



## Summary of Budget items 2018-19

The 2018-19 Budget announced a range of measures relating to the Attorney-General's Portfolio.

These measures include:

### **Funding of \$22 million over five years for the department to implement the measure *More Choices for a Longer Life – protecting older Australians***

- The package responds to key recommendations of the Australian Law Reform Commission's Report into Elder Abuse and implements a national response on elder abuse and promoting older people's safety.
- The funding will increase specialist front line services to support older people and their families seeking help with elder abuse. It includes expansion and evaluation of elder abuse service trials, including specialist elder abuse units, family counselling and mediation services, and health-justice partnerships.
- The Government has also set aside funding to work with the States and Territories to establish a National Online Register for Enduring Powers of Attorney.
- These measures builds on the \$15 million 2016-17 MYEFO measure *Protecting the Rights of Older Australians* which provided for a National Prevalence Study to inform a National Plan on Elder Abuse, and the development of an Elder Abuse Knowledge Hub.  
(As part of this measure, funding for the 2016-17 MYEFO measure *Protecting the Rights of Older Australians* will be re-profiled over the period 2018-19 to 2021-22)

### **\$24.4 million in 2018-19 for the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation to strengthen their capacity to meet the Government's national security objectives**

- This funding is to support current operations and undertake preliminary work to enhance future operations.

### **Establishment of permanent office accommodation in Sydney for the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI) with funding of \$2.5 million over three years**

- As part of the Turnbull Government's investment in the nation's security and law enforcement, ACLEI will receive an additional \$0.8m per year to establish a permanent, purpose-built Sydney base.
- Sydney is home to Australia's largest illicit crime market, container port and passenger airport and is a key target of organised crime groups seeking to illegally import goods into Australia.
- A permanent Sydney presence will better enable ACLEI to detect and investigate border corruption and to ensure the integrity of our law enforcement agencies.

**\$1.6 million over two years to deliver a National Apology to victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse**

- The Prime Minister has announced that the government will issue a National Apology to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.
- The apology aims to help the healing process for those affected by abuse, as well as to educate the community about experiences and impacts of child sexual abuse.

**Funding of \$1.2 million over four years to implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT)**

- The Commonwealth Ombudsman will be funded to undertake new functions as the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) Coordinator, and as the Commonwealth's NPM body with responsibility for inspecting Commonwealth places of primary detention.

**\$0.5 million in 2018-19 to administer the records of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory**

- Custodianship of the records of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (RCIRCSA) and the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory (NTRC) transferred to the Attorney-General's Department on 20 February 2018 pursuant to a direction made under the *Archives Act 1983* (Cth).
- This measure ensures adequate resources are available to discharge this new function. This is of particular importance given the sensitive nature of these records.

**\$10.7 million over five years for the High Court of Australia to enhance security**

- Funding is being provided for capital security works and additional operating security costs to the High Court following a review of the court's security arrangements.
- Part of the cost of the upgrade to the security of the High Court will be met by a modest increase in fees across the High Court, and the general law jurisdictions of the Federal Court of Australia and Federal Circuit Court.

**Move to annual indexation of court and tribunal fees resulting in revenue of \$4.8 million over four years**

- Indexation of fees in the federal courts, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the National Native Title Tribunal will be applied annually, rather than biennially in line with the Consumer Price Index.

**The portfolio will achieve efficiencies of \$20.3 million over five years**

- Savings across the Attorney-General's portfolio will be achieved through efficiencies in departmental activities and improved targeting of program expenditure, with no impact on front line services.

The 2018-19 Budget also included measures led by other portfolios that impact the Attorney-General's portfolio.

These measures are:

- Funding for the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner as part of the establishment of the new National Consumer Data Right - \$12.9 million over four years
- Funding for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to prosecute cases resulting from the Black Economy Package - \$6.1 million over three years
- Funding for the Administrative Appeals Tribunal resulting from measures in the 2018-19 Budget - \$8.0 million over four years.