

FEDERAL MAGISTRATES
SERVICE

Section 1: Overview, appropriations and budget measures summary

OVERVIEW

The role of the Federal Magistrates Service is to provide a cheaper, simpler and faster method of dealing with less complex Family Court and Federal Court matters. The Service was established by the *Federal Magistrates Act 1999*.

The jurisdiction of the Federal Magistrates Service includes family law and child support, administrative law, bankruptcy, unlawful discrimination, consumer protection law and privacy law. The Service shares those jurisdictions with the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Court of Australia.

The Federal Magistrates Service has offices in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Launceston, Newcastle, Parramatta, Sydney and Townsville, where it shares accommodation with the Federal Court and the Family Court. Regular court circuits are conducted in a number of metropolitan and regional centres.

The Federal Magistrates Service encourages people to resolve disputes through primary dispute resolution. The Service calls on a range of means to resolve disputes and there is no automatic assumption that every matter will end in a contested hearing. The use of conciliation counselling and mediation is strongly encouraged in appropriate cases. The Service uses community based counselling and mediation services as well as the existing counselling and mediation services of the Family and Federal Courts, providing as wide a choice as possible for clients of the service.

APPROPRIATIONS

The total appropriation for the Federal Magistrates Service in the 2001–02 Budget is \$11.938m. Table 1.1 shows appropriations (2001–02) and other revenue by outcome.

ADMINISTERED CAPITAL AND DEPARTMENTAL EQUITY INJECTIONS AND LOANS

The Federal Magistrates Service does not have an appropriation for an equity injection or loan or an appropriation for administered capital.

Federal Magistrates Service – 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 No 1	Special Approps	Total			Bill No 1	Bill No 2 (SPPs & NAOs)			
	(A)	(B)	(C=A+B)	(D)	(E=C+D)	(F)	(G)	(H)		(I=F+G+H)
To provide a cheaper, simpler and faster method of dealing with less complex Family Court and Federal Court matters	11,338	-	11,338 96.5%	410	11,748	600	-	-	600	11,938
Total	11,338	-	11,338	410	11,748	600	-	-	600	11,938
Departmental Capital (equity injections and loans)									-	
Administered capital									-	
Total Appropriations									11,938	

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.
- 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 output information

OUTCOMES AND OUTPUT GROUPS

The Federal Magistrates Service has one outcome:

To provide a cheaper, simpler and faster method of dealing with less complex Family Court and Federal Court matters

There is one output for the Federal Magistrates Service outcome:

Provision of a Federal Magistrates Service

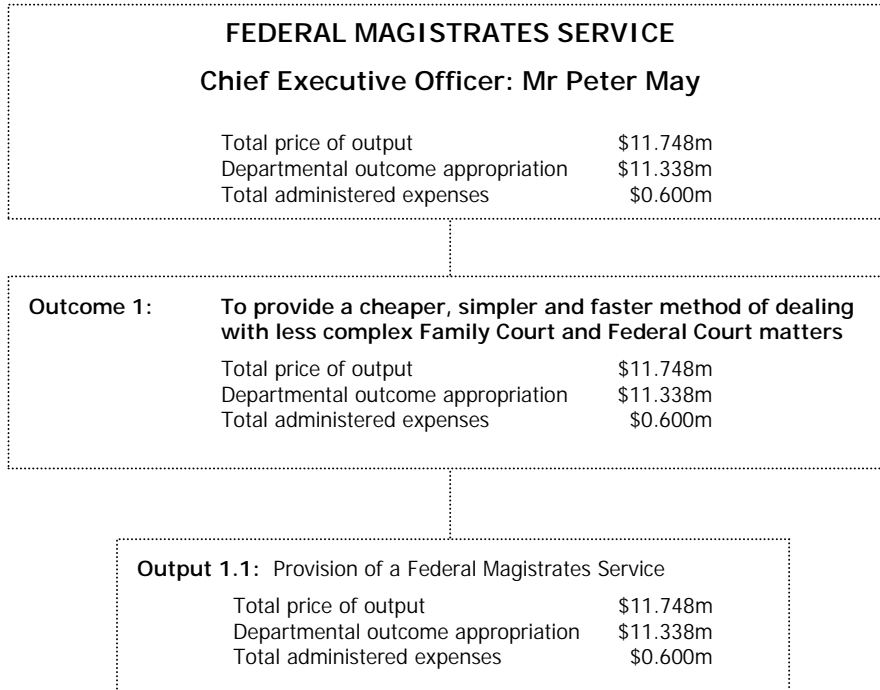
Financial and non-financial information is provided as follows:

- Map 2.1 - details outcome and output resourcing and illustrates the relationship between the outcome and contributing output.
- 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 output structure for the Federal Magistrates Service.

