

GLOSSARY

Accrual Accounting	System of accounting where items are brought to account and are included in the financial statements as they are earned or incurred, rather than as they are received or paid.
Accumulated Depreciation	The aggregate depreciation recorded for a particular depreciating asset.
Additional Estimates	Where amounts appropriated at Budget time are insufficient, Parliament may appropriate more funds to portfolios through the Additional Estimates Acts at the Additional Estimates.
Additional Estimates Bills or Acts	These are Appropriation Bills 3 and 4, and a separate Bill for Parliamentary Departments (Appropriations (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 2)). These Bills are introduced into the Parliament after the Budget Bills.
Administered Items	Revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities that are managed by an agency or authority on behalf of the Government according to set government directions. Administered expenses include subsidies, grants and personal benefit payments and Administered revenues include taxes, fees, fines and excises.
Annotated Appropriation	A form of appropriation which allows a department access to certain money it receives in payment of services. The nature and extent of the amount to be appropriated are specified in agreements made under s.31 of the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act (FMA) 1997</i> , between the financial manager and the responsible Minister.
Annual Appropriation	Two appropriation Bills are introduced into Parliament in May and comprise the Budget for the financial year beginning 1 July. Further Bills are introduced later in the financial year as part of the Additional Estimates. Parliamentary departments have their own appropriations.
Appropriation	An authorisation by Parliament to spend monies from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for a particular purpose. The appropriation authorises the Australian Government to withdraw monies and restricts the expenditure to the particular purpose specified by the appropriation.
Assets	Future economic benefits controlled by an entity as a result of past transactions or past events.
Available Appropriation	Available appropriation is used to allow a comparison of the current year's appropriation with what was made available for use in the previous year. Available appropriation is the amount available to be drawn down, and is equal to: Budget appropriation + Additional Estimates appropriation + Departmental Items Adjustments and Borrowing + Advance to the Finance Minister – Savings – Rephasings.

Average Staffing Level (ASL)	The average number of employees receiving salary/wages (or compensation in lieu of salary/wages) over a financial year, with adjustments for casual and part-time employees to show the full-time equivalent.
Budget Measure	A decision by the Cabinet or Ministers that has been finalised since the Budget and has resulted in a change in expenditure in the current year and/or the forward years. See also cross-portfolio Budget measure.
CAC Act 1997	<i>Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997.</i> This Act regulates certain aspects of the financial affairs of Commonwealth authorities. In particular, it has detailed rules about reporting and accountability. This Act also deals with other matters relating to Commonwealth authorities, such as banking and investment and the conduct of officers.
Capital Expenditure	Expenditure by an agency on capital projects, for example purchasing a building.
Consolidated Revenue Fund	Section 81 of the Constitution stipulates that all revenue raised or money received by the Commonwealth forms the one consolidated revenue fund (CRF). The CRF is not a bank account. The Official Public Account reflects most of the operations of the CRF.
Cross-portfolio Budget Measure	This is a Budget measure which affects outcomes administered in a number of portfolios.
Departmental Items	Revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities in relation to an agency or authority that are controlled by the agency. Departmental expenses include employee and supplier expenses and other administrative costs, which are incurred by the agency in providing its goods and services.
Depreciation	Apportionment of an asset's capital value as an expense over its estimated useful life to take account of normal usage, obsolescence, or the passage of time.
Efficiency Dividend	An annual deduction of a percentage of running costs from an agency's budget, which acts as both an incentive to efficiency and a quantification of some of the efficiency gains made by an agency in the previous year.
Equity or Net Assets	Residual interest in the assets of an entity after deduction of its liabilities.
Expense	Total value of all of the resources consumed in producing goods and services or the loss of future economic benefits in the form of reductions in assets or increases in liabilities of an entity.
Fair Value	Valuation methodology: the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable and willing parties in an arm's length transaction. The fair value can be affected by the conditions of the sale, market conditions and the intentions of the asset holder.

