



Australian Government
The Treasury

TSY/AU

Budget Related Paper Promises Kept for a Stronger Australia

Budget 1999-2000

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INTRODUCTION

The 1999-00 Budget vindicates the trust placed in the Coalition by the Australian people at the last election. This trust was earned by the vigorous pursuit of the national interest that has delivered for Australia:

- the lowest interest rates in a generation and continuing low inflation;
- a \$24 billion reduction in Government debt in just three years; and
- the return of the Commonwealth Budget to surplus in under three years.

To build an even stronger Australia, the Howard Government put to the Australian people a comprehensive plan to reform the current outdated, complex and unfair taxation system.

The Government's new tax system offers: personal income tax cuts so that over 80 per cent of taxpayers pay no more than a 30 cents top marginal rate of income tax;

- a \$4.5 billion cut in the annual cost of exports;
- over \$2 billion a year in extra family assistance;
- a \$3.5 billion crackdown on the black economy over three years;
- a 25 cent a litre cut to the cost of fuel used by heavy transport;
- a four per cent increase in pensions and other income support payments; and
- a 30 per cent tax rebate/benefit for private health insurance premiums already delivered.

Without this plan for a new tax system we cannot hope to sufficiently reward incentive, reduce red tape, make everyone pay their fair share of tax and secure an adequate revenue base for the States and Territories to provide the roads, bridges, schools and hospitals all Australians need.

Without this plan a different government would have to increase tax rates without compensation just to provide the same level of essential community services.

The Coalition sought and received a mandate to implement this programme and continue its sound economic management which has allowed Australia to stare down the worst of the Asian economic collapse and become one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

This document outlines how the Government has delivered on the commitments made to the Australian people at the last election to:

- improve health care for all Australians;
- create jobs and enhance education;
- strengthen the social and economic infrastructure of rural and regional Australia;
- support strong family relationships, boost mutual obligation, and combat the menace of illicit drugs; and

- increase funding for scientific and industrial research.

The spending initiatives of this budget meet the Government's commitments and consolidate the repair of the budget first undertaken in 1996 to provide both growth in the economy and ongoing budget surpluses.

It is this responsible approach of the Howard Government that has secured Australia's strong economic foundations for the new century.

BACKGROUND

The costings of the election commitments in this document are consistent with those contained in Budget Paper 2, and the 1998-99 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO).

These costings may differ from those contained in election documentation, reflecting the implementation of the Commonwealth's accrual budgeting framework, use of outturned pricing, refinement to costings and, in some instances, final decisions on implementation issues.

MYEFO MEASURES

The annual impacts of measures announced in the 1998-99 MYEFO are set out in this document in terms of impact on underlying cash balance, as they were in the MYEFO. The impacts of these MYEFO measures are separately identified in the Summary of Promises Kept (Table 1) in *italics*.

The MYEFO did not present estimates for 2002-03, and therefore for MYEFO measures, no funding is shown for 2002-03.

The forward estimates incorporate allowance for these measures on an accruals basis.

KEY

The following notations are used in this document:

- no resources provided in a particular year, or funding provided from existing resources

.. not zero but rounded to zero

\$m \$ million

Discrepancies in tables between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

In this document, the sign in front of the number reflects the impact of the change on the aggregate concerned. For example, a positive in an expense table reflects an increase in expenses.

NOTE ON THE IMPACT ON THE FORWARD ESTIMATES OF THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW TAX SYSTEM ESTIMATES

This document reports the financial impact of election commitments made by the Government following the Pre-Election Economic and Fiscal Outlook (PEFO), and as such, does not include the Government's tax reform package, A New Tax System (ANTS). Consistent with the requirements of the Charter of Budget Honesty, ANTS was incorporated into PEFO, as it was a Government decision made before the election was announced. Key elements of the ANTS package are summarised in this document.

Tables 1 – Summary of Promises Kept

Table 1: Summary of Promises Kept

	1999-00 \$m	2000-01 \$m	2001-02 \$m	2002-03 \$m
Health and Aged Care -- Expenses				
Enhanced respite care services	20.0	20.4	20.7	21.1
Pre 1 October 1997 Nursing Home Residents	4.9	3.5	3.3	3.5
Expanded Medicare easyclaim facilities	1.6	6.2	6.7	4.7
Developing a national strategic approach to improving asthma management	1.9	3.6	3.7	-
Strengthening support for women with breast cancer	0.8	1.3	1.0	1.0
Infrastructure support for health and medical research institutes	5.0	15.0	-	-
Fighting suicide	8.0	10.2	10.4	10.6
National Illicit Drug Strategy -- additional funding for drug treatment	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6
Improved living conditions in remote communities	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3
Bush Crisis Line upgraded	-	-	-	-
Simplifying aged care planning for rural and remote areas	1.2	1.9	1.2	1.0
Fly-in fly-out female general practitioner services to meet the needs of rural women	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1
Further training for remote area nurses	-	-	-	-
Retention payments for general practitioners in rural and remote areas	10.5	10.7	10.9	11.0
30 new Regional Health Service Centres	5.9	11.8	11.7	11.4
100 extra aged care beds in Regional Health Service Centres	-	0.3	0.6	1.1
Establishing regional medical schools	4.0	4.1	5.2	5.3
National Institute of Clinical Studies	-	-	-	-
Additional places for the James Cook University Medical School	-	1.2	2.2	3.0
Tough on Drugs in Sport	2.3	1.3	1.2	1.1
Funding for the Australian Sports Commission	1.9	50.9	46.1	49.1

Tables 1 – Summary of Promises Kept

Total Expenses -- Health and Aged Care	77.5	152.0	134.8	133.9
Economic Growth and Job Creation -- Expenses				
Establish Cooma Call and Technology Centre	1.7	-	-	-
Support for 1999 as Online Australia Year	-	-	-	-
<i>Australian Broadcasting Authority -- funding for planning requirements related to digital broadcasting (MYEFO measure)</i>	-	-	-	-
Regional telecommunications infrastructure fund	-	-	-	-
Commonwealth Technology Park -- Melbourne Docklands	-	-	-	-
Extension of Young Offender Pilot Programme	0.5	0.5	..	..
Improvement of School Students' Literacy and Numeracy Skills	29.9	31.1	23.0	-
Literacy and Numeracy in the Middle Years of Schooling	11.2	11.7	11.9	12.2
Extension of Commonwealth Funding for the National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools Strategy	30.0	30.0	30.0	-
Quality Teacher Programme	15.2	31.0	31.4	0.1
Increased Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme Boarding Allowances	3.9	4.2	4.7	5.1
Maintenance of Higher Education Research Infrastructure Funding	36.8	37.4	19.0	-
Funding Science Lectureships	5.0	10.0	10.0	-
Developing an enterprise culture -- women in small business	0.4	-	-	-
<i>Additional funding to Catholic Education Systems (MYEFO measure)</i>	98.3	103.8	106.6	-
<i>Extra student places for James Cook University (MYEFO measure)</i>	4.6	5.4	5.6	-
<i>Short-term Emergency Assistance for School-term Hostels (MYEFO measure)</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>Strategic Partnerships -- Industry Research and Training Scheme (MYEFO measure)</i>	12.4	23.4	24.0	-
Improve job opportunities by establishing a Return to Work programme	5.0	5.9	6.1	7.2
Extension of Work for the Dole programme to Year 12 school leavers	24.7	24.9	24.9	24.8

Workplace Reform -- Secret Ballots	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.6
Workplace Reform -- Plain English Legislation	0.4	-	-	-
Workplace Reform -- improvement to the operations of the <i>Affirmative Action (Equal Employment Opportunity for Women) Act 1986</i>	0.2	0.3	0.2	-
Developing an enterprise culture	2.0	2.2	2.2	-
Extension of Country of Origin Awareness Campaign	1.2	-	-	-
Support domestic tourism campaign	6.0	-	-	-
Competition Reform in Energy Markets	-	-	-	-
Extension of the Shipbuilding Production Bounty	13.7	12.4	1.5	0.7
Introduce Shipbuilding Innovation Scheme	9.1	9.8	10.4	11.2
Reallocation in R&D START funding	-9.1	-9.8	-10.4	-11.2
Establish Printing Industry Competitiveness Scheme	6.5	4.6	4.7	4.8
Boosting Australia's Innovation and Science Culture	1.5	0.8	-	-
Continuation of funding for the Pooled Development Funds Programme	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Establish a National Strategy for Biotechnology	9.8	7.8	-	-
Investment Ready Programme	-	-	-	-
Venture Awareness	-	-	-	-
Institute of Molecular Bioscience	-	-	-	-
Marine Science Centre	-	-	-	-
Greenhouse Challenge	-	-	-	-
Corporate Law Economic Reform Programme	2.8	2.0	3.5	0.9
Tax Reform Package	103.7	132.0	66.5	64.3
Additional funding for taxation reform	3.1	2.1	1.1	-
Business taxation reform	23.8	-	-	-
Fringe Benefits Tax reform	9.1	2.9	2.0	0.2
Savings Bonus for Older Australians	4.3	0.9	0.2	0.1
Binding Oral Advice by the Australian Taxation Office	2.0	4.3	3.7	3.8
Pay As You Go and New Withholding Arrangements	35.7	46.7	41.2	46.4
Tax Reform price exploitation	11.6	9.5	6.9	-
Australian Business Number	44.6	32.9	24.8	26.6
Implementation of Tax Reform Package	3.6	3.1	..	..

