

## **PART B**

# **Portfolio Overview**



## PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

### Structure and functions

The Attorney-General's 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 structure of agencies within the portfolio is aligned to the Government's overall commitment to a fairer and safer Australian society.

The portfolio covers a broad range of law and justice matters and services including legal policy and services to the Commonwealth in areas of 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, criminal law and law enforcement, national security, emergency management, 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, through 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 Attorney-General's Department also has responsibility for Royal Commissions.

### The 2003–04 Budget

The measures announced by the Government for the Attorney-General's portfolio in the 2003–04 Budget are summarised below. Details of measures are set out in the Agency Budget Statements.

### Resourcing Measures (expenses, capital and depreciation)

#### A Safer Australia

- \$25.3m over four years to the Attorney-General's Department (\$18.9m for expenses excluding depreciation and \$6.4m for depreciation) to upgrade the Australian Secure Network (ASNET) secure communications infrastructure;
- \$20.7m in 2003–04 to the Attorney-General's Department for diplomatic and Australian office holder guarding;
- \$19.9m over four years to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) (\$11.7m for counter-terrorism expenses excluding depreciation, \$2.6m for capital and \$5.6m for depreciation and other operating expenses) to sustain and enhance Australia's counter-terrorism capabilities;

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- \$15.7m over four years to the Attorney-General's Department and ASIO to upgrade the National Counter-Terrorism Committee annual counter-terrorism exercise regime;
- \$11.2m over two years (including \$5.2m in 2002-03) to the Attorney-General's Department to continue the operations of the National Security Hotline;
- \$5.2m over four years to the Attorney-General's Department to allow the Watch Office to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week;
- \$4.8m in 2003-04 to the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) (\$3.1m for expenses excluding depreciation, \$1.4m for capital and \$0.3m for depreciation) to fund additional staff to be employed across AUSTRAC's core business areas;
- \$4.3m over four years to the Attorney-General's Department for maintenance and the staggered replacement of the Government's fleet of armoured limousines;
- \$3.6m over four years to ASIO (\$1.9m for capital and \$1.7m for depreciation) to purchase additional vetting information technology systems to undertake additional background checks on staff who require an aviation security identification card. The operating costs of \$3.9m over four years for ASIO and the Australian Federal Police to conduct the additional background checks will be met through cost recovery arrangements; and
- \$56.0m over four years (including \$7.1m in 2002-03) to the Australian Customs Service to fund logistics costs associated with increased presentation and examination of cargo at container x-ray facilities.

### **Border protection**

- \$10.2m in 2003-04 to the Australian Customs Service (\$9.5m for expenses excluding depreciation, \$0.6m for capital and \$0.1m for depreciation) to continue patrols of the Heard and McDonald Islands exclusive economic zone.

### **Accessible legal services**

- \$16.9m over four years to the Attorney-General's Department to continue funding for the 25 Children's Contact Services established in 1999;
- \$5.4m over four years to the Attorney-General's Department for the continuation of the Australian Law Online;
- \$5.2m over four years for Attorney-General's Department to continue and expand the Contact Orders Program (\$2.1m in additional funding and \$3.1m allocated from within existing funding);
- \$4.4m over four years to the Federal Magistrates Service to fund the appointment of an additional two magistrates to the Service;
- \$4.1m over four years to the Attorney-General's Department to fund the appointment of additional family law judicial resources in Western Australia and to make provision for increases in judicial salaries; and

- \$0.3m over four years to the Attorney-General's Department for Commonwealth's continued contribution to the Victorian Court Network.

#### **Fighting crime**

- \$30.0m over four years to the Australian Crime Commission to build upon previous programs targeting crime involving money laundering, and fraud on the commonwealth;
- \$6.2m over the two years 2003–04 and 2004–05 (\$6.1m for expenses and \$0.1m for capital) to fund prosecutions by the Director of Public Prosecutions under the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002*, and for the control and realisation of seized assets by the Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia;
- \$4m in 2003–04 to the Attorney-General's Department to continue the National Crime Prevention program; and
- \$3.9m over four years to the Attorney-General's Department to meet the ongoing cost of firearms import administration and policy development.

#### **Tough on Drugs**

- \$4.3m over four years to the Attorney-General's Department to implement programs targeting precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs;
- \$4.3m over four years to the Australian Institute of Criminology to continue the Government's Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program; and
- \$3.4m in 2003–04 (\$2.3m for expenses and \$1.1m for capital) to enhance AUSTRAC's financial intelligence capability to identify illicit drug trafficking and related activities.