Map 2.1: Outcome and output groups



OUTCOME 1 - TO PROVIDE A CHEAPER, SIMPLER AND FASTER METHOD OF DEALING WITH LESS COMPLEX FAMILY COURT AND FEDERAL COURT MATTERS

The Federal Magistrates Service was established by the *Federal Magistrates Act 1999*, which enables the Service to:

- operate as a federal court of record under the Constitution;
- operate as informally as possible in the exercise of judicial power;
- use streamlined procedures; and
- encourage the use of a range of appropriate dispute resolution processes.

The Federal Magistrates Service is also a prescribed agency under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

The Federal Magistrates Service relies on the Family Court and Federal Court for significant infrastructure and support, including registry services.

OUTCOME 1 - RESOURCING

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

	Estimated Actual 2000–01 (\$'000)	Budget Estimate 2001–02 (\$'000)
ADMINISTERED APPROPRIATIONS		
Payments to Primary Dispute Resolution service providers	-	600
Total administered expenses	-	600
DEPARTMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS		
Output 1.1 – Provision of a Federal Magistrates Service	10,958	11,338
Total revenue from government (appropriations) contributing to price of departmental outputs	10,958 97.3%	11,338 96.5%
REVENUE FROM OTHER SOURCES		
Output 1.1 – Provision of a Federal Magistrates Service	302	410
Total revenue from other sources	302	410
Total price of departmental outputs <i>(Total revenue from government and other sources)</i>	11,260	11,748
Total estimated resourcing for outcome 1 <i>(Total price of outputs and administered expenses)</i>	11,260	12,348
AVERAGE STAFFING LEVEL	36	74

OUTCOME 1 – PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

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

Table 2.2.1: Performance information for outcome 1

Performance information for departmental outputs	
<i>Output Description</i>	<i>Performance measure</i>
Output 1: Provision of a Federal Magistrates Service	<p><i>Price:</i> \$11.748m</p> <p><i>Quality:</i> Less than 1% of cases litigated or divorces processed are subject to complaint</p> <p>The time taken from filing to disposition is less than six months in 90% of cases</p> <p>Primary dispute resolution services resolve disputes for people who are referred to them by the court in more than 60% of cases</p> <p>Feedback from clients as to whether they are satisfied that their disputes have been handled quickly and simply</p> <p>Feedback from clients regarding the simplicity and effectiveness of court rules</p> <p>Feedback from clients regarding the availability of information about the service</p> <p><i>Quantity:</i> Number of cases litigated and divorce cases processed - estimated at approximately 50,000</p> <p>Number of counselling, mediation, conciliation and other primary dispute resolution services used - estimated at approximately 11,000</p> <p>Number of presentations to organisations representing clients regarding the Service, and publications issued</p>

COMPETITIVE TENDERING AND CONTRACTING

The Federal Magistrates Service has no plans for competitive tendering and contracting for the production of outputs that contribute to each outcome.

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	10,958	11,338	11,161	12,534	12,798
Resources received free of charge	-	-	-	-	-
Sales of goods and services	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	302	410	340	320	355
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total revenues from ordinary activities	11,260	11,748	11,501	12,854	13,153
Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)					
Employees	4,725	7,610	8,293	8,504	8,733
Suppliers	2,425	3,732	3,241	3,194	3,261
Depreciation and amortisation	246	374	374	379	379
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)	7,396	11,716	11,908	12,077	12,373
Borrowing cost expense	-	-	-	-	-
Net surplus or (deficit) from ordinary activities	-	-	-	-	-
Gain or loss on extraordinary items	-	-	-	-	-
Net surplus or (deficit)	3,864	32	(407)	777	780
Capital use charge	(1,048)	(926)	(766)	(768)	(769)
Net surplus or (deficit) after capital use charge	2,816	(894)	(1,173)	9	11