Tables 1 – Summary of Promises Kept

Total Expenses (excl. MYEFO outlays) -- Economic Growth and Job Creation	451.1	453.2	321.5	199.2
<i>Total MYEFO outlays -- Economic Growth and Job Creation</i>	115.3	132.6	136.2	-
Economic Growth and Job Creation -- Capital				
Tax Reform Package	10.7	15.3	7.7	7.5
Equity injection for A New Tax System initiatives	57.9	44.7	27.2	20.9
Business taxation reform	4.5	-	-	-
Total Capital -- Economic Growth and Job Creation	73.1	60.0	34.9	28.4
Economic Growth and Job Creation -- Revenue				
Continuation of funding for the Pooled Development Funds Programme	-	-2.0	-3.0	-5.0
Total Revenue -- Economic Growth and Job Creation	-	2.0	-3.0	-5.0
Rural and Regional Australia and the Environment -- Expenses				
Regional Forest Agreements	4.0	-	-	-
Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative	3.0	6.2	7.9	8.1
Supermarket to Asia Strategy	4.4	5.1	5.0	-
Ovine Johnes Disease Control and Evaluation Programme	1.5	0.8	0.4	0.1
Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy	4.0	4.0	4.1	-
Cost-sharing for emergency animal disease response	-	-	-	-
Food and Fibre Supply Chain Programme	3.0	3.0	3.1	-
Southern Shark Fishery Industry Development	-	-	-	-
Detering illegal fishing in Australia's subantarctic waters	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2
Sustainable Fisheries Network	-	-	-	-
National Recreational Fishing Survey	-	-	-	-

Extend Access to Justice in rural and regional Australia with five new community legal services	1.2	1.2	1.2	-
Eliminating TV Black Spots	-	-	-	-
Continuation of the Commonwealth Regional Arts Fund	2.5	2.5	-	-
Increased support for rural and regional New Apprenticeship incentive	7.8	9.9	11.0	12.7
Cultural Heritage Projects Programme	2.2	2.2	2.3	-
Living Cities Programme	10.2	20.5	20.0	-
Improved Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Surveillance	1.0	1.2	1.2	-
Shipping transport support for Australian Antarctic Programme	-	-	-	-
Protecting Australia's forests	1.8	-	-	-
Oceans Policy implementation	10.0	10.0	10.0	-
<i>Telstra Social Bonus -- additional funding for the Natural Heritage Trust (MYEFO measure)</i>	-	-	250.0	-
Protecting Sydney Harbour Foreshores	-	-	-	-
Establish rural call centres	4.6	7.7	7.6	7.7
Upgrade Tasmanian sporting facilities	-	-	-	-
Enhancement of Regional Tourism Programme	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Regional Minerals Programme -- Northwest Tasmania	1.0	4.0	-	-
Restoration of Urangan Pier	0.3	-	-	-
Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme -- response to review	20.4	20.5	21.1	21.7
Regional flood mitigation programme	6.0	7.0	7.0	-
National Highway and Roads of National Importance	19.0	68.0	78.0	30.0
Extend Road Safety Black Spot Programme	-	40.8	41.7	-
Bridge Upgrading Programme	6.0	6.0	6.0	-
Upgrade of Rockhampton Airport Runway	1.0	6.0	-	-
<i>Telstra Social Bonus -- Rural Transaction Centres (MYEFO measure)</i>	30.0	30.0	9.0	-
Additional Funding for Regional War Memorials Project	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1
Total Expenses (excl. MYEFO outlays) -- Rural and Regional Australia and the Environment	121.3	233.0	233.8	86.6

Tables 1 – Summary of Promises Kept

<i>Total MYEFO outlays -- Rural and Regional Australia and the Environment</i>	30.0	30.0	259.0	-
Families and the Community -- Expenses				
Additional counselling and mediation dispute resolution services	3.0	6.9	6.4	-
Expand supervised children's contact services by 25 additional services	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0
Establish Family Law advice telecommunication services	0.6	1.2	1.3	-
Enhancement of the National School Drug Education Strategy	1.0	2.1	3.7	3.7
Additional funding for Marriage and Relationship Education	2.0	2.0	2.0	-
Increase Men's access to Family Relationship Support Services	3.0	3.0	3.0	-
Improve access to Centrelink through Electronic Service Delivery	4.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
Expand respite support for carers of young people with disabilities	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.2
<i>Optical surveillance to assist in detecting cases of serious social security fraud (MYEFO measure)</i>	-16.5	-18.3	-18.8	-
Develop measures of relative disadvantage to target resources for indigenous Australians	3.2	2.5	-	-
Additional funding to extend Living in Harmony campaign	2.5	2.5	-	-
Adult migrant English programmes and settlement programmes	-	-	-	-
Additional funding for partnerships against domestic violence	3.0	5.3	8.3	8.3
Production of Documentary 'Australians at War'	3.0	2.0	-	-
Establish ANZAC Commemorative Site at Gallipoli, Turkey	1.2	-	-	-
Improve Claims Management Process	1.1	2.1	1.9	1.9
Total Expenses (excl. MYEFO outlays) -- Families and the Community	36.8	38.8	35.8	23.2
<i>Total MYEFO Outlays -- Families and the Community</i>	-16.5	-18.3	-18.8	-

Families and the Community -- Capital				
ANZAC Hall at the Australian War Memorial	-	-	-	-
Construction of a Memorial to Bomber Command	-	-	-	-
Total Capital -- Families and the Community	-	-	-	-
Australia's Cultural Identity -- Expenses				
Further support for Inveresk Museum and Art Gallery	1.5	-	-	-
Continuation of the Young and Emerging Artists Fund	1.3	1.3	-	-
Extend funding for Major Festivals Fund	0.8	0.8	-	-
Assist LOUDER Youth Festival	1.5	-	-	-
Maintenance of the funding base of the Cultural Development Programme	5.0	4.1	-	-
Extension of cultural touring programmes	3.0	3.0	-	-
Contemporary Music Development	3.0	3.4	-	-
<i>Grant to John Saunders Foundation (MYEFO measure)</i>	-	-	-	-
Referendum on whether Australia becomes a Republic	63.4	0.3	-	-
Contribute to construction of Maitland Federation Centre	-	-	-	-
Tamar River Festival	-	-	-	-
Inveresk Woodchopping Stadium	-	-	-	-
Strategy for tourism development, Burnie, Tasmania	-	-	-	-
Grant to Gum San Heritage Museum, Ararat, Victoria	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses -- Australia's Cultural Identity	79.5	12.9	0.0	0.0
International Relations and Security -- Expenses				
Establish a National Crime Information System (CrimTrac)	20.0	20.0	10.0	-
Building safer communities -- develop new approaches to crime prevention	3.5	5.6	6.1	6.2
Tough on drugs -- increased search capacity and purchase of x-ray technology to enhance capacity for drug detection at the nation's				

borders	3.3	7.2	7.8	7.7
Tough on drugs -- four mobile strike teams	5.2	6.3	6.4	6.4
Defence New Priorities	-	-	-	-
Opening of Australian Embassy in Zagreb	1.0	2.2	2.2	2.2
Total Expenses -- International Relations and Security	33.0	41.3	32.5	22.5
International Relations and Security -- Capital				
Tough on drugs -- increased search capacity and purchase of x-ray technology to enhance capacity for drug detection at the nation's borders	7.0	2.4	-	-
Opening of Australian Embassy in Zagreb	2.2	..	..	0.2
Total Capital -- International Relations and Security	9.2	2.4	0.0	0.2
Total Promises Kept - Expenses (excluding MYEFO outlays)				
	799.2	931.2	758.4	465.4
Total Promises Kept - MYEFO outlays	128.8	144.3	376.4	-
Total Promises Kept - Capital				
	82.3	62.4	34.9	28.6
Total Promises Kept - Revenue				
	-	-2.0	-3.0	-5.0

Health and Aged Care

The Health and Aged Care Portfolio

Enhanced respite care services

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	20.0	20.4	20.7	21.1

Explanation

The Government is expanding the provision of respite care for carers of people with dementia and other cognitive and behavioural problems. This measure will improve access to available respite services and increase the range of services and support.

