



Australian Government
Australian Law Reform Commission

BUDGET 2021-22

(Extract from the Attorney-General's
portfolio budget papers)



Australian Law Reform Commission

Section 1: Entity overview and resources

1.1 Strategic direction statement

The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC), established in 1975, undertakes research and provides recommendations to reform the law on topics selected by the Attorney-General of Australia.

The ALRC's outcome is: 'Informed government decisions about the development, reform and harmonisation of Australian laws and related processes through research, analysis, reports and community consultation and education.' The ALRC has one program to achieve its outcome: 'Conducting inquiries into aspects of Australian law and related processes for the purpose of law reform.'

Through the improvement of Australia's law and justice framework, the ALRC contributes to the Attorney-General Department's Outcome 1 – a just and secure society through the maintenance and improvement of Australia's law and justice frameworks.

There are no new measures affecting the ALRC or new functions.

The key challenge and risk to the ALRC delivering its program is that the ALRC is solely reliant on the government for its referrals. As a result, the extent to which the ALRC can deliver on its objective is influenced from year to year by the government's law reform agenda, the number of inquiries referred to the ALRC, the subject matter and scope of any particular inquiry, the prescribed timeframe and the resources made available to the ALRC to undertake the work.

1.2 Entity resource statement

Table 1.1 shows the total funding from all sources available to the entity for its operations and to deliver programs and services on behalf of the government.

The table summarises how resources will be applied by outcome (government strategic policy objectives) and by administered (on behalf of the government or the public) and departmental (for the entity's operations) classification.

For more detailed information on special accounts and special appropriations, refer to Budget Paper No. 4 — *Agency Resourcing*.

Information in this table is presented on a resourcing (appropriations/cash available) basis, while the budgeted expenses by outcome tables in section 2 and the financial statements in section 3 are presented on an accrual basis.

Table 1.1: Entity resource statement – budget estimates for 2021–22 as at Budget May 2021

| | 2020-21 Estimated actual \$'000 | 2021-22 Estimate \$'000 |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| DEPARTMENTAL | | |
| Annual appropriations – ordinary annual services (a) | | |
| Departmental appropriation (b) | 2,621 | 2,625 |
| s74 retained revenue receipts (c) | 1 | 1 |
| Departmental capital budget (d) | 15 | 15 |
| Total departmental annual appropriations | 2,637 | 2,641 |
| Special accounts (e) | | |
| Opening balance | 968 | 768 |
| Appropriation receipts (f) | 2,636 | 2,640 |
| Appropriation receipts from other entities (g) | 1 | 1 |
| Total special accounts | 3,605 | 3,409 |
| Less departmental appropriations drawn from annual or special appropriations and credited to special accounts | (2,637) | (2,641) |
| Total net resourcing for entity | 3,605 | 3,409 |
| | | |
| | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
| Average staffing level (number) | 11 | 10 |

Prepared on a resourcing (appropriations and cash available) basis.

Note: All figures are GST exclusive and may not match figures in the cash flow statement.

(a) Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2021–22.

(b) Excludes departmental capital budget.

(c) Estimated External Revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

(d) Departmental capital budgets are not separately identified in Appropriation Bill No. 1, and form part of ordinary annual services items. Refer to Table 3.5 for further details. For accounting purposes, this amount has been designated as a 'contribution by owner'.

(e) Excludes trust moneys held in Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys and other special accounts. See Table 2.1 for further information on outcome and program expenses broken down by various funding sources, such as annual appropriations, special appropriations and special accounts.

(f) Amounts credited to the special account from ALRC's annual appropriations.

(g) Amounts credited to the special account from another entity's annual and special appropriations.

1.3 Budget measures

ALRC has no measures announced after the 2020–21 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook. For this reason, Table 1.2 is not presented.

Section 2: Outcomes and planned performance

Government outcomes are the intended results, impacts or consequences of actions by the government on the Australian community. Commonwealth programs are the primary vehicle by which government entities achieve the intended results of their outcome statements. Entities are required to identify the programs which contribute to government outcomes over the budget and forward years.

