

AUSTRALIAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION

Section 1: Entity overview and resources

1.1 STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT

The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) supports the Attorney-General and the Australian Government in maintaining and improving Australia's system of law and justice by contributing to the process of law reform. 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'.

Under the *Australian Law Reform Commission Act 1996*, the ALRC's function is to undertake inquiries on matters referred to it by the Attorney-General and to review Commonwealth laws and legal processes relevant to those matters for the purpose of systematically developing and reforming the law. The ALRC provides the government with reports outlining recommendations for law reform that contribute to the government's objective of achieving an equitable and accessible system of federal justice and the harmonisation of Australia's laws and practices. Through the improvement of Australia's law and justice framework, the ALRC contributes to the Attorney-General's outcome – a just and secure society through the maintenance and improvement of Australia's law, justice security and integrity frameworks.

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. This inquiry process enables the ALRC to undertake the research and analysis that underpin the recommendations for law reform and provide the basis for informed government decisions.

There are no new measures affecting the ALRC or new functions. In 2019-20, the ALRC will undertake inquiries referred to it by the Attorney-General.

The ALRC will be represented at legal, industry and community conferences and seminars to discuss its inquiry work and law reform processes generally. Where the ALRC has made relevant recommendations or has acquired special expertise or experience, it will make submissions to inquiries undertaken by other bodies, especially parliamentary committees, on the law reform issues raised in those inquiries.

The key challenge and risk to the ALRC delivering its program is that the ALRC is solely reliant on the government for its referrals and therefore 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 available to the ALRC to undertake the work. In light of this, the ALRC will continue to work closely with the Attorney-General's Department to ensure appropriate lead time for planning and managing resources is afforded when new inquiries are referred to the ALRC.

1.2 ENTITY RESOURCE STATEMENT

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

All appropriation to the ALRC runs through the Law Reform Special Account as required under section 45 of the *Australian Law Reform Commission Act 1996*. For more detailed information on special accounts and special appropriations refer to Budget Paper No. 4: Agency Resourcing.

Table 1.1 is presented on a resourcing (appropriations and cash available) basis, while the budgeted expenses by Outcome 1 table 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 2019-20 as at Budget April 2019

	2018-19 (a) Estimated actual \$'000	2019-20 Estimate \$'000
DEPARTMENTAL		
Annual appropriations – ordinary annual services (b)		
Departmental appropriation (c)	2,595	2,607
s74 retained revenue receipts (d)	1	1
Departmental capital budget (e)	16	16
Total departmental annual appropriations	2,612	2,624
Special accounts (f)		
Opening balance	1,433	1,433
Appropriation receipts (g)	2,611	2,623
Appropriation receipts from other entities (h)	1	1
Total special accounts	4,045	4,057
Less departmental appropriations drawn from annual or special appropriations and credited to special accounts	(2,612)	(2,624)
Total net resourcing for entity	4,045	4,057
	2018-19	2019-20
Average staffing level (number)	12	11

Prepared on a resourcing (appropriations available) basis.

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

- (a) Annual appropriation amounts appearing for 2018-19 do not include the Appropriation Bills (No. 3 and 4) 2018-19 as they had not been enacted at the time of publication.
- (b) Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2019-20.
- (c) Excludes departmental capital budget.
- (d) Estimated External Revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
- (e) 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'.
- (f) Excludes trust moneys held in Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys and other special accounts. For further information on special accounts, refer to Budget Paper No. 4: Agency Resourcing. Also 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.
- (g) Amounts credited to the special account from ALRC's annual appropriations.
- (h) Amounts credited to the special account from another entity's annual and special appropriations.

1.3 BUDGET MEASURES

The ALRC has no budget measures in the 2019-20 Budget.

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 that contribute to government outcomes over the budget and forward years.

The ALRC's outcome is described below together with its related program.

Note

Performance reporting requirements in the Portfolio Budget Statements are part of the enhanced 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 an entity's complete performance story.

The most recent corporate plan for ALRC can be found at:

<https://www.alrc.gov.au/about/corporate-information/corporate-plan-2017>

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 the 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

	2018-19 Estimated actual \$'000	2019-20 Budget \$'000	2020-21 Forward estimate \$'000	2021-22 Forward estimate \$'000	2022-23 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 (Australian Law Reform Commission Act 1996 s45)</i>	2,595	2,607	2,626	2,645	2,663
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year (a)	58	58	58	58	58
Total expenses for program 1.1	2,653	2,665	2,684	2,703	2,721

	2018-19	2019-20
Average staffing level (number) (h)	12	11

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 shows the performance criteria for the program associated with Outcome 1. It also summarises how the program is delivered.

