

Portfolio overview

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

MINISTERS AND PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES

The Attorney-General's portfolio provides expert advice and services on a range of law and justice issues to the Attorney-General, the Hon Robert McClelland MP, the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Bob Debus MP, and the Australian Government.

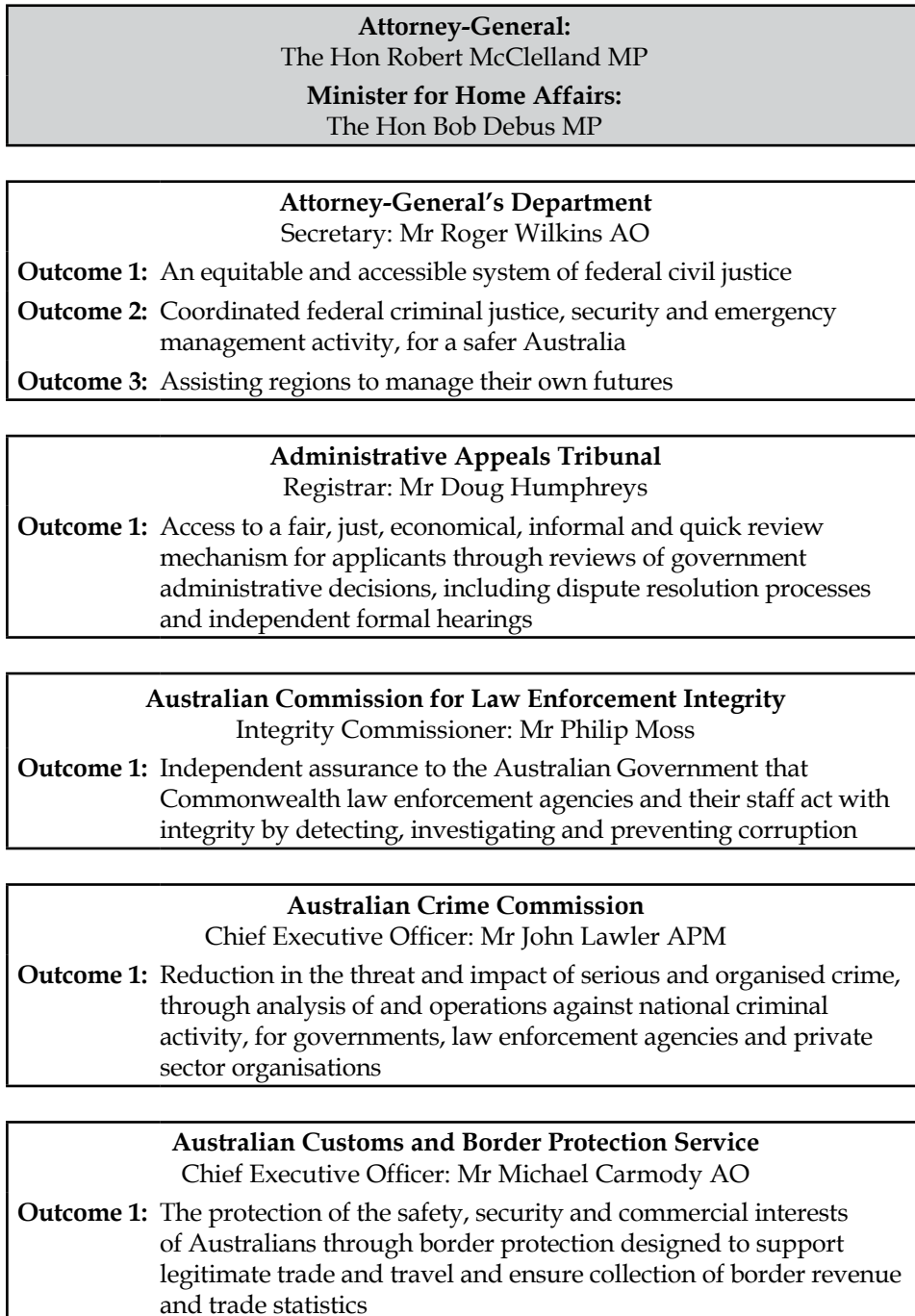
The portfolio comprises the Attorney-General's Department and 22 statutory and non-statutory bodies.

The portfolio's responsibilities are diverse. They include providing advice and services to the Commonwealth in the areas of access to justice, administrative, civil, family and international law, international adoption, international child abduction, federal courts and tribunals, domestic and international human rights issues, Indigenous justice, legal assistance, native title, personal property securities, bankruptcy, law reform, constitutional policy, censorship, copyright, legislative drafting, international crime cooperation, federal criminal law, law enforcement and prosecutions, national security and emergency management, customs and border control, the administration of Australia's non-self-governing territories and management of the Australian Government's interests in Australia's self-governing territories, including the Australian Capital Territory.