FMA Act 1997	<i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997.</i> The principal legislation governing the proper use and management of public money and public property and other Australian Government resources. FMA regulations and FMA Orders are made pursuant to the Act.
Forward Estimates	A system of rolling three year financial estimates. After the Budget is passed, the first year of the forward estimates becomes the base for next year's Budget bid, and another outyear is added to the forward estimates.
Historical Cost	The original cost of acquisition of an asset, including any costs associated with acquisition. Under Australian Accounting Standards Board 116, Property, Plant and Equipment, assets are required to be reported initially at the cost of acquisition (historical cost). The Australian Government's financial reporting requirements issued under the Finance Minister's Orders require the revaluation of non current assets with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of assets which does not differ materially from fair value as at reporting date.
Liabilities	Future sacrifices of economic benefits that an entity is presently obliged to make to other entities as a result of past transactions or other past events.
Operating Result	Equals revenue less expense.
Outcomes	Outcomes are the results of events, actions or circumstances, in particular, the impact of the Australian Government on the Australian community. Outcomes may be linked with both the outputs of agencies using the departmental expenses under their control, and with the administered expenses which agencies manage on behalf of the Australian Government. Planned outcomes represent the changes desired by Government. The achievement of actual outcomes is assessed and reported in agencies' Annual Report.
Output Groups	An aggregation of agency outputs, where useful, and based either on homogeneity, type of product, business line or beneficiary target group. Aggregation of outputs may also be needed for the provision of adequate information for performance monitoring, or based on a materiality test.
Outputs	The goods or services produced by individual Australian Government agencies for other persons, agencies or organisations including outsourced activities. Outputs are produced with departmental expenses.
Performance Indicators	A concise list of indicators, which are used to measure agency effectiveness in achieving the Government's outcomes. Indicators must be measurable, but may be qualitative or quantitative. Indicators in the Portfolio Budget Statements are reported against the Annual Report for the same year. Outcomes are generally measured by performance indicators relating to effectiveness and equity, but may include efficiency and access indicators.
Performance Measures	A concise list of measures, which are used to provide information on administered items and outputs in terms of quality, quantity and price.
Portfolio Budget Statements	Statements prepared by portfolios to explain the Budget appropriations in terms of outcomes and outputs.

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Price	The amount the Government or community pays for the delivery of agreed outputs.
Quality	Relates to the characteristics by which customers or stakeholders judge a product or service. Assessment of quality involves the use of information gathered from a range of sources including customers and stakeholders.
Quantity	A measure of how many, or how much, of a product or service is produced. Quantities specified in the Portfolio Budget Statements are usually estimates based on the best available evidence. Agencies report on actual quantities in their Annual Reports.
Revenue	Total value of resources earned or received to cover the production of goods and services.
Special Account	Balances existing within the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) that are supported by standing appropriations (<i>Financial Management and Accountability (FMA) Act 1997</i> , ss.20 and 21). Special Accounts allow money in the CRF to be acknowledged as set-aside for a particular purpose. Amounts credited to a Special Account may only be spent for the purposes of the Special Account. Special Accounts can only be established by a written determination of the Finance Minister (s.20 FMA Act 1997) or through an Act of Parliament (referred to in s.21 of the FMA Act 1997).
Special Appropriations (including standing appropriations)	<p>An amount of money appropriated by a particular Act of Parliament for a specific purpose and number of years. For special appropriations the authority to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Revenue Fund does not generally cease at the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Standing appropriations are a sub-category consisting of ongoing special appropriations — the amount appropriated will depend on circumstances specified in the legislation.</p>
Staff Years	An aggregate measure of employment based on the hours worked by employees over the period of one year. It is the unit of measurement for staff resource use.
Standing Appropriation	Similar to special appropriations, except that instead of an amount being specified in the appropriation, the Act provides for an automatic payment of funds where an entitlement exists, such as age pensions, or for the Minister of Finance and Deregulation to determine an amount in accordance with specified criteria. The terms special and standing are often used interchangeably.