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 inquiries as referred by the Attorney-General; • undertake research and analysis of legal policy issues raised by an inquiry; • consult stakeholders and experts and produce consultation documents for each inquiry; • elicit submissions to inform the formulation of recommendations; • produce a final report containing recommendations for law reform for each inquiry; • present at public conferences, seminars and parliamentary inquiries, ensuring that the work of the ALRC is publicly debated and discussed, and contributes to the community's knowledge about the government's law reform agenda; • track and report on implementation of its recommendations. <p>Target groups for the ALRC's program are the Australian Parliament and the Australian community.</p>	
Performance information		
Year	Performance criteria	Targets (estimated actual)
2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of consultation papers and reports. • Percentage of inquiries completed on time in accordance with the terms of reference set by the Attorney-General. • Number of citations or references to ALRC consultation documents, reports and recommendations in parliamentary debates and committee reports, in court citations and decisions, and in academic publications and other publications. • Number of submissions received for each inquiry. • Number of consultations held for each inquiry. • Breadth of community engagement in the work of the ALRC through the number of subscribers to the ALRC's E-news, visitors to the website and followers on Twitter. • Number of publications, presentations and speaking engagements of ALRC staff. 	<p>4 (4)</p> <p>100% (100%)</p> <p>150 (425)</p> <p>250 (450)</p> <p>100 (135)</p> <p>250 (376)</p> <p>>250,000 (300,00)</p> <p>>12,000 (14,000)</p> <p>30 (50)</p>

Table 2.1.2: Performance criteria for Outcome 1 (continued)

Program 1.1 (continued): Conducting inquiries into aspects of Australian law and related processes for the purpose of law reform.		
Performance information		
Year	Performance criteria	Targets (estimated actual)
2019-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of consultation papers and reports. • Percentage of inquiries completed on time in accordance with the terms of reference set by the Attorney-General. • Number of citations or references to ALRC consultation documents, reports and recommendations in parliamentary debates and committee reports, in court citations and decisions, and in academic publications and other publications. • Number of submissions received for each inquiry. • Number of consultations held for each inquiry. • Breadth of community engagement in the work of the ALRC through the number of subscribers to the ALRC's E-news, visitors to the website and followers on Twitter. • Number of publications, presentations and speaking engagements of ALRC staff. 	<p>4</p> <p>100%</p> <p>150</p> <p>250</p> <p>100</p> <p>250</p> <p>>250,000</p> <p>>12,000</p> <p>30</p>
2020-21 and beyond	As per 2019-20	As per 2019-20
Purpose	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 that provide a comprehensive snapshot of entity finances for the 2019-20 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.

3.1.2 Explanatory notes and analysis of budgeted financial statements

Total revenue in 2019-20 is estimated to be \$2.645 million, comprising \$2.607 million from government and \$0.038 million from other sources.

Expenses in 2019-20 are estimated to be \$2.665 million, comprising \$1.924 million in employee expenses, \$0.721 million in supplier expenses and \$0.020 million in depreciation and amortisation expenses.

3.2 BUDGETED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TABLES

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

	2018-19 Estimated actual \$'000	2019-20 Budget \$'000	2020-21 Forward estimate \$'000	2021-22 Forward estimate \$'000	2022-23 Forward estimate \$'000
EXPENSES					
Employee benefits	1,966	1,924	2,084	2,155	2,173
Suppliers	665	721	582	532	532
Depreciation and amortisation	22	20	18	16	16
Total expenses	2,653	2,665	2,684	2,703	2,721
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	35	37	39	41	41
Total gains	35	37	39	41	41
Total own-source income	36	38	40	42	42
Net (cost of)/contribution by services	(2,617)	(2,627)	(2,644)	(2,661)	(2,679)
Revenue from government	2,595	2,607	2,626	2,645	2,663
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Australian Government	(22)	(20)	(18)	(16)	(16)
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	(22)	(20)	(18)	(16)	(16)
Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to the Australian Government	(22)	(20)	(18)	(16)	(16)

Note: Impact of net cash appropriation arrangements

	2017-18 \$'000	2018-19 \$'000	2019-20 \$'000	2020-21 \$'000	2021-22 \$'000
Total comprehensive income/(loss) excluding depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriations	-	-	-	-	-
Less depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriations (a)	22	20	18	16	16
Total comprehensive income/(loss) as per the statement of comprehensive income	(22)	(20)	(18)	(16)	(16)

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) From 2010-11, the government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements. Bill (No. 1) revenue appropriations for the depreciation and 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 (No. 1) equity appropriations. For information regarding DCBs, see Table 3.5: Departmental capital budget statement.