Funding will be delivered through the National Respite for Carers Programme. There is currently around \$208 million available for carer respite funding over the next four years.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *More Support for Carers*.

Pre 1 October 1997 Nursing Home Residents

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
department of Health and Aged Care	4.5	3.2	3.0	3.2
Department of Veterans' Affairs	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total	4.9	3.5	3.3	3.5

Explanation

This measure is a cross-portfolio measure affecting both the Health and Aged Care and Veterans' Affairs portfolios.

The Government will provide funding to ensure that the small number of residents who have been in nursing home care since before 1 October 1997, and who move to another (non-extra service) facility, will not pay the accommodation charge.

Providers will be compensated for these residents to ensure that they are not financially disadvantaged by this change and to ensure access for any pre 1 October 1997 residents who move.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment.

Expanded Medicare easyclaim facilities

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	1.6	6.2	6.7	4.7

Explanation

The Government will establish up to 600 additional Medicare 'easyclaim' facilities in rural and remote areas across Australia to assist people in those areas to access Medicare claiming services in a timely

and convenient manner. Medicare claiming services will be provided via one of the various easyclaim technologies and from various outlets such as pharmacies, shire headquarters and rural transaction centres.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Expanding Medicare Access for Rural and Regional Australia*.

Further Information

Approximately 600 Medicare easyclaim facilities have already been installed in rural and remote communities and outer metropolitan growth areas. This measure will expand this network of Medicare claiming services.

Developing a national strategic approach to improving asthma management

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	1.9	3.6	3.7	-

Explanation

The Government will fund the development and implementation of a national strategic approach to improve asthma management.

This initiative will comprise a range of activities, including the development of education resources and tools to encourage best practice in asthma management. These activities will either be delivered by the Department of Health and Aged Care or private providers through competitive tendering processes. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare will develop a national system for the collection and collation of asthma statistics.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *The Best of Health -- A Balanced Plan for a Stronger Australia*.

Strengthening support for women with breast cancer

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	0.8	1.3	1.0	1.0

Explanation

The Government will provide support services for women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer, particularly those in regional and rural areas. The measure will improve health outcomes for women with breast cancer through access to specialised health care and improved dissemination of information regarding existing support services.

Women diagnosed with breast cancer living in regional and rural areas face special barriers to accessing treatment options and support services, a result of both geographic isolation and limited contact with specialist health care workers. It is proposed to identify and establish appropriate health care worker positions for the provision of support and information for women with breast cancer. This measure will require the establishment and administration of specialised training for appropriate

personnel.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Opportunity and Choice*.

Further Information

International experience has shown a significant improvement in outcomes for women with breast cancer who have received specialised health care.

Infrastructure support for health and medical research institutes

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	5.0	15.0	-	-

Explanation

The Government has decided to establish or augment physical facilities in health and medical research institutes. Many of Australia's top performing health and medical researchers are based in these independent institutes, which are acknowledged as world leaders for the conduct of high quality health and medical research.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Opportunity and Choice*.

Further Information

The funding will be provided through a competitive grants round. An expert Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council will advise the Minister on the allocation of the funds. Its recommendations will be based on the scientific excellence of the research currently being undertaken within an institute and the demonstrated need for new or augmented facilities in order to improve that level of research excellence in Australia.

Fighting suicide

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	0.8	10.2	10.4	10.6

Explanation

The Government will strengthen and build on the success of the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy to extend it across the whole age spectrum. This measure involves \$48 million of funding over the next five years.

The *Fighting Suicide* initiative will be delivered through a whole of community approach to suicide and build upon links and partnerships with government, non-government, business and community organisations which already provide valuable services and support to people at risk of suicide. In addition, it will support primary prevention and community development projects, monitor media reporting and portrayal of suicide, reduce access to methods of suicide and provide support to rural and indigenous communities that have a high incidence of suicide.

Specific activities will include improving the evidence base in suicide prevention, providing professional education and training, enhancing specialist services, and building networks between primary care providers including non-government, general practice and other organisations at a community level.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Our Families, Our Strength, Our Future*.

Further Information

Fighting Suicide will draw on the experience of the successful Youth Homelessness Task Force and *Tough on Drugs* Strategy to involve community organisations in the development and implementation of practical initiatives to prevent suicide.

National Illicit Drug Strategy -- additional funding for drug treatment

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6

Explanation

The Government will provide additional funding for drug treatment services under the Government's National Illicit Drug Strategy (NIDS) to establish new non-government organisation treatment services for illicit drug users and to allow the expansion of existing services. The funding is in addition to the \$51 million provided in 1997-98 for treatment services under NIDS.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Tough on Drugs -- Strengthening the Fight*.

Further Information

This programme builds on the National Illicit Drug Strategy announced by the Prime Minister in 1997-98, providing additional funding for the expansion of drug treatment services.

The additional funding will be complemented by an expansion of school-based drug education (to be implemented by the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs) and by law enforcement initiatives, continuing the Government's balanced and integrated approach to reducing the supply of, and demand for, illicit drugs and minimising the harm they cause.

See also the following related NIDS expense measures in Budget Paper 2:

- *National Illicit Drug Strategy -- early intervention and diversion* under the Health and Aged Care portfolio;
- *Enhancement of the National School Drug Education Strategy* under the Education, Training and Youth Affairs portfolio;
- *Tough on drugs -- four mobile strike teams* under the Attorney-General's portfolio;
- *Tough on drugs -- increased search capacity and purchase of x-ray technology to enhance capacity for drug detection at the nation's borders* under the Attorney-General's portfolio.

and the following related capital measures in Budget Paper 2:

- *National Illicit Drug Strategy -- early intervention and diversion* under the Attorney-General's portfolio; and
- *Tough on drugs -- increased search capacity and purchase of x-ray technology to enhance capacity for drug detection at the nation's borders* under the Attorney-General's portfolio.

Improved living conditions in remote communities

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission	-	-	-	-
Total	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3

Explanation

This measure is a cross-portfolio measure affecting both the Health and Aged Care and Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolios.

The Government will continue the Army/ATSIC Community Assistance Programme (AACAP) as part of a coordinated approach to provide environmental and health infrastructure to remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This measure will extend the AACAP project for another four years. The extension of this programme meets an election commitment made by the Government to improve the basic infrastructure available in remote Indigenous communities.

Work to be undertaken will include improvements to water, sewage, and power systems, the construction and upgrade of community housing and facilities, and improvements to roads and airstrips for an additional four or five remote Aboriginal communities.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Beyond Welfare*.

Further Information

Funding made available through this initiative will be matched by existing funds from ATSIC's National Aboriginal Health Strategy. The Army will contribute personnel, the use of construction equipment and expertise to the venture.

Bush Crisis Line upgraded

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will fund the continuation and expansion of the Bush Crisis Line, a 24-hour telephone crisis debriefing and counselling service which assists isolated rural and remote area health professionals to cope with job related trauma.

This initiative will provide improved services to a wide range of rural and remote health professionals, including those working in the field of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. This measure will increase the number of psychologist/counsellor positions, including provision for Indigenous co-counselling and access to locum/treatment services.

The cost of the measure is \$559,000 over three years and will be funded from within existing portfolio resources.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Opportunity and Choice*.

Further Information

The Bush Crisis Line is a personal support network which provides crisis debriefing and counselling for job related trauma among isolated rural and remote health practitioners and their families through a 24-hour free call 1800 number.

Simplifying aged care planning for rural and remote areas

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	1.2	1.9	1.2	1.0

Explanation

The Government will fund a review and improve planning arrangements for residential and community aged care. The review will focus on ensuring the needs of communities in rural and regional Australia are met in the planning process. This will provide greater flexibility and responsiveness in the delivery of aged care services to all older Australians.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Older Australians -- A Secure and Stable Future*.

Fly-in fly-out female general practitioner services to meet the needs of rural women

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1

Explanation

The Government will establish "fly-in fly-out" female general practitioner services for women living in rural and remote areas who currently do not have access to a female general practitioner.

