

AUSTRALIAN LAW
REFORM COMMISSION

Section 1: Overview, appropriations and budget measures summary

OVERVIEW

The Australian Law Reform Commission plays a key role in the process of law reform in Australia.

The Commission undertakes inquiries referred to it by the Attorney-General and makes recommendations for law reform with respect to issues raised by those inquiries. The Commission consults all relevant sectors of the community and experts interested in the inquiry, and researches and analyses the legal, social and economic issues raised.

The Commission is committed to raising public awareness on key legal issues affecting Australian society. It does this through its website and a publications program. Its cornerstone publication is the biannual journal *Reform*, which seeks to inform a non-legal audience of contemporary legal issues.

The Commission regularly briefs the Attorney-General on issues arising out of its work and advises on the priorities for law reform in Australia.

Where the Commission has made relevant recommendations or has acquired special expertise or experience, it also advises inquiries undertaken by Parliamentary Committees and other bodies reporting to Parliament on the law reform issues raised in those inquiries.

APPROPRIATIONS

The total appropriation for the Australian Law Reform Commission in the 2001–02 Budget is \$3.112m. Table 1.1 shows appropriations (2001–02) and other revenue by outcome.

ADMINISTERED CAPITAL AND DEPARTMENTAL EQUITY INJECTIONS AND LOANS

No administered capital or agency injections or loans are included in the 2001–02 appropriation, or are planned for the forward years to 2004–05.

Australian Law Reform Commission — Appropriations 2001–02

Table 1.1: Appropriations and other revenue (\$'000)

Outcome	Departmental (price of outputs)					Administered			Total appropriations	
	Revenue from government (appropriations)			Revenue from other sources	Price of outputs	Annual appropriations	Special approps	Total administered appropriations		
	Bill 1	Special approps	Total			Bill 1	Bill 2 (SPPs & NAOs)			
	(A)	(B)	(C=A+B)	(D)	(E=C+D)	(F)	(G)	(H)		(I=F+G+H)
The development and reform of aspects of the laws of Australia to ensure that they are equitable, fair, modern and efficient	3,112	-	3,112 97.6%	75	3,187	-	-	-	-	3,112
Total	3,112	-	3,112	75	3,187	-	-	-	-	3,112
Departmental capital (equity injections and loans)									-	
Administered capital									-	
Total appropriations									3,112	

Notes:

- Columns C, D, E and I refer to information provided in Table 2.1.1.
- Under the appropriation structure, Bill 2 includes Specific Purpose Payments (SPP)'s, New Agency Outcomes (NAO's), administered capital and departmental capital via departmental injections and loans.
- Refer to Budgeted Departmental Statement of Financial Performance for application of agency revenue.
- Revenue from other sources includes other revenue from government (eg resources free of charge) and revenue from other sources (eg sales of goods and services). Non-appropriated departmental and administered revenues are detailed in Appendix 1.
- Percentage figure in column C indicates the percentage contribution of revenue from government (departmental appropriations) to the total price of outputs, by outcome

Section 2: Outcomes and outputs information

OUTCOMES AND OUTPUT GROUPS

The Australian Law Reform Commission has one outcome:

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

There is one output for the Australian Law Reform Commission's outcome:

Publish reports and community consultation documents (eg Issues Papers/Discussion Papers) on matter referred by the Attorney-General and other activities necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its functions under Part 3 of the Australian Law Reform Commission Act 1996

Financial and non-financial information is provided as follows:

Map 2.1 - details outcome and output resourcing and illustrates the relationship between the outcomes and contributing outputs.