Each outcome is described below together with its related programs. The following provides detailed information on expenses for each outcome and program, further broken down by funding source.

Note:

Performance reporting requirements in the Portfolio Budget Statements are part of the Commonwealth performance framework established by the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. It is anticipated that the performance criteria described in Portfolio Budget Statements will be read with broader information provided in an entity's corporate plans and annual performance statements – included in annual reports – to provide a complete picture of an entity's planned and actual performance.

The most recent corporate plan for ALRC can be found at:
<https://www.alrc.gov.au/about/corporate-information/>

The most recent annual performance statement can be found at:
<https://www.alrc.gov.au/about/annual-reports/>

2.1 Budgeted expenses and performance for Outcome 1

Outcome 1: Informed government decisions about the development, reform and harmonisation of Australian laws and related processes through research, analysis, reports and community consultation and education.

Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

Table 2.1.1 shows how much ALRC intends to spend (on an accrual basis) on achieving Outcome 1, broken down by program, as well as by administered and departmental funding sources.

Table 2.1.1: Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

| | 2020-21 Estimated actual \$'000 | 2021-22 Budget \$'000 | 2022-23 Forward estimate \$'000 | 2023-24 Forward estimate \$'000 | 2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000 |
|---|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Program 1.1: Conducting inquiries into aspects of Australian law and related processes for the purpose of law reform | | | | | |
| Departmental expenses | | | | | |
| Special accounts | | | | | |
| Law Reform Special Account – <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 s80</i> (<i>Australian Law Reform Commission Act 1996 s45</i>) | 2,848 | 2,644 | 2,648 | 2,650 | 2,651 |
| Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year (a) | 57 | 57 | 57 | 57 | 57 |
| Total expenses for program 1.1 | 2,905 | 2,701 | 2,705 | 2,707 | 2,708 |

| | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Average staffing level (number) (h) | 11 | 10 |

Note: Departmental appropriation splits and totals are indicative estimates and may change in the course of the budget year as government priorities change.

(a) Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year are made up of depreciation and amortisation expenses and audit fees.

Performance criteria for Outcome 1

Table 2.1.2 details the performance criteria for each program associated with Outcome 1. It also summarises how each program is delivered and where 2021–22 Budget measures have created new programs or materially changed existing programs.

Table 2.1.2: Performance criteria for Outcome 1

| Outcome 1: Informed government decisions about the development, reform and harmonisation of Australian laws and related processes through research, analysis, reports and community consultation and education. | | |
|---|---|--|
| Program 1.1: Conducting inquiries into aspects of Australian law and related processes for the purpose of law reform. | | |
| This program contributes to Outcome 1 through conducting inquiries into aspects of Australian law and related processes for the purpose of law reform. | | |
| Delivery | <p>The ALRC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">conduct law reform inquiries as referred by the Attorney-General;produce a final report containing recommendations for law reform for each inquiry; andencourage public debate and discussion on the work of the ALRC and law reform generally. <p>The target group for the ALRC's program is the Australian Parliament and the Australian community.</p> | |
| Performance information | | |
| Year | Performance criteria | Actual achievement/targets |
| 2020-21 | <p>Number of reports</p> <p>Timeliness of reports</p> <p>Citations or references</p> <p>Submissions received per inquiry</p> <p>Consultations held per inquiry</p> <p>Presentations, articles and speaking engagements</p> <p>E-news subscribers</p> <p>Visitors to website</p> <p>Public attendance at ALRC seminars</p> | <p>0 (4)</p> <p>N/A (100%)</p> <p>287 (100)</p> <p>0 (50)</p> <p>31 – Judicial Impartiality, 34 – Financial Services, 0 – Religious Freedoms (25 per inquiry)</p> <p>59 (25)</p> <p>3683 (1350)</p> <p>1,082,335 (500,000)</p> <p>1062 (250)</p> |
| 2021-22 | <p>Number of reports</p> <p>Timeliness of reports</p> <p>Citations or references</p> <p>Submissions received per inquiry</p> <p>Consultations held per inquiry</p> <p>Presentations, articles and speaking engagements</p> <p>E-news subscribers</p> <p>Visitors to website</p> <p>Public attendance at ALRC seminars</p> | <p>4</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100</p> <p>50</p> <p>25</p> <p>25</p> <p>1350</p> <p>500,000</p> <p>250</p> |
| 2022-23 and beyond | As per 2021-22 | As per 2021-22 |
| Purposes | To contribute to informed government decisions about law reform that will lead to a fair, equitable and accessible system of federal justice that contributes to a just and secure society. | |

