Australia and overseas</p> <p>Outcome 2: Policing activity creates a safe and secure environment in the ACT</p>
<p>Australian Institute of Criminology</p> <p>Director : Dr Toni Makkai (Acting)</p> <p>Outcome 1: To inform government of activities which aim to promote justice and reduce crime</p>

Australian Law Reform Commission

President : Professor David Weisbrot

Outcome 1: The development and reform of aspects of the laws of Australia to ensure that they are equitable, modern, fair and efficient

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation

Director General of Security : Mr Dennis Richardson

Outcome 1: A secure Australia for people and property, for government business and national infrastructure, and for special events of national and international significance

Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre

Director : Mr Neil Jensen PSM

Outcome 1: A financial environment hostile to money laundering, major crime and tax evasion

Criminology Research Council

Director: Mr Laurie Glanfield AM

Outcome 1: Criminological research which informs the Commonwealth and States

CrimTrac Agency

Chief Executive Officer : Mr Jonathan Mobbs

Outcome 1: Coordinated national policing information systems for a safer Australia

Family Court of Australia

Chief Executive Officer : Mr Richard Foster

Outcome 1: Serving the interests of the Australian community by ensuring families and children in need can access effective high quality services

Federal Court of Australia

Registrar : Mr Warwick Soden

Outcome 1: Through its jurisdiction, the Court will apply and uphold the rule of law to deliver remedies and enforce rights and in so doing, contribute to the social and economic development and well-being of all Australians

Federal Magistrates Service

Chief Executive Officer : Mr Peter May

Outcome 1: To provide the Australian community with a simple and accessible forum for the resolution of less complex disputes within the jurisdiction of the Federal Magistrates Service

<p>High Court of Australia</p> <p>Chief Executive and Principal Registrar : Mr Christopher Doogan</p> <p>Outcome 1: To interpret and uphold the Australian Constitution and perform the functions of the ultimate appellate Court in Australia</p>
<p>Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission</p> <p>President and Chief Executive Officer : Justice John von Doussa QC</p> <p>Outcome 1: An Australian society in which the human rights of all are respected, protected and promoted</p>
<p>Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia</p> <p>Chief Executive and Inspector General : Mr Terry Gallagher</p> <p>Outcome 1: A personal insolvency system that produces equitable outcomes for debtors and creditors, enjoys public confidence and minimises the impact of financial failure on the community</p>
<p>National Native Title Tribunal</p> <p>Registrar : Mr Christopher Doepel</p> <p>Outcome 1: Recognition and protection of Native Title</p>
<p>Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions</p> <p>Director : Mr Damian Bugg QC</p> <p>Outcome 1: To contribute to the safety and well-being of the people of Australia and to help protect the resources of the Commonwealth through the maintenance of law and order and by combating crime</p>
<p>Office of Film and Literature Classification</p> <p>Director : Mr Des Clark</p> <p>Outcome 1: Australians make informed decisions about films, publications and computer games, which they, or those in their care may view, read or play</p>
<p>Office of Parliamentary Counsel</p> <p>First Parliamentary Counsel : Mr Peter Quiggin (Acting)</p> <p>Outcome 1: Parliamentary democracy and an effective statute book</p>
<p>Office of the Privacy Commissioner</p> <p>Privacy Commissioner : Mr Timothy Pilgrim (Acting)</p> <p>Outcome 1: An Australian culture in which privacy is respected, promoted and protected</p>

