

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

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Structure and functions

The Attorney-General's portfolio covers a broad range of law and justice matters and services including legal policy and services to the Commonwealth; 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. The Attorney-General's Department also has responsibility for Royal Commissions. The Royal Commission into the Building and Construction Industry, and the Royal Commission into the failure of HIH Insurance Group are currently being conducted.

The structure of agencies within the portfolio is aligned to the Government's overall commitment to a fairer and safer Australian society. The 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.

Changes within the portfolio

- On 14 February 2002 the Government announced that the Australian Protective Service (APS) will become an operating division of the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The Portfolio Budget Statements show the transfer taking effect on 1 July 2002.
- On 6 April 2002 the Government announced that the National Crime Authority (NCA) will be replaced with an Australian Crime Commission (ACC) by 31 December 2002. The ACC will also include the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (ABCI). Appropriations shown in the Portfolio Budget Statements for the NCA and ABCI, excluding expenditure from appropriations prior to the transfer date, will be transferred to the ACC when it is established as an agency.

The 2002–03 Budget

The measures announced by the Government for the Attorney-General's portfolio in the 2002–03 Budget are summarised below. Details of measures are set out in the Agency Budget Statements.

Counter-terrorism:

- \$124.1m over four years for the Australian Protective Service to enhance aviation security arrangements by upgrading security at Australia's 11 major airports and continuing the implementation of the Air Security Officer program. This is in addition to \$20.7m provided to the Australian Protective Service in 2001–02.
- \$110.1m over four years for the Australian Federal Police to increase close personal protection services and enhance its counter-terrorism crime capacity. This is in addition to \$9.2m provided to the Australian Federal Police in 2001–02.
- \$49.0m over four years for the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, Australian Federal Police and the National Crime Authority to further develop technical investigative capacity.
- \$48.3m over four years for the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation to increase its counter-terrorism capabilities.
- \$42.3m over four years for the Australian Customs Service for improved data access to international airline computer reservation and departure control systems.
- \$17.8m over four years to enhance the capacity of Emergency Management Australia to deal with the consequences of terrorist attacks in Australia.
- \$16.2m over four years for the Attorney-General's Department, the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation to improve security awareness and management of the national information infrastructure.
- \$14.4m over four years for the Attorney-General's Department to enhance its national security coordination and counter-terrorism capability. This is in addition to \$1.8m provided to the Attorney-General's Department for 2001–02.
- \$4.4m over four years for the Australian Protective Service to increase the number of explosive detector dogs at Australian airports.
- In addition, the Government provided \$6.9m to the Attorney-General's Department in 2001–02 for increased diplomatic guarding services.

Border Protection:

- \$77.4m over four years for the Australian Customs Service to double its National Marine Unit surveillance and response capacity.
- \$39.8m over four years for the Australian Customs Service to install additional container x-ray machines at Fremantle and Brisbane ports.
- \$28.5m over three years for the Australian Customs Service to expand Coastwatch surveillance flights.
- \$12.8m over four years to the Australian Customs Service for the provision of a high frequency surface wave radar system.
- \$9.2m over four years for the Australian Customs Service to install four additional pallet x-ray machines in Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth.
- \$8.1m over four years for the Australian Customs Service to upgrade the communications capability of Coastwatch.
- \$1.5m over four years to the Australian Federal Police for the supply of five boats to the Indonesian National Police.
- In addition, the Government provided \$23.6m to the Australian Customs Service in 2001–02 for increased border protection capacity to address unauthorised arrivals.

A safer more secure Australia:

- \$47.0m over four years for the Australian Federal Police to expand the Law Enforcement Cooperation Program.
- \$47.0m over four years for the Australian Federal Police to double its strike team capacity.
- \$21.4m over four years to expand the Axiom undercover policing program of the Australian Federal Police.
- \$11.0m over four years to enhance the analytical and predictive crime capability of the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence.
- \$7.2m over three years for the Australian Federal Police to increase its rapid response capabilities in remote locations.
- \$1.6m over four years for the Australian Federal Police to expand its research and development capability to allow it to keep pace with international developments in investigation and have access to the best technologies in the world.
- \$1.0m over four years for the Attorney-General's Department to establish a national coordination and fundraising point for the Crime Stoppers network.