Section 3: Budgeted financial statements

Section 3 presents budgeted financial statements which provide a comprehensive snapshot of entity finances for the 2021–22 budget year, including the impact of budget measures and resourcing on financial statements.

3.1 Budgeted financial statements

3.1.1 Differences between entity resourcing and financial statements

There is no material difference between the entity resourcing and financial statements. ALRC has no related party transactions.

3.1.2 Explanatory notes and analysis of budgeted financial statements

Total revenue in 2021–22 is estimated to be \$2.667 million, comprising \$2.625 million from government and \$0.042 million from other sources.

Expenses in 2021–22 are estimated to be \$2.701 million, comprising \$2.127 million in employee expenses, \$0.375 million in supplier expenses, \$0.175 million in depreciation and amortisation expenses, and \$0.024 million in finance expenses.

3.2. Budgeted financial statements tables

Table 3.1: Comprehensive income statement (showing net cost of services) for the period ended 30 June

| | 2020-21 Estimated actual \$'000 | 2021-22 Budget \$'000 | 2022-23 Forward estimate \$'000 | 2023-24 Forward estimate \$'000 | 2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000 |
|--|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| EXPENSES | | | | | |
| Employee benefits | 2,079 | 2,127 | 2,129 | 2,138 | 2,138 |
| Suppliers | 622 | 375 | 380 | 377 | 381 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 177 | 175 | 175 | 175 | 175 |
| Finance costs | 27 | 24 | 21 | 17 | 14 |
| Total expenses | 2,905 | 2,701 | 2,705 | 2,707 | 2,708 |
| LESS: | | | | | |
| OWN-SOURCE INCOME | | | | | |
| Own-source revenue | | | | | |
| Sale of goods and rendering of services | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total own-source revenue | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Gains | | | | | |
| Other – resources received free of charge | 39 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 41 |
| Total gains | 39 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 41 |
| Total own-source income | 40 | 42 | 42 | 42 | 42 |
| Net (cost of)/contribution by services | (2,865) | (2,659) | (2,663) | (2,665) | (2,666) |
| Revenue from government | 2,621 | 2,625 | 2,637 | 2,647 | 2,657 |
| Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Australian Government | (244) | (34) | (26) | (18) | (9) |
| OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME | | | | | |
| Total comprehensive income/(loss) | (244) | (34) | (26) | (18) | (9) |
| Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to the Australian Government | (244) | (34) | (26) | (18) | (9) |

Table 3.1 continued over page

Table 3.1: Comprehensive income statement (showing net cost of services) for the period ended 30 June (continued)

| Note: Impact of net cash appropriation arrangements | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2020-21 \$'000 | 2021-22 \$'000 | 2022-23 \$'000 | 2023-24 \$'000 | 2024-25 \$'000 |
| Total comprehensive income/(loss) excluding depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriations, depreciation on ROU, principal repayments on leased assets | (200) | - | - | - | - |
| Less depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriations (a) | 18 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Less depreciation/amortisation expenses for ROU assets (b) | 159 | 159 | 159 | 159 | 159 |
| Add principal repayments on leased assets (b) | 133 | 141 | 149 | 157 | 166 |
| Total comprehensive income/(loss) as per the statement of comprehensive income | (244) | (34) | (26) | (18) | (9) |

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

- (a) From 2010–11, the government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements where Bill 1 revenue appropriations for the depreciation/amortisation expenses of non-corporate Commonwealth entities (and select corporate Commonwealth entities) were replaced with a separate capital budget (the departmental capital budget, or DCB) provided through Bill 1 equity appropriations. For information regarding DCBs, refer to Table 3.5: Departmental capital budget statement.
- (b) Applies to leases under AASB 16 Leases on 1 July 2019.

