

# **HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA**



## ***Section 1: Overview and Appropriations***

### **Overview**

The High Court of Australia (the High Court) is the highest court in the Australian judicial system. It was established in 1901 by s.71 of the Constitution.

The Constitution confers both an appellate and an original jurisdiction upon the High Court. Appeals from the Supreme Court of the States and Territories, from the Federal Court of Australia and from the Family Court are heard pursuant to special leave being granted. The High Court is also the final arbiter upon Constitutional questions. These may come on appeal from a lower court or be initiated by an application to the High Court itself.

### **Appropriations**

The total appropriations for the High Court in the 2000–01 Budget is \$24.767m. Table 1.1 shows appropriations (2000–01) and other revenue by outcome. The total price of the output does not include judicial salaries and allowances which are administered by the Attorney-General's Department.

#### ***Administered capital and departmental equity injections and loans***

The High Court does not have an appropriation for an equity injection or loan or an appropriation for administered capital.

## High Court of Australia- Appropriations 2000–01

**Table 1.1 Appropriations and Other Revenue (\$'000)**

Outcome	Departmental (price of output)					Administered				Total appropriations
	Revenue from government (appropriations)			Revenue from other sources	Price of output	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)	(J=C+I)
To interpret and uphold the Australian Constitution and perform the functions of the ultimate appellate Court in Australia.	24 767		24 767 97.6%	610	25 377					24 767
<b>Total</b>	<b>24 767</b>		<b>24 767</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>25 377</b>					<b>24 767</b>
Departmental Capital (Equity Injections and Loans)										–
Administered Capital										–
<b>Total Appropriations</b>										<b>24 767</b>

**Notes:**

- Columns C, D, E and I refer to information provided in Table 2.1.
- 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 Operating Statement 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 indicates the percentage contribution of revenue from government (departmental appropriations) to the total price of outputs, by outcome.

## **Section 2: Outcome and Output Information**

### **Outcome and output**

The High Court of Australia has one outcome:

*To interpret and uphold the Australian Constitution and perform the functions of the ultimate appellate court in Australia.*

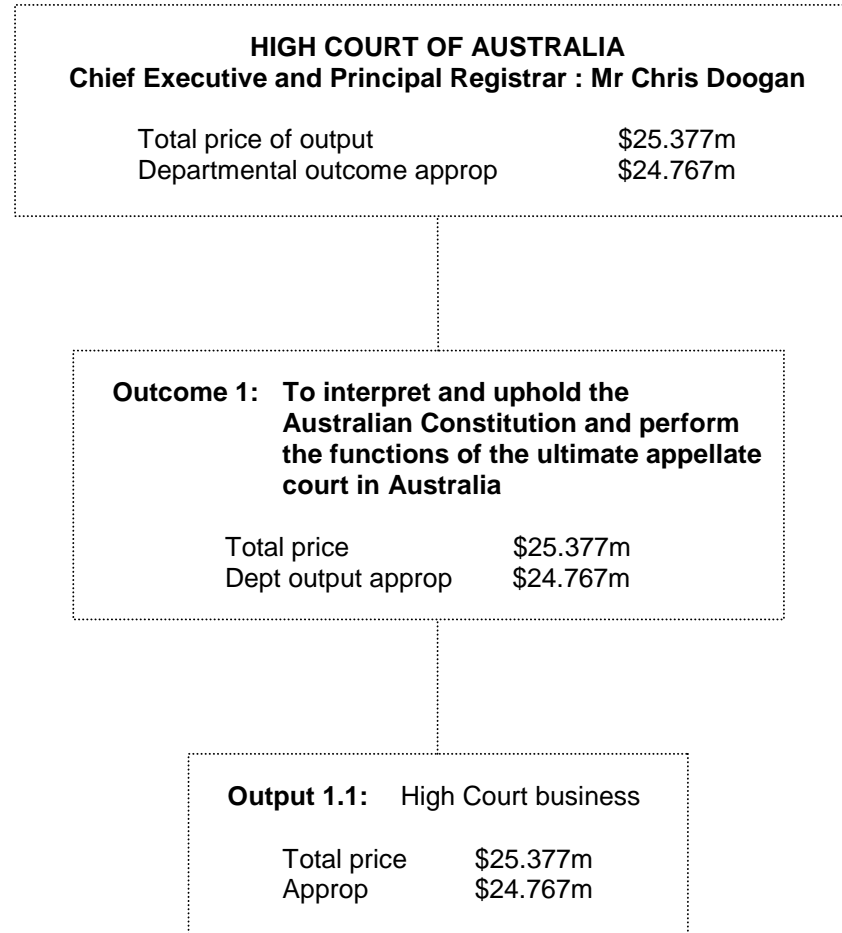
There is one output for the High Court's outcome:

*High Court business*

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 - details financial information for outcome 1.
- Table 2.2 - details non-financial information for outcome 1.

