

FEDERAL
MAGISTRATES SERVICE

Section 1: Overview, appropriations and budget measures summary

OVERVIEW

The role of the Federal Magistrates Service is to provide a simple and accessible forum for the resolution of less complex federal law disputes. 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, privacy law, migration law and trade practices 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, Townsville, and Darwin, 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 2002–03 Budget is \$12.162m. Table 1.1 shows appropriations (2002–03) 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 2002- 03

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 the Australian community with a simple and accessible forum for the resolution of less complex disputes within the jurisdiction of the Federal Magistrates Service	11,662	-	11,662 98.8%	136	11,798	500	-	-	500	12,162
Total	11,662	-	11,662	136	11,798	500	-	-	500	12,162
Non-operating: equity injections, loans and previous years' outputs									-	
Administered assets and liabilities									-	
Total Appropriations									12,162	

Notes:

- Columns C, D, E and I refer to information provided in Table 2.1.1
- Under the appropriation structure, Bill 2 includes appropriations for Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs), New Agency Outcomes (NAOs), administered assets and liabilities and equity injections, loans and previous years' outputs.
- Refer to Budgeted Departmental Statement of Financial Performance for application of agency revenue.
- Non-appropriated departmental and administered revenues are detailed in Appendix 1.
- 98.8% 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 the Australian community with a simple and accessible forum for the resolution of less complex disputes within the jurisdiction of the Federal Magistrates Service

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:

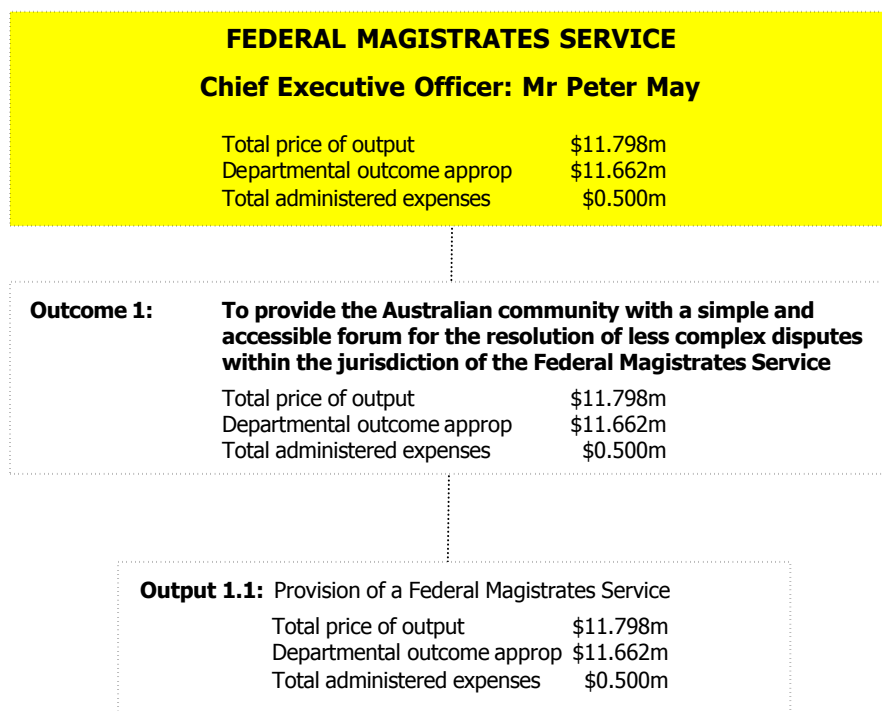
- Map 2.1 - details outcome and output resourcing and illustrates the relationship between the outcome and contributing output.
- Table 2.1.1 - details financial information for outcome 1.
- Table 2.2.1 - details non-financial information for outcome 1.