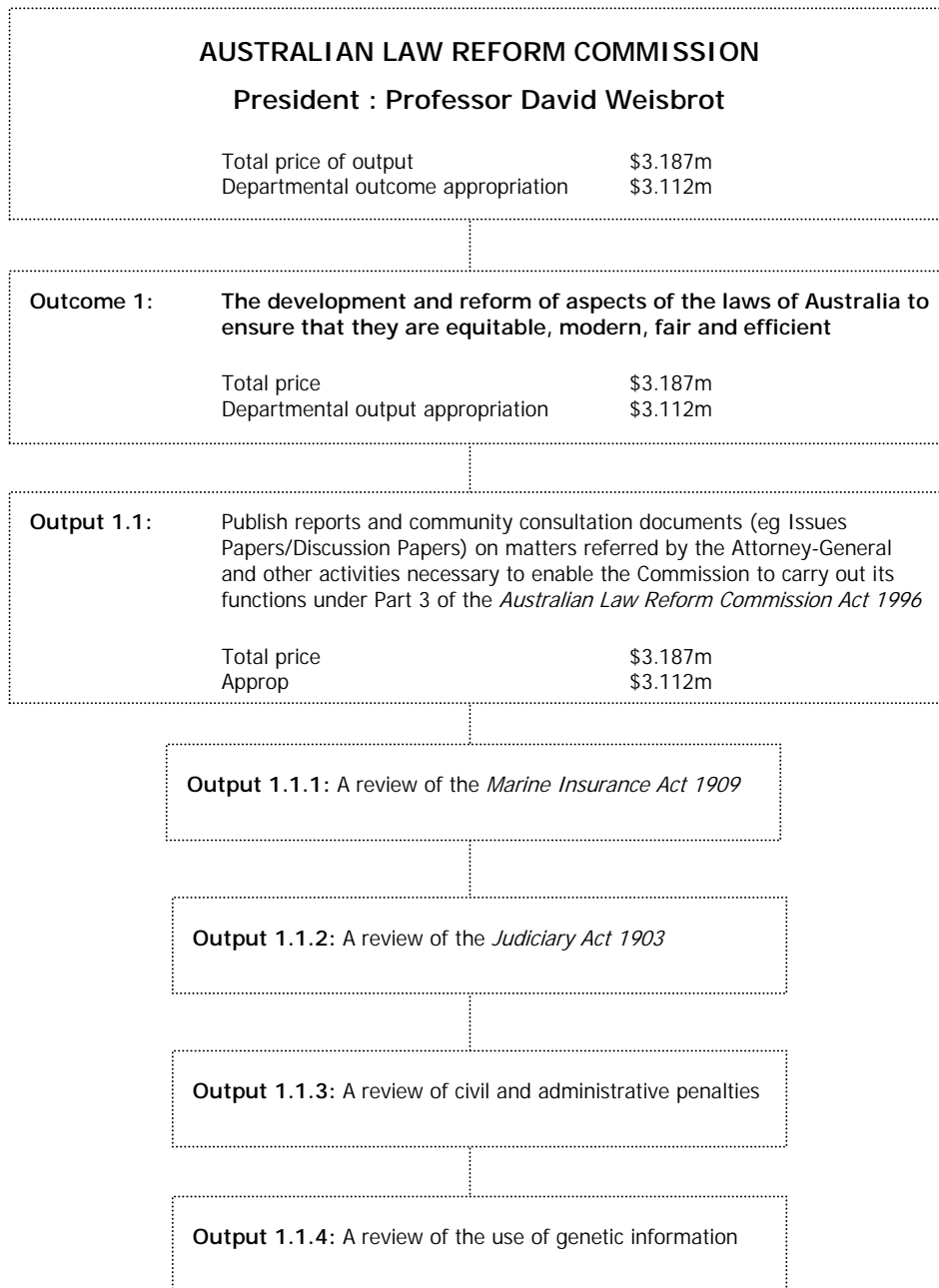
Table 2.1.1 - details financial information for outcome 1.

Table 2.2.1 - details non-financial information for outcome 1.

CHANGES TO OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

There have been no changes to the outcome and outputs structure for the Australian Law Reform Commission.

Map 2.1: Outcome and output groups



Note:

Revenue from Government (Appropriations) contributes 97.6% to the Total Price of Outputs for 2001–02.

OUTCOME 1 — THE DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM OF ASPECTS OF THE LAWS OF AUSTRALIA TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE EQUITABLE, MODERN, FAIR AND EFFICIENT

The Commission reviews Commonwealth laws relevant to matters referred by the Attorney-General and develops proposals for the development and simplification of the law, to improve access to justice, and for the removal of defects in the law. In performing its functions the Commission aims to ensure that the laws under review and proposals in relation to those laws do not trespass unduly on the rights and liberties of citizens, and are as far as practicable consistent with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

OUTCOME 1 — RESOURCING

Table 2.1.1 shows how the 2001–02 appropriations translate to total resourcing for the Commission’s outcome: revenue from government (appropriations), revenue from other sources and the total price of the output.