The service will provide primary health care interventions -- such as cervical cancer screening, breast and skin examination -- and other preventive health care for women living in remote locations. The service will identify and provide the necessary intervention for other complex conditions such as cardio-vascular disease, diabetes, psychosocial problems and conditions related to the reproductive system and/or sexual health.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service will be centrally involved in the administration of the initiative, under arrangements that will seek to complement and draw together existing services in this area.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *The Best of Health -- A Balanced Plan for a Stronger Australia*.

Further training for remote area nurses

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will fund first line emergency care training for remote area nurses to enable them to better assist victims of emergencies and trauma who are remote from modern life saving equipment and back-up emergency transport. This additional training will enable remote area nurses to treat patients pending the availability of further medical treatment. It will also ensure that a mobile group of emergency medicine specialists, medical practitioners and specially trained emergency care nurses are able to provide courses of instruction in first line emergency care to remote area nurses.

The measure will complement the ongoing emergency aero-medical evacuation services provided to remote areas of Australia by the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The cost of the measure is \$75,000 a year and will be funded from within existing portfolio resources.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Opportunity and Choice*.

Retention payments for general practitioners in rural and remote areas

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	10.5	10.7	10.9	11.0

Explanation

The Government will introduce retention payments for long serving general practitioners as an incentive for them to continue to practice in rural and remote areas.

It is envisaged that eligibility for incentive payments and the amount paid to individual doctors will take into account both the length of service and the remoteness of the area they are practising in.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *The Best of Health (Rural and Regional Australia)*.

Further Information

Rural and remote communities are disadvantaged by their inability to attract and retain general practitioners. There remains a need to provide adequate general practitioner services in rural areas and to provide support and encouragement for rural health workers.

About half of the general practitioners who move to rural areas remain there for less than two years. The Rural and Remote General Practice Programme, administered by State and Territory based Rural Workforce Agencies, currently attempts to address the recruitment and retention problems by providing flexible packages of incentives in particular communities. The retention payments will complement this programme.

30 new Regional Health Service Centres

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	5.9	11.8	11.7	11.4

Explanation

The Government will establish 30 Regional Health Service Centres in rural communities across Australia. This will build on the successful Multipurpose Service programme under which the Commonwealth and States jointly fund services through flexible funding arrangements.

Regional Health Service Centres will enable a range of health, aged care and community services to be provided, based on community need, with particular emphasis on primary health care. These services could include rural health promotion, general practitioner services, illness and injury prevention, acute and palliative care, women's health, children's services, community nursing, aged care, mental health, podiatry, radiology and immunisation.

The Commonwealth will work closely with State and Territory Governments and local communities to ensure effective and coordinated services responsive to the needs of local communities. Where necessary, community planning managers will be employed to assist communities in the planning of services to reduce establishment times, assist in transition arrangements and ensure that services are responsive to community needs. Information technology infrastructure will be funded to enhance services and skills by linking Regional Health Service Centres to other services and infrastructure.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *The Best of Health (Rural and Regional Health)*.

100 extra aged care beds in Regional Health Service Centres

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	-	0.3	0.6	1.1

Explanation

The Government will fund 100 additional residential aged care places for Regional Health Service Centres, building upon its commitment to provide flexible service alternatives for older Australians living in rural and remote areas.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *The Best of Health (Rural and Regional Health)*.

Establishing regional medical schools

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	4.0	4.1	5.2	5.3

Explanation

The Government will establish a clinical school to be based in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, and a medical school at James Cook University in Queensland. This measure is supported by an allocation from the Education, Training and Youth Affairs Portfolio for 60 medical places at James Cook University, including 20 new places.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *The Best of Health (Rural and Regional Health)*.

Further Information

The Government made a commitment to provide \$10 million in capital funding for a new medical school at James Cook University.

This funding, conditional upon Australian Medical Council accreditation of the medical school, is provided on the understanding that it matches \$10 million pledged by the Queensland Government. Some of the funding for the establishment of a clinical school at Wagga Wagga will be resourced from existing portfolio allocations.

There is a shortage of medical practitioners in rural areas. Evidence suggests that both increasing the number of rural students in medicine and increasing exposure to rural service in medical training will improve the recruitment and retention of medical practitioners in rural areas. This measure is consistent with other initiatives such as providing financial assistance to universities to increase the number of indigenous and rural students enrolled in medicine.

See the related expense measure below titled *Additional places for the James Cook University Medical School*.

National Institute of Clinical Studies

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Health and Aged Care	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government has already committed \$20.2 million for the establishment of a National Institute of Clinical Studies, which will provide resources for evidence-based clinical practice. The work of the Institute will assist in improving health outcomes and containing health costs in the public and private systems. It will work with clinicians and their teams to develop and implement best practice clinical

care through acquiring and developing clinical care measurement and assessment skills and process management techniques. There is to be a review after two years of operation.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *The Best of Health -- A Balanced Plan for a Stronger Australia*.

Further Information

In *The Best of Health -- A Balanced Plan for a Stronger Australia*, the Government made a commitment to provide \$20 million over 4 years (on a cash outlays basis).

In the MYEFO the Government announced funding of \$5.1 million for 1999-00 and \$5.2 million for 2000-01. Conditional funding of \$5.2 million for 2001-02 and \$5.3 million for 2002-03 was included in the Contingency Reserve at that time.

There has since been a rephrasing of funding to take account of the time required to establish the Institute, which may not be fully operational before the end of 1999. Funding is now around: \$2.5 million for 1999-00; \$7.5 million for 2000-01; \$5.1 million for 2001-02; and \$5.2 million for 2002-03.

The Education, Training and Youth Affairs Portfolio

Additional places for the James Cook University Medical School

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	-	1.2	2.2	3.0

Explanation

The Government will provide funding for 60 medical places at James Cook University (JCU) in Queensland commencing at the start of the 2001 academic year.

The increased funding honours an election commitment to support the allocation of \$10 million from the Health and Aged Care portfolio for capital works to establish the JCU Medical School. This is conditional on matched funding being provided by the Queensland Government.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *The Best of Health (Rural and Regional Health)*.

Further Information

Twenty of the 60 medical places will be new places allocated to JCU, while the remaining 40 places will be transferred from existing medical schools. Five of the new student places will be earmarked for indigenous students, and 15 for students from rural or remote areas. Institutions prepared to release places from medical schools will, subject to negotiation, be able to reallocate resources to other purposes.

See related Health and Aged Care portfolio measure above entitled *Establishing regional medical schools*.

The Industry, Science and Resources Portfolio

Tough on Drugs in Sport

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Australian Sports Commission	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Australian Sports Drug Agency	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.0
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	1.1	-	-	-
Total	2.3	1.3	1.2	1.1

Explanation

The Government will fund initiatives to enhance current activity to deter the use of banned performance enhancing drugs. The major elements of the initiative include:

- enhancement of the Australian Sports Drug Agency's existing anti-doping programme to increase testing numbers and provide the best available analytical detection technology;
- hosting an international drugs in sport symposium to provide a broad context for gaining the commitment of other national governments to implement consistent anti-doping programmes; and
- funding for the Australian Sports Commission to assist sports to update their anti-doping policies and provide education about policy matters and associated responsibilities.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Tough on Drugs -- Strengthening the Fight* and *A Winning Advantage* to combat the illegal use of drugs in sport.

Further Information

The \$1.1 million cost of the international drugs in sport symposium is to be absorbed by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources. See the related expense measure in Budget Paper 2 titled *Department of Industry, Science and Resources -- use of departmental expenses to partially offset election commitments and other measures*.

Funding for the Australian Sports Commission

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Australian Sports Commission	1.9	50.9	46.1	49.1

Explanation

The Government will guarantee support for sport and recreation by continuing the current funding arrangements for the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) from 2000-01 and provide additional funding of \$1.8 million to assist Australia's Paralympic athletes prepare for the Sydney 2000 Paralympics.

The funding will enable maintenance of the national sports network developed by the ASC in consultation with all the States and Territories and with national sporting organisations.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitments in *A Winning Advantage*, including those for athlete preparation for the Sydney Olympics and Paralympics.

Further Information

The ASC expects to obtain a further \$26.6 million in revenue over the four years to 2002-03 from non-budget sources. The revenue is likely to come from contributions and fees for the delivery of programmes and services to national sporting organisations and government agencies.

Economic Growth and Job Creation

The Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Portfolio

Establish Cooma Call and Technology Centre

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	1.7	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will support the establishment of a Call and Technology Centre in Cooma, NSW to improve information technology and telecommunications infrastructure and services in the Cooma region.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment.

