
Reader's guide



This is the Secretary's report to the Attorney-General and to the Minister for Justice and Customs for the financial year 2005-06. It sets out progress the Department made towards fulfilling its mission of **achieving a just and secure society**.

The report is prepared according to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's *Requirements for annual reports for departments, executive agencies and FMA Act bodies* of June 2006 (the Requirements), as approved by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit. The compliance index shows where information meeting the Requirements is located in the report.

The report seeks to ensure readability by setting out a clear relationship between planned achievements detailed in the Portfolio Budget Statements and the actual results achieved by the Department. We have tried to present our activities in a manner that assesses their achievement of outputs and outcomes. In some parts of our work this is more difficult than in others, but it is an ongoing focus for improvement in our reporting.

In preparing this year's report, we have attempted to improve the focus and coverage by drawing on feedback on the 2004-05 annual report, especially comments from our key stakeholders and the Institute of Public Administration Australia (ACT Division).

Structure of the report

The report is in six parts.

Overviews

- Secretary's review: achievements and challenges for the Department during the reporting period, and prospects for the future
- Highlights: list of significant achievements during 2005-06
- Portfolio overview: structure and responsibilities

- Departmental overview: role, functions, mission, outcomes and outputs framework, organisation structure, financial and staffing snapshots

Performance reports

- Reports on performance against the framework of planned outcomes and related outputs published in the 2005-06 Portfolio Budget Statements and Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements

Management and accountability

- Reports on corporate governance; external scrutiny; management of finances, human resources, information and knowledge; and social equity and environment obligations

Financial statements

Appendixes

- Additional information and reports under specific legislation

The final part contains a glossary, a list of abbreviations and acronyms, and compliance and alphabetical indexes.

Further information

- About the Department:
<<http://www.ag.gov.au>>
- About the annual report:
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As soon as possible after its tabling in Parliament, the annual report will be accessible on the Department's web site, <<http://www.ag.gov.au>>.