## Map 2.1 Outcome and output



**Outcome 1: To interpret and uphold the Australian Constitution and perform the functions of the ultimate appellate court in Australia.**

The High Court is the highest court in the Australian judicial system. It was established in 1901 by s.71 of the Constitution. The functions of the High Court are to interpret and apply the law of Australia; to decide cases of special federal significance including challenges to the constitutional validity of laws; and to hear appeals, by special leave, from federal, state and territory courts.

The total price of the output includes all expenses associated with the business of the High Court with the exception of judicial salaries and allowances. Judicial salaries and allowances are administered by the Attorney-General's Department.

**Resourcing**

Table 2.1 shows how the 2000–01 appropriations translate to total resourcing for the High Court's outcome: revenue from government (appropriations), revenue from other sources and the total price of the output.

**Table 2.1 Total resources for outcome 1 (\$'000)**

	Estimated Actual 1999–2000 (\$'000)	Budget Estimate 2000–01 (\$'000)
<b>Departmental appropriations</b>		
Output 1.1 – High Court business	24 722	24 767
<b>Total revenue from government (appropriations) contributing to price of departmental outputs</b>	<b>24 722</b>	<b>24 767</b>
	97.9%	97.6%
<b>Revenue from other sources</b>		
Output 1.1 – High Court business	536	610
<b>Total revenue from other sources</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>610</b>
<b>Total Price of departmental output</b> <i>(Total revenue from government and other sources)</i>	<b>25 258</b>	<b>25 377</b>
<b>Total estimated resourcing for outcome 1</b> <i>(Total price of output and administered expenses)</i>	<b>25 258</b>	<b>25 377</b>
<b>Average Staffing Level (Number)</b>	83	83

**Performance information**

Information on judicial workloads can be found in the High Court of Australia's Annual Report.

**Competitive tendering and contracting**

The High Court has no plans for competitive tendering and contracting (CTC) for the production of outputs.

### Section 3: Budgeted Financial Statements

**Table 3.1 Departmental Operating Statement (for the year ended 30 June)**

	Notes	Estimated Actual 1999–00 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2000–01 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2001–02 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2002–03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003–04 \$'000
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>						
Revenues from government		24 722	24 767	24 827	24 880	24 933
Sales of goods and services	2	86	86	86	86	86
Interest	2	450	524	593	665	686
<b>Total operating revenues</b> <i>(before abnormal items)</i>		<b>25 258</b>	<b>25 377</b>	<b>25 506</b>	<b>25 631</b>	<b>25 705</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>						
Employees	3	3 802	3 897	3 994	4 094	4 183
Suppliers		3 589	3 657	3 734	3 809	3 825
Depreciation and amortisation		1 725	1 822	1 800	1 850	1 850
Write-down of assets		73	–	–	–	–
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<b>9 189</b>	<b>9 376</b>	<b>9 528</b>	<b>9 753</b>	<b>9 858</b>
<b>Operating surplus or (deficit) before abnormal and extraordinary items</b>		<b>16 069</b>	<b>16 001</b>	<b>15 978</b>	<b>15 878</b>	<b>15 847</b>
Abnormal and extraordinary items		–	–	–	–	–
<b>Operating surplus or (deficit) after abnormal and extraordinary items</b>		<b>16 069</b>	<b>16 001</b>	<b>15 978</b>	<b>15 878</b>	<b>15 847</b>
Capital use charge paid		15 807	15 828	15 844	15 847	15 847
<b>Operating surplus or (deficit) after abnormal and extraordinary items and CUC</b>		<b>262</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>–</b>

Table 3.2 Departmental Balance Sheet (as at 30 June)