Further Information

The proposed grant is a one-off payment to set up the facility and fund its initial running. It is expected that income flows and community contributions would cover all ongoing recurrent costs of the Centre. Implementation is scheduled for July 1999.

Support for 1999 as Online Australia Year

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will support 1999 as Online Australia Year. This initiative will build on the momentum and interest generated in the lead-up to Online Australia Day -- a national day of awareness raising coordinated by the National Office for the Information Economy on 27 November 1998. A programme of events, developed through consultation with industry, business, community and government stakeholders, will be conducted from March to November 1999.

Funding for this measure of \$1.1 million in 1999-2000 will be offset from savings in departmental expenses of the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Securing Our Information Future*.

Australian Broadcasting Authority -- funding for planning requirements related to digital broadcasting

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Australian Broadcasting Authority	-	-	-	-

NOTE: The 1998-99 MYEFO provided estimates of the impact of measures on the underlying cash balance.

Explanation

The Government committed \$0.5 million in 1998-99 on a cash outlays basis in the MYEFO.

This measure was reported in the MYEFO as follows:

"The Government has provided additional funding to the Australian Broadcasting Authority in 1998-99 to facilitate forward planning for the introduction of digital television broadcasting on 1 January 2001."

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Securing Our Information Future*.

Regional telecommunications infrastructure fund

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03

Expense (\$million)				
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-	-	-	-

Explanation

Recognising the significant gaps in the quality and cost of Telecommunications services between metropolitan and non-metropolitan Australia, the Government has previously introduced a five-year (from 1996-97) \$250 million Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund called Networking the Nation. This provides funding for regional, rural and remote communities to identify their communications needs, and develop and implement projects that meet those needs.

From the Telstra Social Bonus a further \$81 million will be allocated over three years to extend the scheme. This will be used for increased Internet Points of Presence; improved mobile phone coverage on major highways; and assistance to isolated island communities and the Australian Antarctic Territory.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Communications: Making Australia Stronger*, and *Regional Australia Internet Access*.

Commonwealth Technology Park -- Melbourne Docklands

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide \$22.5 million over 4 years (\$2 million in 1999-00) to help fund the development of a world class science and technology park in the Melbourne Docklands.

The park will focus on industrial research and is likely to generate \$400 million in new investment over the next 10 years.

The Government's contribution is to be funded from the Federation Fund.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *A Vision for Excellence*.

The Education, Training and Youth Affairs Portfolio

Extension of Young Offender Pilot Programme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	0.5	0.5	..	..

Explanation

The Government will provide funding to extend the Young Offender Pilot Programme to assist young offenders in rural and remote locations in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. This meets the election commitment to deliver additional funding to the programme.

The programme provides intensive support (job search training, career counselling and the development of literacy and numeracy skills) for juvenile offenders about to return to the community. It uses a range of strategies to assist in their integration into mainstream community life, education, training and employment. Intensive support is given to offenders while they are in custody and continues post-release.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *A Safer and Stronger Australia*.

Improvement of School Students' Literacy and Numeracy Skills

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	29.9	31.1	23.0	-

Explanation

The Government will continue funding for the existing National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy. The Strategy, which was due to end in 1999, will now continue until 2002. Funding for the Literacy and Numeracy Programme will provide support to schools to measurably improve the literacy and numeracy skills of students in the early years of school who are not meeting the national benchmarks, including support for Indigenous students as a priority area. This will ensure students do not leave school without the literacy and numeracy skills to enable them to enter work or further training.

For further information see the related expense measure below titled *Literacy and Numeracy in the Middle Years of Schooling*.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Raising Standards* to provide additional funding to further improve literacy and numeracy in schools.

Literacy and Numeracy in the Middle Years of Schooling

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	11.2	11.7	11.9	12.2

Explanation

The Government will extend the Literacy and Numeracy Programme to the middle years of schooling to ensure that students have the basic literacy and numeracy skills to cope with the demands of the secondary school curriculum.

This funding will support the implementation of the National Literacy and Numeracy Plan into the middle years of schooling and meets the Government's 1998 election commitment. The funding, which will commence on 1 January 2000, will support innovative and nationally significant initiatives to assist students who have progressed to later primary and early secondary school without achieving a

minimum acceptable standard of literacy and numeracy.

See also the related expense measure above titled *Improvement of School Students' Literacy and Numeracy Skills*.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Raising Standards*.

Extension of Commonwealth Funding for the National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools Strategy

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	30.0	30.0	30.0	-

Explanation

The Government announced in its 1998 election policy statement for schools, that it would provide support for the continued development of Asian languages and an understanding of Asian cultures in our schools. By providing funding for another three years for the National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools Strategy, the Government has honoured that commitment.

The Strategy is a collaborative initiative of Commonwealth, State and Territory governments. It supports Asian languages and studies in all school systems in order to improve Australia's capacity and preparedness to interact internationally, in particular with key Asian economies. In the short to medium term the Strategy targets the languages of our four most significant trading partners -- Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, Korean and Indonesian.

This measure delivers on the Government's commitment in *Raising Standards*.

Quality Teacher Programme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	15.2	31.0	31.4	0.1

Explanation

The Government will provide funding to update and improve the skills and professionalism of teachers in both government and non-government schools. This measure meets the Government's 1998 election commitment to strengthen the skills of the teaching profession.

The programme will provide professional development to renew teacher skills and understanding of literacy, numeracy, mathematics, science, information technology and vocational education. The initiative will specifically target teachers who have completed formal training ten or more years ago, casual teachers and teachers who are re-entering the teaching force. Consultations about the initiative will take place from June to December 1999. Programme activities will be initiated in February 2000.

The professional development programme can be provided by government and non-government education authorities, professional associations or suitably qualified consortiums of education providers (including schools or clusters of schools) in identified Commonwealth priority areas.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Raising Standards*.

Increased Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme Boarding Allowances

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	3.9	4.2	4.7	5.1

Explanation

The Government has increased the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Scheme basic and additional boarding allowances from 1999. The Government is committed to providing all Australians access to quality education.

The AIC Scheme helps families of students who are unable to attend an appropriate government school on a daily basis -- primarily due to geographic isolation. This increase in allowances recognises the barriers to education faced by many isolated families and the extra costs associated with the schooling of their children. It will affect approximately 7,800 students.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Raising Standards*.

Further Information

The increase in allowances took effect from 1 January 1999. It increases the basic boarding allowance from \$2,900 to \$3,500, restoring the rate to 55 per cent of the average boarding fee. It also increases the upper limit that can be received under a combination of the basic and additional boarding allowances, bringing it in line with ABSTUDY's school fees allowance for boarders. The increase means that the maximum amount that can be received under both the AIC boarding allowances is now \$4,377. The increased amounts will apply to both primary and secondary students where previously they received different levels of assistance.

Maintenance of Higher Education Research Infrastructure Funding

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	36.8	37.4	19.0	-

Explanation

The Government has increased the funding for higher education research infrastructure by \$93.3 million over the period 1999-2000 to 2001-02. It provides funding to support university facilities such as libraries, computing centres, animal houses, herbaria and experimental farms, salaries of research staff and equipment expenses.

This initiative ensures that funding does not fall below 1996 levels and honours the Government's election commitment in its *Higher Education Policy Statement*. The measure takes effect from 1 January 2000.

Funding Science Lectureships

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	5.0	10.0	10.0	-

Explanation

The Government will provide funding of \$25 million from 1999-2000 to 2001-02, commencing 1 January 2000, to fund university science lectureships. The measure will enable universities to respond quickly and effectively to demand for new undergraduate and post-graduate science courses, which give students the new knowledge and skills necessary to meet the needs of emerging industries and technologies.

The design and delivery of courses will be developed cooperatively by industry and universities. This additional funding honours the election commitment to provide new funding to support Australia becoming a knowledge-based economy and to improve the effectiveness of our institutions in developing, transferring and applying knowledge.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *A Vision for Excellence*.

Developing an enterprise culture - women in small business

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	0.4	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide funding in 1999-2000 for the development of nationally recognised training materials and a training programme to enhance management skills for women in small business. These will be made available through Vocational Education and Training providers in a self-paced learning format.

Information on the products will be disseminated through on-line technology, seminars and printed material, linked to broader information initiatives by the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business.

This funding will meet the Government's 1998 election commitment to support women participating effectively in small business, which is vital to generating and maintaining employment, growth and prosperity.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Opportunity and Choice*.

Additional funding to Catholic Education Systems

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				

<i>Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs</i>	98.3	103.8	106.6	-
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Note: The 1998-99 MYEFO provided estimates of the impact of measures on the underlying cash balance.

