

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; the provision of protective services to property and individuals; criminal law and law enforcement; national security; 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; 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 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.

The 2001–02 Budget

The measures in the 2001–02 Budget for the portfolio are:

- \$238.8m additional resourcing over four years for the Australian Customs Service to reduce the risk of foot and mouth disease and other quarantine risks entering Australia.
- \$110.5m additional resourcing over four years for the second stage of the Australian Federal Police Reform Program. The additional funding will be used to build upon the significant progress made to date in improving the operational performance of the Australian Federal Police and to continue the important organisational reforms initiated by the Government in July 1998.
- \$68.6m additional resourcing over four years within the Attorney-General's portfolio will be injected into the native title system to enable it to operate more effectively and to speed up the resolution of native title claims: \$35.7m for the National Native Title Tribunal, \$17.0m for the Federal Court and \$15.9m for the Attorney-General's Department. In addition, \$17.4m will be provided to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission bringing the total additional resourcing for native title to \$85.9m over four years.

- \$15.8m additional resourcing over two years to enable Australia to meet increased diplomatic and consular guarding costs.
- \$12.0m additional resourcing over four years to enable the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and the Attorney-General's Department to undertake security improvements and to enhance security practices.
- \$3.1m additional resourcing in 2001–02 for an East Timor Adjustment Payment to compensate Australian Federal Police members who served in the first three detachments of peacekeepers in East Timor.
- \$1.4m additional resourcing in 2001–02 in the Attorney-General's portfolio (and \$0.6m to the Defence portfolio), to implement a strategy for the protection of the national information infrastructure.
- \$1.0m additional resourcing over four years to establish a secretariat to support the outcomes of the national pro bono taskforce.
- \$4.0m savings over four years through increased efficiencies in the Attorney-General's Department.

In addition, from 1 July 2001 the Australian Federal Police will collect DNA samples from existing convicted serious federal offenders for case analysis and DNA database purposes. This measure will also complement the Government's CrimTrac initiative.

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. AGS is a leading national legal services provider serving the Government and its agencies, and through them, the public interest. AGS is a Government Business Enterprise and is a Public Trading Enterprise under the direction of its Chief Executive Officer, Ms Rayne de Gruchy. AGS is accountable to Parliament through its shareholder ministers, the Attorney-General and the Minister for Finance and Administration.

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

Structure of Attorney-General's Portfolio Outcomes

<p>Attorney-General: The Hon Daryl Williams AM QC 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 law and justice</p> <p>Outcome 2: Coordinated security, crime prevention and law enforcement arrangements</p>
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<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>
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<p>Federal Court of Australia</p> <p>Registrar : Mr Warwick Soden</p> <p>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</p>

<p>Family Court of Australia</p> <p>Chief Executive Officer : Mr Richard Foster</p> <p>Outcome 1: Serving the interests of the Australian community by ensuring families and children in need can access high quality services</p>
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<p>Federal Magistrates Service</p> <p>Chief Executive Officer : Mr Peter May</p> <p>Outcome 1: To provide a cheaper, simpler and faster method of dealing with less complex Family Court and Federal Court matters</p>
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<p>Administrative Appeals Tribunal</p> <p>Registrar : Ms Kay Ransome</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>

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 : Ms Elizabeth Montano

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 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

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 Public Trading 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