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

	2018-19 Estimated actual \$'000	2019-20 Budget \$'000	2020-21 Forward estimate \$'000	2021-22 Forward estimate \$'000	2022-23 Forward estimate \$'000
ASSETS					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	1,433	1,433	1,433	1,433	1,433
Trade and other receivables	6	6	6	6	6
Total financial assets	1,439	1,439	1,439	1,439	1,439
Non-financial assets					
Property, plant and equipment	44	40	37	36	35
Other non-financial assets	34	34	34	34	34
Total non-financial assets	78	74	71	70	69
Total assets	1,517	1,513	1,510	1,509	1,508
LIABILITIES					
Payables					
Suppliers	18	18	18	18	18
Other payables	125	125	125	125	125
Total payables	143	143	143	143	143
Provisions					
Employee provisions	145	145	145	145	145
Total provisions	145	145	145	145	145
Total liabilities	288	288	288	288	288
Net assets	1,229	1,225	1,222	1,221	1,220
EQUITY (a)					
Parent entity interest					
Contributed equity	1,002	1,018	1,033	1,048	1,063
Reserves	136	136	136	136	136
Retained surplus/(accumulated deficit)	91	71	53	37	21
Total parent entity interest	1,229	1,225	1,222	1,221	1,220
Total equity	1,229	1,225	1,222	1,221	1,220

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

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

Table 3.3: Departmental statement of changes in equity – summary of movement (2019-20 budget year)

	Retained earnings \$'000	Asset revaluation reserve \$'000	Contributed equity/ capital \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Opening balance as at 1 July 2019				
Balance carried forward from previous period	91	136	1,002	1,229
Adjusted opening balance	91	136	1,002	1,229
Comprehensive income				
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(20)	–	–	(20)
Total comprehensive income	(20)	–	–	(20)
Transactions with owners				
Contributions by owners				
Departmental capital budget	–	–	16	16
Sub-total transactions with owners	–	–	16	16
Estimated closing balance as at 30 June 2020	71	136	1,018	1,225
Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government	71	136	1,018	1,225

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

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

	2018-19 Estimated actual \$'000	2019-20 Budget \$'000	2020-21 Forward estimate \$'000	2021-22 Forward estimate \$'000	2022-23 Forward estimate \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Sale of goods and rendering of services	1	1	1	1	1
Appropriations	2,595	2,607	2,626	2,645	2,663
Total cash received	2,596	2,608	2,627	2,646	2,664
Cash used					
Employees	1,966	1,924	2,084	2,155	2,173
Suppliers	630	684	543	491	491
Total cash used	2,596	2,608	2,627	2,646	2,664
INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Cash used					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment and intangibles	16	16	15	15	15
Total cash used	16	16	15	15	15
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities	(16)	(16)	(15)	(15)	(15)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Contributed equity	16	16	15	15	15
Total cash received	16	16	15	15	15
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities	16	16	15	15	15
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	1,433	1,433	1,433	1,433	1,433
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	1,433	1,433	1,433	1,433	1,433

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

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

	2018-19 Estimated actual \$'000	2019-20 Budget \$'000	2020-21 Forward estimate \$'000	2021-22 Forward estimate \$'000	2022-23 Forward estimate \$'000
NEW CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS					
Capital budget – Bill (No. 1) – DCB	16	16	15	15	15
Total new capital appropriations	16	16	15	15	15
Provided for:					
Purchase of non-financial assets	16	16	15	15	15
Total items	16	16	15	15	15
PURCHASE OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS					
Funded by capital appropriation – DCB (a)	16	16	15	15	15
Total purchases of non-financial assets	16	16	15	15	15
RECONCILIATION OF CASH USED TO ACQUIRE ASSETS TO ASSET MOVEMENT TABLE					
Total purchases	16	16	15	15	15
Total cash used to acquire assets	16	16	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 asset movements (2019-20 budget year)

	Other property, plant & equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2019		
Gross book value	121	121
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	(77)	(77)
Opening net book balance	44	44
CAPITAL ASSET ADDITIONS		
Estimated expenditure on new or replacement assets		
By purchase – appropriation ordinary annual services (a)	16	16
Total additions	16	16
Other movements		
Depreciation/amortisation expense	(20)	(20)
Total other movements	(20)	(20)
As at 30 June 2020		
Gross book value	137	137
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	(97)	(97)
Closing net book balance	40	40

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) 'Appropriation ordinary annual services' refers to funding provided through Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2019-20 for depreciation and amortisation expenses, departmental capital budgets or other operational expenses.