Explanation

The Government committed \$135.3 million in 1998-99 on a cash outlays basis in the MYEFO.

This measure was reported in the MYEFO as follows:

"The Government will provide increased funding to the Catholic school systems in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory. This decision follows an independent assessment of the needs of these systems conducted by the Non-government Schools Funding Review Committee. The committee was appointed by the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs to advise on any significant changes in financial need which warrant increased Commonwealth funding to non-government school systems. The measure takes effect from 1 January 1998."

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Raising Standards*.

Extra Student places for James Cook University

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
<i>Expense (\$million)</i>				
<i>Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs</i>	4.6	5.4	5.6	-

Note: The 1998-99 MYEFO provided estimates of the impact of measures on the underlying cash balance.

Explanation

The Government committed \$2.1 million in 1998-99 on a cash outlays basis in the MYEFO.

This measure was reported in the MYEFO as follows:

"To support access to higher education, particularly for potential students from Far North Queensland, the Government will provide funding to support an additional 450 student places in 1999 at James Cook University. This initiative is consistent with the Government's commitment to support access to higher education for students from rural and isolated areas."

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in its *Higher Education Policy* statement.

Short-term Emergency Assistance for School-term Hostels

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
<i>Expense (\$million)</i>				

<i>Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs</i>	-	-	-	-
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Note: The 1998-99 MYEFO provided estimates of the impact of measures on the underlying cash balance.

Explanation

The Government committed \$0.3 million in 1998-99 on a cash outlays basis in the MYEFO (refer page 47 of the MYEFO).

Short-term emergency funding totalling \$0.3 million has been provided in 1998-99 to assist school term hostels in significant financial difficulty, and to ensure that the hostels would be available in 1999 for children living in rural and remote areas.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Raising Standards*.

Strategic Partnerships -- Industry Research and Training Scheme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
<i>Expense (\$million)</i>				
<i>Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs</i>	12.4	23.4	24.0	-

Note: The 1998-99 MYEFO provided estimates of the impact of measures on the underlying cash balance.

Explanation

This measure was reported in the MYEFO as follows:

"The Government is providing additional funding for the Strategic Partnerships -- Industry, Research and Training (SPIRT) Scheme. The Scheme supports collaboration between higher education institutions and industry by funding collaborative research projects, awards and fellowships. The Scheme also attracts financial support from industry, broadening the financial base of universities. The additional Commonwealth funding will maintain the baseline level of new grants and provide continuing support for ongoing activities."

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in its *Higher Education Policy Statement*.

The Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business Portfolio

Improve job opportunities by establishing a Return to Work programme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03

Expense (\$million)				
Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business	5.0	5.9	6.1	7.2

Explanation

The Government will provide flexible assistance to primary care givers who return to the workforce after an absence of two years or more. The assistance will be in areas such as skills assessments, return to work and career planning, confidence building, increasing familiarity with current technology and facilitating access to relevant training. This measure will improve job opportunities and choices for unemployed people returning to the workforce and will be of particular benefit to women who have been out of the workforce caring for young children.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Pathways to Employment*.

Extension of Work for the Dole programme to Year 12 school leavers

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business	24.7	24.9	24.9	24.8

Explanation

The Government will expand the Work for the Dole scheme to accommodate those Year 12 school leavers who have been receiving unemployment payments for three months or more.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Working for the Dole*.

Further Information

This measure will provide Year 12 school leavers with access to valuable work experience in order to enhance their employment prospects and to provide them with the opportunity to contribute positively to local communities. The measure will provide for up to 6,000 places a year for Year 12 school leavers on full rate of unemployment payments.

Workplace Reform - Secret Ballots

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.6

Explanation

The Government will introduce secret ballots for decisions about protected industrial action. Secret ballots will enhance the democratic decision-making processes involved in protected industrial action, help to improve the arrangements for bargaining, strengthen the accountability and responsiveness of unions to their members and minimize unnecessary protected industrial action.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *More Jobs, Better Pay*.

Workplace Reform - Plain English Legislation

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business	0.4	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will review and restructure the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*. If appropriate, a plain English version of the Act will be developed. This measure will help employers and employees to better understand the workplace relations regulatory framework, and the rights, obligations and opportunities the system provides. A plain English version of the Act will allow employers and employees to assume greater direct responsibility for workplace matters.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *More Jobs, Better Pay*.

Workplace Reform -- improvement to the operations of the Affirmative Action (Equal Employment Opportunity for Women) Act 1986

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business	0.2	0.3	0.2	-

Explanation

The Government will make some changes to Australia's Affirmative Action framework. It will change the names of the Affirmative Action Agency, the Director and the Act and will establish an Advisory Board. New streamlined reporting arrangements will apply and education materials will also be developed.

This measure is aimed at improving the operation of the legislation with an increased focus on outcomes achieved, a reduction in paperwork and stronger workplace links.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *More Jobs, Better Pay*.

Developing an enterprise culture

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business	2.0	2.2	2.2	-

Explanation

The Government will initiate a three year grants programme called the Small Business Enterprise Culture Programme (SBECP). The Programme's key aim will be to foster the development and enhancement of small business owner/managers' skills and to increase recognition of the importance of such skills to business viability. To achieve this aim, the Programme will support projects that enhance access to skills development and mentoring services which meet the needs of small businesses.

The measure will support selected demonstration projects that provide skills development initiatives and mentoring services to either employing small businesses or those capable of taking on employees. A specific element of the SBECP will be devoted to supporting information access and business support initiatives for women owner/managers of small businesses.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in A Small Business Agenda for the new Millennium.

Further Information

The SBECP's key elements will be the three election commitments made by the Government in A Small Business Agenda for the New Millennium (1998). These are:

- the establishment and support of mentoring programmes for small businesses;
- fostering skills development for micro business managers; and
- assisting the growth and prosperity of women in small business.

The Industry, Science and Resources Portfolio

Extension of Country of Origin Awareness Campaign

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	1.2	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will assist consumers by extending the existing community awareness campaign on country of origin labelling. The major activity will be a community awareness campaign, primarily focused around a 'look for labels' message.

The campaign will seek to establish a greater marketing advantage in country of origin labels, encouraging Australian firms to voluntarily include such labels as part of their marketing strategy, rather than as a consequence of a legislative requirement.

This measure meets the Government's election commitment set out in *A Fair Deal*.

Support domestic tourism campaign

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	6.0	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will support a comprehensive Commonwealth/State/industry domestic tourism "attitudinal change" campaign to help build a stronger, sustainable and internationally competitive Australian tourism industry.

With a focus on the diversity, quality and accessibility of Australian tourism, the campaign aims to increase the level of expenditure on domestic tourism activities and employment, particularly in regional Australia by using strategies to reach and motivate target markets.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Australia Bound*.

Further Information

The campaign will be industry-driven and Commonwealth support is contingent upon contributions from States, Territories and industry. An initial \$2.0 million was allocated in 1998-99, with the remaining \$6.0 million to be provided in 1999-2000.

Competition Reform in Energy Markets

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government has earmarked \$5.6 million of existing funding over the five years 1998-99 to 2001-03 (\$1.5 million in 1999-00) to accelerate competition reforms in energy markets to ensure that the economic and environmental benefits of reform are realised as soon as possible.

Funding was provided as part of the Prime Minister's Statement of 20 November 1997 titled *Safeguarding the Future: Australia's Response to Climate Change*.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Minerals to Market*.

Extension of the Shipbuilding Production Bounty

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	13.7	12.4	1.5	0.7

Explanation

This measure honours the Government's 1998 election commitment to extend the Shipbuilding Production Bounty to support the development of a stronger and more sustainable Australian shipbuilding industry.

The Government extended the Shipbuilding Production Bounty from 1 July 1999 to 31 December 2000. The Bounty will be payable at a reduced rate of 3 per cent of eligible production costs, with a run down period over three years to 2003.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Making Industry Stronger and A Stronger Tasmania*.

Further Information

For a vessel to be eligible for the Bounty, final contracts need to be in place by 31 December 2000 and the vessel delivered by 31 December 2003. Ships exported to New Zealand are ineligible.

Parliament recently passed the *Bounty (Ships) Amendment Act 1999*, which allows for the extension of the Shipbuilding Production Bounty. Only shipbuilders registered under the Act are eligible.

Introduce Shipbuilding Innovation Scheme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	9.1	9.8	10.4	11.2

Explanation

The Government will provide assistance to registered shipbuilders at a rate of 50 per cent of innovation expenditure for up to a total of 2 per cent of eligible production costs. The measure is designed to develop a stronger, sustainable and internationally competitive Australian shipbuilding industry by encouraging product research and development and design innovation.