Table 3.2: Budgeted departmental balance sheet (as at 30 June)

| | 2020-21 Estimated actual \$'000 | 2021-22 Budget \$'000 | 2022-23 Forward estimate \$'000 | 2023-24 Forward estimate \$'000 | 2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000 |
|---|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| ASSETS | | | | | |
| Financial assets | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 768 | 768 | 768 | 768 | 768 |
| Trade and other receivables | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 |
| Total financial assets | 789 | 789 | 789 | 789 | 789 |
| Non-financial assets | | | | | |
| Land and buildings | 1,154 | 995 | 836 | 677 | 518 |
| Property, plant and equipment | 46 | 45 | 44 | 43 | 42 |
| Intangibles | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| Total non-financial assets | 1,218 | 1,058 | 898 | 738 | 578 |
| Total assets | 2,007 | 1,847 | 1,687 | 1,527 | 1,367 |
| LIABILITIES | | | | | |
| Payables | | | | | |
| Suppliers | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 | 45 |
| Other payables | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 |
| Total payables | 233 | 233 | 233 | 233 | 233 |
| Interest-bearing liabilities | | | | | |
| Leases | 1,213 | 1,072 | 923 | 766 | 600 |
| Total interest-bearing liabilities | 1,213 | 1,072 | 923 | 766 | 600 |
| Provisions | | | | | |
| Employee provisions | 279 | 279 | 279 | 279 | 279 |
| Total provisions | 279 | 279 | 279 | 279 | 279 |
| Total liabilities | 1,725 | 1,584 | 1,435 | 1,278 | 1,112 |
| Net assets | 282 | 263 | 252 | 249 | 255 |
| EQUITY (a) | | | | | |
| Parent entity interest | | | | | |
| Contributed equity | 334 | 349 | 364 | 379 | 394 |
| Reserves | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 |
| Retained surplus/(accumulated deficit) | (187) | (221) | (247) | (265) | (274) |
| Total parent entity interest | 282 | 263 | 252 | 249 | 255 |
| Total equity | 282 | 263 | 252 | 249 | 255 |

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) Equity is the residual interest in assets after the deduction of liabilities.

Table 3.3: Departmental statement of changes in equity – summary of movement (2021–22 budget year)

| | Retained earnings \$'000 | Asset revaluation reserve \$'000 | Contributed equity/ capital \$'000 | Total equity \$'000 |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|
| Opening balance as at 1 July 2021 | | | | |
| Balance carried forward from previous period | (187) | 135 | 334 | 282 |
| Adjusted opening balance | (187) | 135 | 334 | 282 |
| Comprehensive income | | | | |
| Surplus/(deficit) for the period | (34) | - | - | (34) |
| Total comprehensive income | (34) | - | - | (34) |
| Transactions with owners | | | | |
| Contributions by owners | | | | |
| Departmental capital budget | - | - | 15 | 15 |
| Sub-total transactions with owners | - | - | 15 | 15 |
| Estimated closing balance as at 30 June 2022 | (221) | 135 | 349 | 263 |
| Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government | (221) | 135 | 349 | 263 |