#### **Other measures**

- \$32.6m over four years to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to maintain the operations of the Tribunal;
- \$7.5m over four years to the Attorney-General's Department for Australia's contribution to the operation of the International Criminal Court;
- \$11.0m to the Director of Public Prosecutions to assist in the prosecution of cases arising from an increase in the number of investigations into identity fraud; and
- \$3.9m will be transferred in 2003–04 from the Australian Customs Service to the Department of Transport and Regional Services in relation to infrastructure works at Melbourne Airport to facilitate increased quarantine inspections.

In addition the Government will fund two-thirds of the cost of the joint Commonwealth, State and Territory handgun buyback program. The indicative cost to the Commonwealth is \$69m over the three years 2002–03 to 2004–05.

## Revenue Measures

- increase in the Import Processing Charge from 1 May 2003 – the estimated increase in revenue is \$56m over four years (including \$7.1m in 2002–03);
- removal of the five percent import duty on the chemical paraquat dichloride with the addition of an emetic with effect from 1 April 2003 – the estimated reduction in revenue is \$0.5m per year;
- reduction in the tariff for passenger motor vehicles and automotive components to five percent with effect from 1 January 2010; and
- reduction in tariff revenue as part of the Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) which is expected to come into force on 1 July 2003 – the estimated reduction in revenue is \$30m per year initially rising to \$35m per year from 2005–06.

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

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

## Structure of Attorney-General's Portfolio Outcomes

<p><b>Attorney-General:</b> The Hon Daryl Williams AM QC MP</p> <p><b>Minister for Justice and Customs:</b> Senator the Hon Chris Ellison</p>
<p><b>Attorney-General's Department</b></p> <p>Secretary : Mr Robert Cornall</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> An equitable and accessible system of federal civil justice</p> <p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Coordinated federal criminal justice, security and emergency management activity, for a safer Australia</p>
<p><b>High Court of Australia</b></p> <p>Chief Executive and Principal Registrar : Mr Christopher Doogan</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> To interpret and uphold the Australian Constitution and perform the functions of the ultimate appellate Court in Australia</p>
<p><b>Federal Court of Australia</b></p> <p>Registrar : Mr Warwick Soden</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> 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><b>Family Court of Australia</b></p> <p>Chief Executive Officer : Mr Richard Foster</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Serving the interests of the Australian community by ensuring families and children in need can access effective high quality services</p>
<p><b>Federal Magistrates Service</b></p> <p>Chief Executive Officer : Mr Peter May</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> 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</p>
<p><b>Administrative Appeals Tribunal</b></p> <p>Registrar : Ms Jill Toohey (Acting)</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> To provide aggrieved persons and agencies with timely, fair and independent merits review of administrative decisions over which the Tribunal has jurisdiction</p>
<p><b>National Native Title Tribunal</b></p> <p>Registrar : Mr Christopher Doepel</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Recognition and protection of Native Title</p>

**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 : Mr Neil Jensen PSM

**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 of activities which aim to promote justice and reduce crime

**Criminology Research Council**

Director : Mr Laurie Glanfield AM

**Outcome 1:** Criminological research which informs the Commonwealth and States

**Australian Crime Commission**

Chief Executive Officer: Mr Alastair Milroy

**Outcome 1:** Enhanced Australian law enforcement capacity

**CrimTrac Agency**

Chief Executive Officer : Mr Jonathan Mobbs

**Outcome 1:** Coordinated national policing information systems for a safer Australia

**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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Office of Parliamentary Counsel</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Parliamentary Counsel : Ms Hilary Penfold PSM QC</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Parliamentary democracy and an effective statute book</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">President and Chief Executive Officer : Professor Alice Tay until 9 June 2003 and Justice John William von Doussa from 10 June 2003</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> An Australian society in which the human rights of all are respected, protected and promoted</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Office of the Privacy Commissioner</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Privacy Commissioner : Mr Malcolm Crompton</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> An Australian culture in which privacy is respected, promoted and protected</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Australian Law Reform Commission</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">President : Professor David Weisbrot</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> The development and reform of aspects of the laws of Australia to ensure that they are equitable, modern, fair and efficient</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Australian Government Solicitor</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chief Executive Officer : Ms Rayne de Gruchy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Australian Government Solicitor is a Government Business Enterprise</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chief Executive and Inspector General : Mr Terry Gallagher</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Public confidence in the personal insolvency system</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Office of Film and Literature Classification</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Director : Mr Des Clark</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Australians make informed decisions about films, publications and computer games, which they, or those in their care may view, read or play</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Australian Security Intelligence Organisation</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Director General of Security : Mr Dennis Richardson</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> A secure Australia for people and property, for government business and national infrastructure, and for special events of national and international significance</p>



## **PART C**

# **Agency Budget Statements**