The Shipbuilding Innovation Scheme applies to eligible research and development (R&D) activities carried out by registered shipbuilders. Eligible R&D expenditure includes adaptive engineering directed at product and process innovation in the shipbuilding industry.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Making Industry Stronger, and A Stronger Tasmania*.

Further Information

Eligible costs may be claimed, provided they are incurred after 30 June 1999 and prior to 1 July 2004, and providing the vessel is completed before 1 July 2004. There will not be any payment on ships exported to New Zealand.

Parliament recently passed the *Bounty (Ships) Amendment Act 1999*, which allows for the introduction of the Shipbuilding Innovation Scheme. Funding for the measure will be offset from R & D START. See the related expense measure below titled *Reallocation in R & D START Funding*.

Reallocation in R&D START funding

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-9.1	-9.8	-10.4	-11.2

Explanation

Following the Government's decision to introduce the Shipbuilding Innovation Scheme from within existing allocations, the Government agreed to reallocate funds from the R&D START Programme, which also provides funding for innovation.

The assistance provided and reallocation of funds meets the Government's 1998 election commitments set out in *Making Industry Stronger*.

See also the related expense measure above titled *Introduce Shipbuilding Innovation Scheme*.

Establish Printing Industry Competitiveness Scheme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	6.5	4.6	4.7	4.8

Explanation

The Government will allow book printers to claim 4 per cent of the purchase price of all paper inputs used in the production of eligible books completed on or after 1 January 1999 but before 1 July 2003.

This measure meets the Government's 1998 election commitment to the printing industry to address the imbalance where average duty of 4 per cent is payable by Australian printers on paper products, while the importation of competing books is tariff free. The Print Industry Competitiveness Scheme will encourage new investment in the industry and secure jobs.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Making Industry Stronger*.

Further Information

To minimise compliance and administrative costs, payment of a lower across the board rate of 4 per cent (average duty paid) on all paper purchases, whether duty is payable or not, is proposed.

Book printers will be required to keep records of the use of paper inputs and may claim back 4 per cent of the purchase price, whether or not the paper was actually imported.

Boosting Australia's Innovation and Science Culture

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	1.5	0.8	-	-

Explanation

The Science and Technology Awareness Programme is designed to raise community awareness of science and technology issues, to make science and technology interesting to children and to encourage them to undertake a science-based career. The programme includes the Australia Prize which is an international award for an outstanding achievement in a selected area of science and technology promoting human welfare.

The Government will review the Programme for report back in the 2000-01 Budget. Funding of core elements of the programme will be continued pending the review. Funding of \$0.8 million for the Australia Prize has been continued for 2000-01, reflecting the significant lead times and the need to call for nominations well in advance.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *A Vision for Excellence*.

Continuation of funding for the Pooled Development Funds Programme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Revenue (\$million)				
Australian Taxation Office	-	-2.0	-3.0	-5.0

Explanation

The Government will provide funding to administer the Pooled Development Funds Programme until 2002-03. The Programme contributes to the development of a stronger, sustainable and internationally competitive Australian industry by developing the market for patient equity capital, including venture capital, for growing small to medium enterprises.

Revenue

Following the completion of a review of the Pooled Development Fund (PDF) programme, the Government has decided to enhance the programme to improve the effectiveness and attractiveness of PDFs as an investment vehicle, particularly for superannuation funds. The changes more than meet the specific election commitments made by the Government to encourage additional capital raising under the programme and will be effective from the start of the 1999-2000 income year. Specific measures to be introduced are set out below.

- Better define the objective of the programme as 'to develop and demonstrate the market for patient equity capital, including venture capital, for growing small and medium sized enterprises and to provide a more competitive tax regime for such investments.'
- Permit widely held Australian superannuation funds and similarly regulated overseas pension funds and limited partnerships of such pension funds, to wholly own a PDF.
- Permit PDFs to buy back their own shares and to return capital to their shareholders, subject to a waiting period of two years for a new or merged PDF, and permit PDFs to make loans to equity investees subject to a maximum of 20 per cent of the PDF's capital base.
- Allow the PDF Registration Board to approve the acquisition of non-transferable options in investee companies as additional investments and to approve the merger of PDFs as long as no cash consideration is paid to shareholders as part of the merger, other than a bona fide dividend.
- Amend the *Pooled Development Fund Act 1992* to improve compliance and performance monitoring and to provide the PDF Registration Board with the power to revoke registration for non-compliance with any of the provisions of the Act.
- Change the test that the PDF Registration Board must be satisfied that an applicant for a new PDF 'can and will' take certain action in the future to one where the Board must be satisfied that the applicant 'is, on the evidence presented, reasonably capable of implementing the plan provided to it.'
- Amend the current definition of the term 'associate' to state that it does not apply where the association did not exist prior to the persons becoming shareholders in the PDF.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Making Industry Stronger*.

Further Information

The revenue section of the table shows the future reductions in the revenue associated with the programme enhancements.

Establish a National Strategy for Biotechnology

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	6.0	4.0	-	-
Department of Health and Aged Care	3.8	3.8	-	-
Total	9.8	7.8	-	-

Explanation

This measure is a cross-portfolio measure affecting both the Industry, Science and Resources and Health and Aged Care portfolios.

The Government will fund the establishment of:

- Biotechnology Australia in the Department of Industry, Science and Resources; and
- a statutory office in the Health and Aged Care portfolio to regulate gene technology and its application on a consistent basis.

Biotechnology Australia will develop a national strategy for biotechnology, a public awareness programme to provide information about biotechnology and gene technology, provide training in the effective management of intellectual property and secure better access to genetic resources and gene

collections. It will also support a new Council of Ministers on Biotechnology.

The regulation of gene technology and its applications will operate in close collaboration with existing systems for the regulation of food, agricultural and veterinary chemicals, industrial chemicals and therapeutic goods.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Primed for Growth*.

Further Information

A new Council of Ministers on Biotechnology will be established, consisting of the Ministers for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, the Environment and Heritage, Health and Aged Care and Industry, Science and Resources.

Negotiations with the States and Territories will be continued to secure their support and active involvement in the establishment of the statutory office on gene technology and its operations.

Funding for the statutory Gene Technology Office is provided for a two year establishment phase, with cost recovery to be applied once the system is fully operational.

Investment Ready Program

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-	-	-	-

Explanation

In the election statement *Making Industry Stronger* the Government undertook to develop a new Investment Ready programme. The programme will strengthen the information available to emerging early stage companies about the requirements of potential investors, and also to enhance the abilities of small firms to manage commercialisation of technology and to meet investors' requirements.

The key objective is to increase the level of commercialisation of Australian technology by supporting small firms.

The programme will operate as a new element of the R&D START Programme with up to \$20 million over four years being reallocated within the existing R&D START Programme.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Making Industry Stronger*.

Further Information

Extensive consultation has occurred with industry, state and Commonwealth government agencies, the research community, consultants, financiers and operators of technology parks and incubators in all states (March/April 1999). The new programme will become available to firms in the second half of 1999.

Venture Awareness

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03

Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-	-	-	-

Explanation

In *Making Industry Stronger* the Government undertook to establish a new Venture Awareness programme. This programme would establish investment benchmarks on Australian institutional investment in venture capital in Australia and overseas and also assist Australian investment funds to better evaluate venture capital investments in Australia.

The underlying objective of the programme is to encourage increased investment in early stage venture capital by Australian pension funds.

Funding of up to \$1 million a year over three years will be available under the programme which will operate as a new element of the R&D START programme (drawing on existing funding).

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Making Industry Stronger*.

Institute of Molecular Bioscience

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-	-	-	-

Explanation

In the Government's election statement *A Vision for Excellence* it was recognised that Australia's research capabilities in biotechnology will be strengthened through funding of \$15 million toward the establishment of an Institute for Molecular Bioscience at the University of Queensland.

The Commonwealth's funding will be provided through the \$1 billion Federation Fund. Actual expenses are estimated to be \$0.5 million in 1998-99, \$5 million in 1999-2000 and \$9.5 million in 2000-01.

The Institute of Molecular Bioscience (IMB) is combined with the CSIRO in a joint complex which is estimated to cost \$100 million. The Commonwealth through the Federation Fund, the Queensland Government and the University of Queensland will each contribute \$15 million. The CSIRO will contribute \$45 million, with further funding coming from a private benefactor.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *A Vision for Excellence*.

Further Information

The IMB is a new facility which brings together a number of research organisations, including the Australian Genome Research Facility, under one umbrella. Located at the University of Queensland, it will share a yet to be constructed Molecular Bioscience complex with the CSIRO Division of Tropical Agriculture.