	Notes	Estimated Actual 1999–00 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2000–01 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2001–02 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2002–03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003–04 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>						
<b>Financial assets</b>						
Cash	4	1 138	2 195	2 690	3 632	4 543
Receivables	5	5	5	5	5	5
Accrued revenues		60	60	60	65	70
Other	6	50	50	50	50	50
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>1 253</b>	<b>2 310</b>	<b>2 805</b>	<b>3 752</b>	<b>4 668</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>						
Land and buildings		121 500	120 000	118 500	117 000	115 500
Infrastructure, plant and equipment		2 400	2 190	2 539	2 285	2 124
Intangibles		150	115	98	83	71
Other	7	7 400	8 248	9 096	9 941	10 748
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>131 450</b>	<b>130 553</b>	<b>130 233</b>	<b>129 309</b>	<b>128 443</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>132 703</b>	<b>132 863</b>	<b>133 038</b>	<b>133 061</b>	<b>133 111</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
<b>Provisions and payables</b>						
Employees		780	787	808	800	825
Suppliers		200	180	200	200	225
<b>Total provisions and payables</b>		<b>980</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>1050</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>980</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>1050</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>						
Capital		52 837	52 837	52 837	52 837	52 837
Reserves		79 202	79 202	79 202	79 202	79 202
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)		(316)	(143)	(9)	22	22
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>131 723</b>	<b>131 896</b>	<b>132 030</b>	<b>132 061</b>	<b>132 061</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		<b>451</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>483</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		<b>529</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>567</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		<b>1 218</b>	<b>2 275</b>	<b>2 771</b>	<b>3 717</b>	<b>4 634</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		<b>131 485</b>	<b>130 588</b>	<b>130 267</b>	<b>129 344</b>	<b>128 477</b>

**Table 3.3 Departmental Statement of Cash Flows (for the year ended 30 June)**

	Notes	Estimated Actual 1999–00 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2000–01 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2001–02 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2002–03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003–04 \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>						
<b>Cash received</b>						
Appropriations for output		24 722	24 767	24 827	24 880	24 933
Sale of goods and services		88	88	88	88	88
Interest		450	524	593	665	686
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>25 260</b>	<b>25 379</b>	<b>25 508</b>	<b>25 633</b>	<b>25 707</b>
<b>Cash used</b>						
Employees		3 820	3 916	4 014	4 114	4 203
Suppliers		3 590	3 658	3 735	3 810	3 826
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>7 410</b>	<b>7 574</b>	<b>7 749</b>	<b>7 924</b>	<b>8 029</b>
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>		<b>17 850</b>	<b>17 805</b>	<b>17 759</b>	<b>17 709</b>	<b>17 678</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>						
<b>Cash received</b>						
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		5	5	5	5	5
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Cash used</b>						
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		944	925	1 425	925	925
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>944</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>1 425</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>925</b>
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>		<b>(939)</b>	<b>(920)</b>	<b>(1 420)</b>	<b>(920)</b>	<b>(920)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>						
<b>Cash Received</b>						
Other		–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Cash used</b>						
Capital use and dividends paid		15 807	15 828	15 844	15 847	15 847
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>15 807</b>	<b>15 828</b>	<b>15 844</b>	<b>15 847</b>	<b>15 847</b>
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>		<b>(15 807)</b>	<b>(15 828)</b>	<b>(15 844)</b>	<b>(15 847)</b>	<b>(15 847)</b>
<b>Net increase in cash held</b>		<b>1 104</b>	<b>1 057</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>911</b>
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period	4	34	1 138	2 195	2 690	3 632
<b>Cash at the end of the reporting period</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1 138</b>	<b>2 195</b>	<b>2 690</b>	<b>3 632</b>	<b>4 543</b>

**Departmental Capital Budget Statement**

During the period covered by these statements, the High Court does not expect to have any appropriations for equity injection, loans, or appropriations for departmental capital.

**Table 3.4 Departmental Non-Financial Assets — Summary of Movement for Budget Year 2000–01**

	<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Total land and buildings</b>	<b>Library holdings</b>	<b>Other infrastructure plant and equipment</b>	<b>Total infrastructure plant and equipment</b>	<b>Intangibles</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Gross value</b>							
<i>As at 1 July 2000 (opening)</i>	150 000	154 500	7 433	4 200	11 633	475	166 608
Additions	–	–	850	50	900	25	925
<i>As at 30 June 2001 (closing)</i>	150 000	154 500	8 283	4 250	12 533	500	167 533
<b>ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION</b>							
<i>As at 1 July 2000 (opening)</i>	33 000	33 000	33	1 800	1 833	325	35 158
Charge for the reporting period	1 500	1 500	2	260	262	60	1 822
<i>As at 30 June 2001 (closing)</i>	34 500	34 500	35	2060	2095	385	36 980
<b>Net book value as at 30 June 2001 (Closing book value)</b>	115 500	120 000	8 248	2 190	10 438	115	130 553
<b>Net book value as at 1 July 2000 (Opening book value)</b>	117 000	121 500	7 400	2 400	9 800	150	131 450
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>							
Self-funded	–	–	850	50	900	25	925
Appropriations	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>			850	50	900	25	925