CHANGES TO OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

There have been no changes to the outcome and output structure. However, the outcome statement for the Federal Magistrates Service for 2002–03 has been revised, as follows:

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

Map 2.1: Outcome and output groups



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

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 2001-02 (\$'000)	Budget Estimate 2002-03 (\$'000)
ADMINISTERED APPROPRIATIONS		
Payments to Primary Dispute Resolution service providers	100	500
Total administered expenses	100	500
DEPARTMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS		
Output 1.1 – Provision of a Federal Magistrates Service	11,338	11,662
Total revenue from government (appropriations) contributing to price of departmental outputs	11,338 98.6%	11,662 98.8%
REVENUE FROM OTHER SOURCES		
Output 1.1 – Provision of a Federal Magistrates Service	166	136
Total revenue from other sources	166	136
Total price of departmental outputs (Total revenue from government and other sources)	11,504	11,798
Total estimated resourcing for outcome 1 (Total price of outputs and administered expenses)	11,604	12,298
AVERAGE STAFFING LEVEL	68	81

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>Price: \$11.798m</p> <p>Quality: 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>Quantity: Number of cases litigated and divorce cases processed - estimated at approximately 41,000</p> <p>Number of counselling, mediation, conciliation and other primary dispute resolution services used - estimated at approximately 3,600</p> <p>Number of presentations to organisations representing clients regarding the Service, and publications issued</p>

Section 3: Budgeted Financial Statements

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

	Estimated Actual 2001- 02 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2002- 03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003- 04 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2004- 05 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2005- 06 \$'000
Revenues from ordinary activities					
Revenues from government	11,338	11,662	12,904	13,165	13,247
Resources received free of charge	8,498	8,498	8,498	8,498	8,498
Sales of goods and services	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	90	136	136	136	136
Other	76	-	-	-	-
Total revenues from ordinary activities	20,002	20,296	21,538	21,799	21,881
Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)					
Employees	7,231	8,643	8,725	8,843	8,877
Suppliers	12,055	12,395	12,008	12,151	12,199
Depreciation and amortisation	258	358	408	408	408
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)	19,544	21,396	21,141	21,402	21,484
Borrowing costs expense	-	-	-	-	-
Net surplus or (deficit) from ordinary activities	458	(1,100)	397	397	397
Gain or loss on extraordinary items	-	-	-	-	-
Net surplus or (deficit)	458	(1,100)	397	397	397
Capital use charge	354	395	396	396	396
Net surplus or (deficit) after capital use charge	104	(1,495)	1	1	1

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

	Estimated Actual 2001- 02 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2002- 03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003- 04 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2004- 05 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2005- 06 \$'000
ASSETS					
Financial assets					
Cash	9,156	7,145	7,144	7,732	8,300
Receivables	130	130	130	130	130
Total financial assets	9,286	7,275	7,274	7,862	8,430
Non-financial assets					
Land and buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	603	1,425	1,697	1,399	1,131
Intangibles	69	79	89	89	90
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total non-financial assets	672	1,504	1,786	1,488	1,221
Total assets	9,958	8,779	9,060	9,350	9,651
LIABILITIES					
Provisions and payables					
Employees	856	1,131	1,410	1,699	1,999
Suppliers	54	54	54	54	54
Other	354	395	396	396	396
Total provisions and payables	1,264	1,580	1,860	2,149	2,449
Total liabilities	1,264	1,580	1,860	2,149	2,449
EQUITY					
Capital	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves	-	-	-	-	-
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	8,694	7,199	7,200	7,201	7,202
Total equity	8,694	7,199	7,200	7,201	7,202
Liabilities and equity	9,958	8,779	9,060	9,350	9,651