By providing expert advice and services in these areas, the portfolio contributes to the Australian Government's long-term reform agenda for a stronger, more secure and fairer Australia and an Australia capable of meeting new challenges.

Figure 1 on page 4 sets out the structure of the portfolio and the outcome statements for each agency except the Australian Government Solicitor, which is a statutory authority and government business enterprise. The resources made available in the 2009-10 Budget year for each agency in the portfolio (except the Australian Government Solicitor) are set out in table 1.

Figure 1: Attorney-General's portfolio structure and outcomes



Australian Federal Police

Commissioner: Mr Mick Keelty APM

Outcome 1: The safety and security of Australians and Australian interests, both nationally and internationally, through the investigation and prevention of crime against the Commonwealth

Outcome 2: A safe and secure environment through policing activities on behalf of the Australian Capital Territory Government

Australian Human Rights Commission

President and Chief Executive Officer: The Hon Catherine Branson QC

Outcome 1: An Australian society in which human rights are respected, protected and promoted through independent investigation and resolution of complaints, education and research to promote and eliminate discrimination, and monitoring, and reporting on human rights

Australian Institute of Criminology

Acting Director: Dr Tony Marks

Outcome 1: An informed Government and community through policy relevant research and the generation of a crime and justice evidence base and national knowledge centre

Australian Law Reform Commission

President: Professor David Weisbrot AM

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

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation

Director-General of Security: Mr David T Irvine AO

Outcome 1: Security for Australia and its interests – locally and internationally – through intelligence collection and advice that counters politically motivated violence, espionage, foreign interference, communal violence, sabotage, and attacks on the defence system

Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre

Chief Executive Officer: Mr Neil Jensen PSM

Outcome 1: A financial environment hostile to money laundering, financing of terrorism, major crime and tax evasion through industry regulation and the collection, analysis and dissemination of financial intelligence

Criminology Research Council

Chairman: Mr Laurie Glanfield AM

Outcome 1: Criminological research by funding projects relevant to the public policy of both Australian and State and Territory Governments

CrimTrac Agency

Chief Executive Officer: Mr Ben McDevitt AM APM

Outcome 1: Access to information that supports law enforcement agencies through collaborative national information systems and services

Family Court of Australia

Chief Executive Officer: Mr Richard Foster PSM

Outcome 1: As Australia's specialist superior family court, determine cases with complex law and facts, and provide national coverage as the appellate court in family law matters

Federal Court of Australia

Registrar: Mr Warwick Soden

Outcome 1: Through its jurisdiction, the Court will apply and uphold the rule of law to deliver remedies and enforce rights and in so doing, contribute to the social and economic development and well-being of all Australians

Federal Magistrates Court of Australia

Acting Chief Executive Officer: Mr Richard Foster PSM

Outcome 1: To provide the Australian community with a simple and accessible forum for the resolution of less complex disputes within the jurisdiction of the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia

High Court of Australia

Chief Executive and Principal Registrar: Mr Andrew Phelan

Outcome 1: To interpret and uphold the Australian Constitution and perform the functions of the ultimate appellate Court in Australia

Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia

Chief Executive and Inspector-General in Bankruptcy: Ms Veronique Ingram

Outcome 1: A personal insolvency system that minimises the impact of financial failure on the community, produces equitable outcomes for debtors and creditors and enjoys public confidence, through application of bankruptcy laws, regulation and trustee services

National Capital Authority

Chief Executive: Mr Gary Rake

Outcome 1: A National Capital which symbolises Australia's heritage, values and aspirations, is internationally recognised, and worthy of pride by Australians

National Native Title Tribunal

Registrar: Ms Stephanie Fryer-Smith

Outcome 1: Resolution of native title issues over land and waters

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Director: Mr Christopher Craigie SC

Outcome 1: Maintenance of law and order for the Australian community through an independent and ethical prosecution service in accordance with the Prosecution Policy of the Commonwealth

Office of Parliamentary Counsel

First Parliamentary Counsel: Mr Peter Quiggin PSM

Outcome 1: Laws that give legal effect to the intended policy and form a coherent and readable body of Commonwealth legislation through the drafting of Bills and amendments for passage by the Commonwealth Parliament

PORTFOLIO RESOURCES

Table 1 shows the total resources provided to the portfolio in the 2009–10 Budget year, by agency.

