

How to use this report

This is the Secretary's report to the Attorney-General and the Minister for Home Affairs for 2009–10. This Annual Report was prepared in accordance with the *Requirements for Annual Reports for Departments, Executive Agencies and FMA Act Bodies* (June 2010) approved by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit and issued by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The report also provides information for the community and stakeholders. The list of requirements (page 365) directs readers to where information required by legislation can be found in the report. The Annual Report relates the Department's performance for 2009–10 to the measures outlined in the Portfolio Budget Statements and the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements for the same period.

PART 1 introduces readers to the Attorney-General's Department with a review of the year from the Secretary. It also provides a description of the portfolio, the outcome–program framework and the Department's organisational structure.

PART 2 reports on how the Department performed during the period against its three outcomes and against the departmental programs and administered items.

PART 3 details the Department's management and accountability processes, including corporate governance, external scrutiny, financial management, human resource management, information and knowledge management, social equity, and ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance processes.

PART 4 contains the audited financial statements for 2009–10.

PART 5 comprises appendixes that provide useful additional information and reports required under specific legislation.

Immediately following its tabling in Parliament, the Annual Report will be accessible on the Department's website at <http://www.ag.gov.au/annualreport10>.

The Portfolio Budget Statements are also published on the Department's website at <http://www.ag.gov.au/budget09>.

Editor's note

In July 2010, the Government announced that a federal election would be held in August 2010. This annual report was prepared in accordance with caretaker conventions and without knowing the outcome of the election. Hence, the report, including the Department's anticipated outlook, reflects the situation as at 30 June 2010.