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.4: Budgeted departmental statement of cash flows (for the period ended 30 June)

| | 2020-21 Estimated actual \$'000 | 2021-22 Budget \$'000 | 2022-23 Forward estimate \$'000 | 2023-24 Forward estimate \$'000 | 2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000 |
|---|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | | | | |
| Cash received | | | | | |
| Sale of goods and rendering of services | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Appropriations | 2,621 | 2,625 | 2,637 | 2,647 | 2,657 |
| Total cash received | 2,622 | 2,626 | 2,638 | 2,648 | 2,658 |
| Cash used | | | | | |
| Employees | 2,079 | 2,127 | 2,129 | 2,138 | 2,138 |
| Suppliers | 583 | 334 | 339 | 336 | 340 |
| Interest payments on lease liability | 27 | 24 | 21 | 17 | 14 |
| Total cash used | 2,689 | 2,485 | 2,489 | 2,491 | 2,492 |
| Net cash from/(used by) operating activities | (67) | 141 | 149 | 157 | 166 |
| INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | | | | |
| Cash used | | | | | |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment and intangibles | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Total cash used | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Net cash from/(used by) investing activities | (15) | (15) | (15) | (15) | (15) |
| FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | | | | |
| Cash received | | | | | |
| Contributed equity | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Total cash received | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Cash used | | | | | |
| Principal payments on lease liability | 133 | 141 | 149 | 157 | 166 |
| Total cash used | 133 | 141 | 149 | 157 | 166 |
| Net cash from/(used by) financing activities | (118) | (126) | (134) | (142) | (151) |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash held | (200) | - | - | - | - |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period | 968 | 768 | 768 | 768 | 768 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period | 768 | 768 | 768 | 768 | 768 |

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.5: Departmental capital budget statement (for the period ended 30 June)

| | 2020-21 Estimated actual \$'000 | 2021-22 Budget \$'000 | 2022-23 Forward estimate \$'000 | 2023-24 Forward estimate \$'000 | 2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000 |
|--|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| NEW CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS | | | | | |
| Capital budget – Bill 1 (DCB) | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Total new capital appropriations | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Provided for: | | | | | |
| Purchase of non-financial assets | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Total items | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| PURCHASE OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS | | | | | |
| Funded by capital appropriation – DCB (a) | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Total purchases of non-financial assets | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| RECONCILIATION OF CASH USED TO ACQUIRE ASSETS TO ASSET MOVEMENT TABLE | | | | | |
| Total purchases | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Total cash used to acquire assets | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) Does not include annual finance lease costs. Includes purchases from current and previous years' Departmental capital budgets (DCBs).

Table 3.6: Statement of departmental asset movements (2021–22 budget year)

| | Buildings \$'000 | Other property, plant & equipment \$'000 | Computer software & intangibles \$'000 | Total \$'000 |
|---|-----------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| As at 1 July 2021 | | | | |
| Gross book value | - | 145 | 22 | 167 |
| Gross book value – ROU assets | 1,472 | - | - | 1,472 |
| Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment | - | (99) | (4) | (103) |
| Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment – ROU assets | (318) | - | - | (318) |
| Opening net book balance | 1,154 | 46 | 18 | 1,218 |
| CAPITAL ASSET ADDITIONS | | | | |
| Estimated expenditure on new or replacement assets | | | | |
| By purchase – appropriation ordinary annual services (a) | - | 15 | - | 15 |
| Total additions | - | 15 | - | 15 |
| OTHER MOVEMENTS | | | | |
| Depreciation/amortisation expense | - | (16) | - | (16) |
| Depreciation/amortisation on ROU assets | (159) | - | - | (159) |
| Total other movements | (159) | (16) | - | (175) |
| As at 30 June 2022 | | | | |
| Gross book value | - | 160 | 22 | 182 |
| Gross book value – ROU assets | 1,472 | - | - | - |
| Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment | - | (115) | (4) | (119) |
| Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment – ROU assets | (477) | - | - | (477) |
| Closing net book balance | 995 | 45 | 18 | 1,058 |

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) 'Appropriation ordinary annual services' refers to funding provided through Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2021–22 for depreciation/amortisation expenses, departmental capital budget or other operational expenses.