Table 2.1.1: Total resources for outcome 1 (\$'000)

	Estimated Actual 2000–01 (\$'000)	Budget Estimate 2001–02 (\$'000)
DEPARTMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS		
Output 1.1: Publish reports and community consultation documents on matters referred by the Attorney-General	3,003	3,112
Total revenue from government (appropriations) contributing to price of outcome	3,003	3,112
	85.0%	97.6%
REVENUE FROM OTHER SOURCES		
Sale of publications	24	30
Interest	54	45
Conferences	100	-
Other ¹	350	-
Total revenue from other sources	528	75
Total price of departmental outputs <i>(Total revenue from government and other sources)</i>	3,531	3,187
Total estimated resourcing for outcome 1 <i>(Total administered expenses)</i>	3,531	3,187
AVERAGE STAFFING LEVEL	21	22

Note:

- Other revenue consists of one-off allocations of \$300,000 from the Department of Health for the joint ALRC-AHEC inquiry into genetic information and \$50,000 from the Attorney-General's Department for expenses incurred with the administration of the pro-bono Taskforce which is chaired by the President of the Commission.

OUTCOME 1 — PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The publication of reports on matters referred by the Attorney-General meets the Commission's statutory functions set out in Part 3 of *The Australian Law Reform Commission Act 1996* and fulfills the expectation of the Government that it receive effective, independent and timely advice on law reform issues.

Table 2.2.1 provides information on the strategies chosen to deliver outcome 1, and shows the links between the output and the outcome.

Table 2.2.1 Performance information for outcome 1

Effectiveness – overall achievement of the outcome	
<i>Effectiveness indicators</i>	<i>Measures</i>
Broad based community involvement in law reform Identification of priorities for law reform	Extent of participation by representatives of the relevant interest groups targeted Criteria for law reform priorities reviewed and published and Attorney-General regularly briefed
Performance information for departmental outputs	
<i>Output Description</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>
Output 1: Publish reports and community consultation documents (eg Issues Papers/Discussion Papers) on matters referred by the Attorney-General and other activities necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its functions under Part 3 of the <i>Australian Law Reform Commission Act 1996</i>	Quality of Commission reports accepted and implemented by government Timeliness of references completed within agreed parameters
Output 1.1.1: A review of the <i>Marine Insurance Act 1909</i>	<i>Target:</i> Final report completed by 30 April 2001 <i>Milestone:</i> Issues paper published July 2000
Output 1.1.2: A review of the <i>Judiciary Act 1903</i>	<i>Target:</i> Final report completed by 30 June 2001 <i>Milestone:</i> Issues paper published December 2000
Output 1.1.3: A review of civil and administrative penalties	<i>Target:</i> Final report completed by 1 March 2002 <i>Milestone:</i> Issues paper published by September 2001
Output 1.1.4: A review of the use of genetic information	<i>Target:</i> Final report completed by 30 June 2002 <i>Milestone:</i> Issues paper published by September 2001

EVALUATIONS

Information on planned evaluation activity that relates to this outcome is included in Table 2.2.1 and the results will be shown in the annual report.

COMPETITIVE TENDERING AND CONTRACTING

Contracts for work contributing to the outcome are handled in accordance with competitive tendering processes.

Section 3: Budgeted Financial Statements

Table 3.1: Budgeted Departmental Statement of Financial Performance
for the period ended 30 June

	Estimated Actual 2000–01 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2001–02 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2002–03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003–04 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2004–05 \$'000
Revenues from ordinary activities					
Revenues from government	3,003	3,112	3,142	3,175	3,209
Sales of goods and services	178	75	85	95	105
Grants	350	-	-	-	-
Total revenues from ordinary activities	3,531	3,187	3,227	3,270	3,314
Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)					
Employees	1,873	1,906	1,955	2,001	2,037
Suppliers	1,050	1,080	1,085	1,085	1,120
Depreciation and amortisation	200	120	109	120	100
Grants	150	200	-	-	-
Total expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)	3,273	3,306	3,149	3,206	3,257
Borrowing cost expense	-	-	-	-	-
Net surplus or (deficit) from ordinary activities	258	(119)	78	64	57
Gain or loss on extraordinary items	-	-	-	-	-
Net surplus or (deficit)	258	(119)	78	64	57
Capital use charge	(58)	(81)	(78)	(64)	(57)
Net surplus or (deficit) after capital use charge	200	(200)	-	-	-

**Table 3.2: Budgeted Departmental Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June**

	Estimated Actual 2000–01 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2001–02 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2002–03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003–04 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2004–05 \$'000
ASSETS					
Financial assets					
Cash	878	678	268	248	218
Receivables	2	2	2	2	2
Total financial assets	880	680	270	250	220
Non-financial assets					
Land and buildings	122	74	314	254	194
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	345	299	360	327	353
Other	35	35	35	35	35
Total non-financial assets	502	408	709	616	582
Total assets	1,382	1,088	979	866	802
LIABILITIES					
Debt					
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total debt	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions and payables					
Employees	269	269	269	269	269
Suppliers	60	60	60	60	60
Total provisions and payables	329	329	329	329	329
Total liabilities	329	329	329	329	329
EQUITY					
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	968	674	565	452	388
Reserves	85	85	85	85	85
Total equity	1,053	759	650	537	473
Current liabilities	214	214	214	214	214
Non-current liabilities	115	115	115	115	115
Current assets	915	715	305	285	255
Non-current assets	467	373	674	581	547