Table 1: Portfolio resources 2009–10

	Appropriation			Receipts (\$'000)	Total (\$'000)
	Bill No. 1 (\$'000)	Bill No. 2 (\$'000)	Special (\$'000)		
Attorney-General's Department					
Administered appropriations	613,726	24,990	35,814	25,427	699,957
Departmental appropriations	236,556	10,602	–	25,427	272,585
Total	850,282	35,592	35,814	50,854	972,542
Administrative Appeals Tribunal					
Administered appropriations	–	–	–	–	–
Departmental appropriations	32,451	–	–	1,085	33,536
Total	32,451	–	–	1,085	33,536
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity					
Administered appropriations	–	–	–	–	–
Departmental appropriations	4,127	–	–	–	4,127
Total	4,127	–	–	–	4,127
Australian Crime Commission					
Administered appropriations	–	–	–	–	–
Departmental appropriations	94,904	473	–	2,386	97,763
Total	94,904	473	–	2,386	97,763
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service					
Administered appropriations	831	–	380,000	–	380,831
Departmental appropriations	1,020,490	5,239	–	64,059	1,089,788
Total	1,021,321	5,239	380,000	64,059	1,470,619
Australian Federal Police					
Administered appropriations	33,522	–	–	–	33,522
Departmental appropriations	1,111,837	54,999	–	268,037	1,434,873
Total	1,145,359	54,999	–	268,037	1,468,395
Australian Human Rights Commission					
Administered appropriations	–	–	–	–	–
Departmental appropriations	13,711	–	–	4,085	17,796
Total	13,711	–	–	4,085	17,796
Australian Institute of Criminology					
Administered appropriations	–	–	–	–	–
Departmental appropriations	7,254	–	–	533 ¹	7,787
Total	7,254	–	–	533	7,787
Australian Law Reform Commission					
Administered appropriations	–	–	–	–	–
Departmental appropriations	3,387	–	–	166	3,553
Total	3,387	–	–	166	3,553

Table 1: Portfolio resources 2009–10 (continued)

	Appropriation			Receipts (\$'000)	Total (\$'000)
	Bill No. 1 (\$'000)	Bill No. 2 (\$'000)	Special (\$'000)		
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation					
Administered appropriations	–	–	–	–	–
Departmental appropriations	408,518	16,457	–	4,600	429,575
Total	408,518	16,457	–	4,600	429,575
Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre					
Administered appropriations	–	–	–	–	–
Departmental appropriations	57,336	409	–	920 ¹	58,665
Total	57,336	409	–	920	58,665
Criminology Research Council					
Administered appropriations	–	–	–	–	–
Departmental appropriations	338	–	–	238	576
Total	338	–	–	238	576
CrimTrac Agency					
Administered appropriations	–	–	–	–	–
Departmental appropriations	6,308	–	–	–	6,308
Total	6,308	–	–	–	6,308
Family Court of Australia					
Administered appropriations	430	–	–	–	430
Departmental appropriations	146,658	–	–	2,000	148,658
Total	147,088	–	–	2,000	149,088
Federal Court of Australia					
Administered appropriations	–	–	–	–	–
Departmental appropriations	84,040	–	–	5,673	89,713
Total	84,040	–	–	5,673	89,713
Federal Magistrates Court of Australia					
Administered appropriations	430	–	–	–	430
Departmental appropriations	27,808	–	–	–	27,808
Total	28,238	–	–	–	28,238
High Court of Australia					
Administered appropriations	–	–	–	–	–
Departmental appropriations	16,477	–	–	296	16,773
Total	16,477	–	–	296	16,773
Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia					
Administered appropriations	–	–	–	–	–
Departmental appropriations	40,892	–	2,259	2,230	45,381
Total	40,892	–	2,259	2,230	45,381
National Capital Authority					
Administered appropriations	10,738	2,500	–	–	13,238
Departmental appropriations	14,055	–	–	1,602	15,657
Total	24,793	2,500	–	1,602	28,895

Table 1: Portfolio resources 2009–10 (continued)

	Appropriation			Receipts (\$'000)	Total (\$'000)
	Bill No. 1 (\$'000)	Bill No. 2 (\$'000)	Special (\$'000)		
National Native Title Tribunal					
Administered appropriations	–	–	–	–	–
Departmental appropriations	29,682	–	–	84	29,766
Total	29,682	–	–	84	29,766
Office of Parliamentary Counsel					
Administered appropriations	–	–	–	–	–
Departmental appropriations	9,986	–	–	111	10,097
Total	9,986	–	–	111	10,097
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions					
Administered appropriations	–	–	–	–	–
Departmental appropriations	108,318	–	–	2,250	110,568
Total	108,318	–	–	2,250	110,568
Resources available within the portfolio	4,134,810	115,669	418,073	411,209	5,079,761

1. Estimates of receipts are as shown in agency statements.