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Tough on drugs:

- \$4.7m over four years for the Australian Federal Police to extend the Heroin Signature Program to include tracking the origins of cocaine and amphetamines.

Better law, more options:

- \$27.2m over four years for the Attorney-General's Department to continue to fund community-based counselling and mediation services.
- \$5.3m over four years for the Attorney-General's Department to continue to support community legal services in rural and regional areas of Australia.
- \$1.3m for the Attorney-General's Department to continue the operation of Australian Law Online in 2002–03.

In addition:

- \$0.9m will be provided over two years for the High Court of Australia to fund activities marking the centenary of the Court's first sitting; and
- \$9.8m will be provided in 2002–03 for the extension of the HIH Royal Commission reporting date from 30 June 2002 to 28 February 2003.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

In this document all estimates of expenses, assets and appropriation revenues are net of recoverable GST.

Australian Government Solicitor

The Australian Government Solicitor (AGS), a Commonwealth statutory authority, was incorporated under the *Judiciary Act 1903* on 1 September 1999. The AGS is a leading national legal services provider serving the Government and its agencies, and through them, the public interest. The AGS is a Government Business Enterprise and is a Public Trading Enterprise under the direction of its Chief Executive Officer, Ms Rayne de Gruchy. The AGS is accountable to Parliament through its shareholder ministers, the Attorney-General and the Minister for Finance and Administration.

As the AGS is not part of the general Government sector and receives no appropriation from Government, the AGS is not included in the Agency Budget Statements section of this document.

Structure of Attorney-General's Portfolio Outcomes

Attorney-General:
The Hon Daryl Williams AM QC MP
Minister for Justice and Customs:
Senator the Hon Chris Ellison

Attorney-General's Department
Secretary : Mr Robert Cornall
Outcome 1: An equitable and accessible system of federal civil justice
Outcome 2: Coordinated federal criminal justice, security and emergency management activity, for a safer Australia

High Court of Australia
Chief Executive and Principal Registrar : Mr Christopher Doogan
Outcome 1: To interpret and uphold the Australian Constitution and perform the functions of the ultimate appellate Court in Australia

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

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 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

Administrative Appeals Tribunal
Registrar : Ms Kay Ransome
Outcome 1: To provide aggrieved persons and agencies with timely, fair and independent merits review of administrative decisions over which the Tribunal has jurisdiction

Portfolio Overview

National Native Title Tribunal

Registrar : Mr Christopher Doepel

Outcome 1: Recognition and protection of Native Title

Australian Federal Police

Commissioner : Mr Mick Keelty APM

Outcome 1: The investigation and prevention of crime against the Commonwealth and protection of Commonwealth interests in Australia and overseas

Outcome 2: Policing activity creates a safe and secure environment in the ACT

Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre

Director : Mr Neil Jensen PSM (Acting)

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

Australian Institute of Criminology

Director : Dr Adam Graycar

Outcome 1: To inform government of activities which aim to promote justice and reduce crime

Criminology Research Council

Director : Dr Adam Graycar

Outcome 1: Criminological research which informs the Commonwealth and States

National Crime Authority

Chairperson : Mr Gary Crooke QC

Outcome 1: An integrated and national response to organised crime

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Director : Mr Damian Bugg QC

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

Australian Customs Service

Chief Executive Officer : Mr Lionel Woodward AO

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

Office of Parliamentary Counsel

First Parliamentary Counsel : Ms Hilary Penfold PSM QC

Outcome 1: Parliamentary democracy and an effective statute book

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

President and Chief Executive Officer : Professor Alice Tay

Outcome 1: An Australian society in which the human rights of all are respected, protected and promoted

Office of the Privacy Commissioner

Privacy Commissioner : Mr Malcolm Crompton

Outcome 1: An Australian culture in which privacy is respected, promoted and protected

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 Government Solicitor

Chief Executive Officer : Ms Rayne de Gruchy

The Australian Government Solicitor is a Government Business Enterprise

Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia

Chief Executive and Inspector General : Mr Terry Gallagher

Outcome 1: Public confidence in the personal insolvency system

Office of Film and Literature Classification

Director : Mr Des Clark

Outcome 1: Australians make informed decisions about films, publications and computer games, which they, or those in their care may view, read or play

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