**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	7,789	6,598	5,336	5,979	6,630
Receivables	21	21	21	21	21
Total financial assets	5,541	3,052	2,685	4,158	5,170
Non-financial assets					
Land and buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	507	1,052	1,347	988	629
Intangibles	39	19	60	40	20
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total non-financial assets	546	1,071	1,407	1,028	649
Total assets	8,356	7,690	6,764	7,028	7,300
LIABILITIES					
Provisions and payables					
Employees	618	846	1,093	1,348	1,609
Suppliers	52	52	52	52	52
Total provisions and payables	670	898	1,145	1,400	1,661
Total liabilities	670	898	1,145	1,400	1,661
EQUITY					
Capital	4,870	4,870	4,870	4,870	4,870
Reserves	-	-	-	-	-
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	2,816	1,922	749	758	769
Total equity	7,686	6,792	5,619	5,628	5,639
Current liabilities	500	500	500	500	500
Non-current liabilities	170	398	645	900	1,161
Current assets	7,810	6,619	5,537	6,000	6,651
Non-current assets	546	1,071	1,407	1,028	649

**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	10,958	11,338	11,161	12,534	12,798
Sales of goods and services	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	302	410	340	320	355
Total cash received	11,260	11,748	11,501	12,854	13,153
Cash used					
Employees	4,107	7,382	8,046	8,249	8,472
Suppliers	2,395	3,731	3,241	3,194	3,261
Total cash used	6,502	11,113	11,287	11,443	11,733
Net cash from operating activities	4,758	635	214	1,411	1,420
INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total cash received	-	-	-	-	-
Cash used					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	791	900	710	-	-
Total cash used	791	900	710	-	-
Net cash from investing activities	(791)	(900)	(710)	-	-
FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Other	4,870	-	-	-	-
Total cash received	4,870	-	-	-	-
Cash used					
Capital use and dividends paid	1,048	926	766	768	769
Total cash used	1,048	926	766	768	769
Net cash from financing activities	3,822	(926)	(766)	(768)	(769)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	7,789	(1,191)	(1,262)	643	651
Cash at beginning of reporting period	-	7,789	6,598	5,336	5,979
Cash at end of reporting period	7,789	6,598	5,336	5,979	6,630

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	791	900	710	-	-
Total	791	900	710	-	-

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>	-	-	-	733	733	58	791
Additions	-	-	-	900	900	-	900
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>As at 30 June 2002 (closing)</i>	-	-	-	1,633	1,633	58	1,691
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION							
<i>As at 1 July 2001 (opening)</i>	-	-	-	227	227	19	246
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charge for the reporting period	-	-	-	354	354	20	374
<i>As at 30 June 2002 (closing)</i>	-	-	-	581	581	39	620
Net book value as at 30 June 2002 (closing book value)	-	-	-	1,052	1,052	19	1,071
Net book value as at 1 July 2001 (opening book value)	-	-	-	507	507	39	546
TOTAL ADDITIONS							
Self funded	-	-	-	900	900	-	900
Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	900	900	-	900

**Table 3.6: Note of Budgeted Administered 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					
Non-taxation					
Revenues from government	-	600	600	-	-
Other sources of non-taxation revenues	5,940	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,200
Total non-taxation	5,940	7,800	7,800	7,200	7,200
Total revenues administered on behalf of the Government	5,940	7,800	7,800	7,200	7,200
EXPENSES					
Suppliers	-	600	600	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenses administered on behalf of the Government	-	600	600	-	-
Extraordinary items	-	-	-	-	-

**Table 3.8: Note of Budgeted Administered 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	-	600	600	-	-
Other	5,940	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,200
Total cash received	5,940	7,800	7,800	7,200	7,200
Cash used					
Suppliers	-	600	600	-	-
Cash to Official Public Account	5,940	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,200
Total cash used	5,940	7,800	7,800	7,200	7,200
Net cash from operating activities	-	-	-	-	-
FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total cash received	-	-	-	-	-
Cash used					
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total cash used	-	-	-	-	-
Net cash from financing activities	-	-	-	-	-
Net increase in cash held	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at the end of the reporting period	-	-	-	-	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Basis of accounting

The agency budget statements are prepared in compliance with Australian Accounting Standards, Accounting Guidance Releases and having regard to Statements of Accounting Concepts.

Departmental

The Federal Magistrates Service receives resources free of charge from the Family Court and Federal Court. These are not recognised in the Budgeted Operating Statement as their fair value has not yet been determined.

Appendix 1

Non-Appropriation Departmental and Administered Revenue

	Estimated Revenue 2000-01 \$'000	Estimated Revenue 2001-02 \$'000
DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE		
Sales of goods and services	-	-
Interest	302	410
Resources received free of charge	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Estimated Departmental Revenue	302	410
ADMINISTERED REVENUE		
Fees and fines	5,940	7,200
Total Estimated Administered Revenue	5,940	7,200