**Table 3.3: Budgeted Departmental Statement of Cash Flows
for the period ended 30 June**

	Estimated Actual 2000–01 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2001–02 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2002–03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003–04 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2004–05 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Appropriations for outputs	3,003	3,112	3,142	3,175	3,209
Sales of goods and services	24	30	35	40	45
Interest	54	45	50	55	60
Other	100	-	-	-	-
Total cash received	3,181	3,187	3,227	3,270	3,314
Cash used					
Employees	1,873	1,906	1,955	2,001	2,037
Suppliers	850	1,150	1,194	1,205	1,220
Grants	150	200	-	-	-
Total cash used	2,873	3,256	3,149	3,206	3,257
Net cash from operating activities	308	(69)	78	64	57
INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Total cash received	-	-	-	-	-
Cash used					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	50	50	410	20	30
Total cash used	50	50	410	20	30
Net cash from investing activities	(50)	(50)	(410)	(20)	(30)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total cash received	-	-	-	-	-
Cash used					
Capital use charge	58	81	78	64	57
Total cash used	58	81	78	64	57
Net cash from financing activities	(58)	(81)	(78)	(64)	(57)
Net increase in cash held	200	(200)	(410)	(20)	(30)
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period	678	878	678	268	248
Cash at the end of the reporting period	878	678	268	248	218

Table 3.4: Departmental Capital Budget Statement

	Estimated Actual 2000-01 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2001-02 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2002-03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003-04 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2004-05 \$'000
CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS					
Total equity injections	-	-	-	-	-
Total loans	-	-	-	-	-
Represented by:					
Purchase of non-current assets	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-
PURCHASE OF NON-CURRENT ASSETS					
Funded by capital appropriations	-	-	-	-	-
Funded internally by departmental resources	50	50	410	20	30
Total	50	50	410	20	30

Table 3.5: Departmental Non-financial Assets — Summary of Movement (Budget Year 2001–02)

	Land	Buildings	Total land and buildings	Other infrastructure plant and equipment	Total infrastructure plant and equipment	Intangibles	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
GROSS VALUE							
<i>As at 1 July 2001 (opening)</i>	-	244	244	591	591	-	835
Additions	-	-	-	50	50	-	50
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other movements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>As at 30 June 2002 (closing)</i>	-	244	244	641	641	-	885
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION							
<i>As at 1 July 2001 (opening)</i>	-	122	122	246	246	-	368
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charge for the reporting period	-	48	48	96	96	-	144
Other movements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>As at 30 June 2002 (closing)</i>	-	170	170	342	342	-	512
Net book value as at 30 June 2002 (closing book value)	-	74	74	299	299	-	373
Net book value as at 1 July 2001 (opening book value)	-	122	122	345	345	-	467
TOTAL ADDITIONS							
Self funded	-	-	-	50	50	-	50
Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	50	50	-	50

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Departmental Financial Statements

Under the Commonwealth's accrual budgeting framework, and consistent with Australian Accounting Standards, transactions that agencies control (departmental transactions) are separately budgeted for and reported for from transactions agencies do not have control over (Administered transactions). This ensures that agencies are only held fully accountable for the transactions over which they have control.

Departmental assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses in relation to an agency or authority are those which are controlled by the agency. Departmental expenses include employee and supplier expenses and other administrative costs, which are incurred by the agency in providing its goods and services.

Capital use charge

A capital use charge is levied on agencies and authorities to reflect the cost of the Commonwealth's investment in those entities. It is levied on those agencies closing Departmental net assets (equity) and the charge for the Commission is 12%.

Asset valuation

Commonwealth agencies and authorities are required to value property, plant and equipment and other infrastructure assets using the deprival method of valuation. This essentially reflects the current cost the entity would face in replacing that asset.

Appendix 1

Non-Appropriation Departmental Revenue

	Estimated Revenue 2000-01 \$'000	Estimated Revenue 2001-02 \$'000
DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE		
Sale of publications	24	30
Interest	54	45
Conferences	100	-
Other	350	-
Total Estimated Departmental Revenue	528	75