**Table 3.5 Statement of Administered Revenues and Expenses (for the year ended 30 June)**

	Notes	Estimated Actual 1999–00 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2000–01 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2001–02 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2002–03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003–04 \$'000
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>						
<b>Non-taxation</b>						
Other sources of non-taxation revenues	8	795	795	795	795	795
<b>Total non-taxation</b>		795	795	795	795	795
<b>Total operating revenues</b>		795	795	795	795	795
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>						
Other		795	795	795	795	795
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		795	795	795	795	795
Abnormal and extraordinary items		–	–	–	–	–
<b>Net contribution or cost to the budget outcome</b>		–	–	–	–	–
<b>Transfers to the official public account</b>						
Account remitted from administered revenues		–	–	–	–	–

**Statement of Administered Assets and Liabilities (for the year ended 30 June)**

The High Court has no statement for administered assets and liabilities.

**Table 3.7 Administered Cash Flows (for the year ended 30 June)**

	Estimated Actual 1999–00 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2000–01 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2001–02 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2002–03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003–04 \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Cash received</b>					
Other taxes, fees and fines	795	795	795	795	795
<b>Total cash received</b>	795	795	795	795	795
<b>Cash used</b>					
Cash to Official Public Account	795	795	795	795	795
<b>Total cash used</b>	795	795	795	795	795
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	–	–	–	–	–
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Cash received</b>					
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total cash received</b>	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Cash used</b>					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total cash used</b>	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	–	–	–	–	–
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Cash Received</b>					
Other	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total cash received</b>	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Cash used</b>					
Other	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total cash used</b>	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Net increase in cash held</b>	–	–	–	–	–
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Cash at the end of the reporting period</b>	–	–	–	–	–

**Administered Capital Budget Statement**

During the period covered by these statements, the High Court does not expect to have any appropriations for equity injection, loans, or appropriations for administered capital.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 1. *Resources Received Free of Charge*

The High Court building in Canberra, completed in 1980 at a cost of \$46.5m, was transferred free of charge to the control of the High Court. The current value of the building, the land on which it is situated, and building improvements made since April 1980 are shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The Federal Court of Australia and State Supreme Courts provide the High Court with hearing rooms and chambers in various States as required, primarily while the Court is on circuit. In addition, the National Capital Authority provides ground maintenance services to the High Court in Canberra. The value of this assistance is not shown in the statements.

### 2. *Revenues from Independent Sources*

This item consists of the following:

- rent obtained from the operation of the High Court's cafeteria;
- subscriptions to High Court transcripts and judgements;
- room hire to practitioners;
- interest on High Court funds;
- other sundry minor revenue.

### 3. *Employee Expenses*

This item in the Operating Statement consists of:

- salaries, wages and allowances;
- employer's superannuation contribution;
- provision for long service leave;
- provision for recreation leave.

### 4. *Cash*

The item "Cash" shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities includes funds on deposit in the General Account held with the Reserve Bank of Australia and cash on hand in the form of permanent advances.

### 5. *Receivables*

The item 'Receivables' in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities includes interest receivable on the General Account and sundry debtors.

### 6. *Other Financial Assets*

The amounts shown in the item 'Other' in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities represents prepaid expenses and library vouchers.

### 7. *Non-Financial Assets*

The figures shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities represent the written-down value of property, plant and equipment.

## 8. *Administered Items*

This item includes:

- *Fees and charges*  
Fees and charges collected in accordance with Schedule 1 of the High Court of Australia (Fees) Regulation.
- *Suitors' funds*  
This account may be used where funds are paid into the High Court under an order of the High Court or a Justice of the High Court.
- *Interest bearing deposits*

This account may be used where an appellant makes a payment as security for costs.

**Appendix 1****Non-appropriation departmental and administered revenue**

	<b>Estimated Revenue 1999–2000 \$'000</b>	<b>Estimated Revenue 2000–01 \$'000</b>
<b>Departmental Revenue:</b>		
Sales of goods and services	86	86
Interest	450	524
<b>Total Departmental Estimated Revenue</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>610</b>
<b>Administered Revenue:</b>		
Fees and charges	795	795