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

	Estimated Actual 2001- 02 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2002- 03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003- 04 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2004- 05 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2005- 06 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Appropriations for outputs	16,007	11,662	12,904	13,165	13,247
Sales of goods and services	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	41	136	136	136	136
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total cash received	16,048	11,798	13,040	13,301	13,383
Cash used					
Employees	7,130	8,368	8,446	8,554	8,578
Suppliers	3,616	3,897	3,510	3,653	3,701
Total cash used	10,746	12,265	11,956	12,207	12,279
Net cash from operating activities	5,302	(467)	1,084	1,094	1,104
INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Cash used					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	183	1190	690	110	140
Total cash used	183	1190	690	110	140
Net cash from investing activities	(183)	(1,190)	(690)	(110)	(140)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Cash used					
Capital use and dividends paid	48	354	395	396	396
Total cash used	48	354	395	396	396
Net cash from financing activities	(48)	(354)	(395)	(396)	(396)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	5,071	(2,011)	(1)	588	568
Cash at beginning of reporting period	4,085	9,156	7,145	7,144	7,732
Cash at end of reporting period	9,156	7,145	7,144	7,732	8,300

Table 3.4: Departmental Capital Budget Statement

	Estimated Actual 2001- 02 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2002- 03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003- 04 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2004- 05 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2005- 06 \$'000
CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS					
Total equity injections	-	-	-	-	-
Total loans	-	-	-	-	-
Represented by:					
Purchase of non-financial assets	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-
PURCHASE OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS					
Funded by capital appropriations	-	-	-	-	-
Funded internally by departmental resources	183	1,190	690	110	140
Total	183	1,190	690	110	140

Table 3.5: Departmental Non-financial Assets — Summary of Movement (Budget Year 2002- 03)

	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
Carrying amount at the start of year	-	-	-	603	603	69	672
Additions	-	-	-	1,150	1,150	40	1,190
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoverable amount write-downs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net transfers free of charge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation/amortisation expenses	-	-	-	328	328	30	358
Write-off of assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount at the end of year	-	-	-	1,425	1,425	79	1,504
Total Additions							
Self funded	-	-	-	1,150	1,150	40	1,190
Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	1,150	1,150	40	1,190

Table 3.7: Note of Budgeted Revenues and Expenses Administered on Behalf of the Government for the period ended 30 June

	Estimated Actual 2001- 02 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2002- 03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003- 04 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2004- 05 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2005- 06 \$'000
REVENUES					
Non-taxation					
Revenues from government	100	500	600	-	-
Other sources of non-taxation revenues	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
Total non-taxation	8,600	9,000	9,100	8,500	8,500
Total revenues administered on behalf of the Government	8,600	9,000	9,100	8,500	8,500
EXPENSES					
Suppliers	100	500	600	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenses administered on behalf of the Government	100	500	600	-	-
Extraordinary items	-	-	-	-	-

Table 3.8: Note of Budgeted Assets and Liabilities Administered on Behalf of the Government as at 30 June

	Estimated Actual 2001- 02 \$'000	Budget Estimate 2002- 03 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2003- 04 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2004- 05 \$'000	Forward Estimate 2005- 06 \$'000
ASSETS					
Financial assets					
Cash	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables	1	1	1	1	1
Total financial assets	1	1	1	1	1
Non-financial assets					
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total non-financial assets	-	-	-	-	-
Total assets administered on behalf of the Government	1	1	1	1	1
LIABILITIES					
Provisions and payables					
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total provisions and payables	-	-	-	-	-
Total liabilities administered on behalf of the Government	-	-	-	-	-

**Table 3.9: 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	100	500	600	-	-
Other	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
Total cash received	8,600	9,000	9,100	8,500	8,500
Cash used					
Suppliers	100	500	600	-	-
Cash to Official Public Account	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
Total cash used	8,600	9,000	9,100	8,500	8,500
Net cash from operating 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 included in the Statement of Financial Performance based on estimates provided by those Courts in 2000–01.

APPENDIX 1**Receipts from Independent Sources**

	Estimated Revenue 2001- 02 \$'000	Estimated Revenue 2002- 03 \$'000
DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE		
Sales of goods and services	-	-
Interest	90	136
Resources received free of charge	8,498	8,498
Other	76	-
Total Estimated Departmental Revenue	8,664	8,634
ADMINISTERED REVENUE		
Fees and fines	8,500	8,500
Total Estimated Administered Revenue	8,500	8,500