Marine Science Centre

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03

Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The election statement *A Vision for Excellence* recognised the increasing importance of marine science and committed to the establishment of a new marine science and teaching centre.

The total cost of the Marine Science Centre (MSC) is estimated at \$12 million, to which the Federation Fund is the only contributor.

The Commonwealth's funding will be provided through the \$1 billion Federation Fund. Actual expenses are estimated to be \$2 million in 1998-99, \$3 million in 1999-2000, \$5 million in 2000-01 and \$2 million in 2001-02.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *A Vision for Excellence*.

Further Information

The MSC is a joint initiative of the University of New England and Southern Cross University. Located in Coffs Harbour, NSW, the MSC is a research and teaching facility for the marine sciences.

Greenhouse Challenge

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government is providing \$27 million of additional funding to the Greenhouse Challenge programme to enable 1000 enterprises to sign agreements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2005.

Funding was provided as part of the Prime Minister's Statement of 20 November 1997 titled *Safeguarding the Future: Australia's Response to Climate Change*.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Minerals to Market*.

The Treasury Portfolio

Corporate Law Economic Reform Programme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Australian Securities and Investments Commission	2.8	2.0	3.5	0.9

Explanation

This measure will assist the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) to develop and implement proposals under the second phase of the Government's Corporate Law Economic Reform Programme (CLERP). This phase (CLERP 7) will focus on reducing the paper compliance burden of Australian companies and enabling ASIC to make greater use of communications technology. It will also look at a fundamental overhaul and review of the large range of paper-based documents that the law still requires companies to lodge.

The key reforms to be introduced under CLERP7 include:

- the establishment of a Business Advisory Board to provide strategic advice on the direction and initiatives of the ASIC information division;
- the introduction of a 'no change, no lodge' policy which will provide that, from 1999-2000, companies and registered schemes will not need to lodge an annual return when there has been no change in the information held by ASIC;
- a review of fees set under the Corporations Law with the objective of reducing fees paid by small business and reducing the complexity of fee arrangements; and
- initiatives to assist ASIC in making optimal use of modern business practices and new communications technology.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Business Law Reform -- Less Red Tape, More Business, More Jobs, Corporate Law Economic Reform Programme (CLERP)*.

A New Tax System

On 13 August 1998, the Government announced a major taxation reform package, *A New Tax System (ANTS)*. The reforms encompass expense, capital and revenue measures.

Key expenses and capital elements of ANTS include:

- the replacement of financial assistance grants to State and local governments with the revenue from the introduction of the goods and services tax (GST);
- provision of transitional financial assistance to the States to ensure that their budgets are no worse off as a result of the implementation of the reforms to Commonwealth-State financial relations;
- increases in income support and related payments, and income and assets test free areas, which more than offset the price impact of the GST;
- an aged persons savings bonus of up to \$1,000 per person and self-funded retirees supplementary bonus of up to \$2,000 per person, to help maintain the value of the savings and retirement income of older people;
- a reduction in the income test taper rate applied to pensions, allowing pensioners to earn more income without affecting their benefits;
- increased family assistance in the form of the Family Tax Benefit (equivalent to a doubling of the tax free threshold provided under the Family Tax Initiative), increasing the income test cut-off and reducing taper rates for the Family Tax Benefit;
- a 30 per cent tax rebate/benefit for the cost of private health insurance premiums, introduced on 1 January 1999, to assist families and individuals with the cost of private health insurance;
- provision of up to \$500 million to assist with GST startup costs for small and medium businesses; and
- a diesel fuel credit delivered through the GST system to be introduced for registered businesses, removing the need for the Diesel Fuel Rebate Scheme.

As noted above, the 30 per cent rebate/benefit for the cost of private health insurance was introduced on 1 January 1999. The remaining measures will be introduced with implementation of ANTS to begin in July 2000, subject to the necessary legislative changes.

The Commonwealth will also provide a one-year interest-free loan to the States in 2000-01 to offset their financing shortfall in that year arising from the introduction of the GST. The Commonwealth's underlying budget position is not affected by this measure.

Key revenue measures associated with the introduction of ANTS include:

- lower personal income tax;
- introduction of a Goods and Services Tax;
- abolition of Wholesale Sales Tax;
- abolition of nine State taxes; and
- reform of business taxes.

Additional implementation costs of ANTS measures are identified separately below.

The Family and Community Services Portfolio

Tax Reform Package

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Family and Community Services	103.7	132.0	66.5	64.3

Explanation

This measure provides for additional departmental resources for the Department of Family and Community Services to deliver improved assistance to families and increased assistance to social security recipients and to administer the Aged Persons Saving Bonuses, as set out under *A New Tax System*.

This measure covers the full expense to the portfolio of implementing the package, including increased departmental expenses for Centrelink and funds for the creation and operation of a new Family Assistance Office (FAO). The FAO is a joint venture between Centrelink, the Health Insurance Commission and the Australian Taxation Office and will use the existing infrastructure of these agencies.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Not A New Tax -- A New Tax System*.

Tax Reform Package

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Capital (\$million)				
Department of Family and Community Services	0.1	..	..	-
Centrelink	10.7	14.8	7.6	7.4
Australian Taxation Office	-	0.5	0.1	0.1

	Total	10.7	15.3	7.7	7.5
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Explanation

This measure is a cross-portfolio measure affecting both the Family and Community Services and Treasury portfolios.

The Government is providing equity injections to purchase computer and office equipment, and software requirements to support the introduction and implementation of *A New Tax System*.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Not A New Tax -- A New Tax System*.

The Treasury Portfolio

Equity injection for A New Tax System initiatives

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Capital (\$million)				
Australian Taxation Office	57.9	44.7	27.2	20.9

Explanation

The Government's various reform initiatives under *A New Tax System* will require the establishment of a legislative basis and supporting administrative systems. These systems will involve the creation of major infrastructure items (eg system for new withholding tax arrangements, Australian Business Number register). The equity injection provided for under this measure will enable the ATO to undertake the capital expenditure necessary to develop this capability.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Not A New Tax -- A New Tax System*.

Additional funding for taxation reform

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of the Treasury	3.1	2.1	1.1	-

Explanation

The Government will provide additional funding to the Treasury for the development and implementation of business tax reform, the goods and services tax and other elements of the Government's tax reform package, including developing a response to the Ralph inquiry into business taxation.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Not A New Tax -- A New Tax System*.

Business taxation reform

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Australian Taxation Office	23.8	-	-	-
Capital (\$million)				
Australian Taxation Office	4.5	-	-	-

Explanation

Funding will be provided to the Australian Taxation Office to meet the administrative costs of business taxation reform measures.

The Government has initiated a review of the current arrangements for the taxation of business entities by the Review of Business Taxation (RBT), led by John Ralph. The committee is due to provide final recommendations to the Government by 30 June 1999.

The review is being conducted consistent with the strategy for business tax reform set out in *A New Tax System* including the development of a new framework for the taxation of business entities.

The resources identified in this measure are interim estimates until the Government makes its decisions following receipt of the final recommendations of the Review in June 1999.

Capital

The Government's reform of business taxation will require the establishment of a legislative basis and supporting administrative systems. The equity injection provided for under this measure will enable the ATO to undertake the capital expenditure necessary to develop this capability.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Not A New Tax -- A New Tax System*.

Fringe Benefits Tax reform

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Australian Taxation Office	9.1	2.9	2.0	0.2

Explanation

Funding will be provided to the Australian Taxation Office to meet the administrative costs associated with the introduction of fringe benefits tax (FBT) reforms.

The four elements of the Government's announced FBT reforms are designed to make the tax system fairer for all Australians:

- improving income tests for surcharges and government benefits by requiring employers, from the 1999-2000 FBT year of income, to identify on group certificates the grossed-up taxable

value of an employee's fringe benefits where the taxable value of the benefits exceeds \$1,000;

- stopping overuse of the concessional FBT treatment of public benevolent institutions and certain other not-for-profit organisations. This will be done by limiting, for each employee, the value of fringe benefits eligible for concessional treatment to \$17,000 of grossed-up taxable value per employee of such organisations. Any amount above this limit will be subject to the normal FBT treatment;
- extending FBT to the benefits in excess of \$1,000 a year provided by companies to their shareholders or by trustees to trust beneficiaries, where the benefits are not currently taxed;
- extending the FBT exemption for remote area housing provided by mining industry employers to their employees. This provides the mining industry with the same treatment that applies currently to primary producers.

The first of these elements took effect from 1 April 1999. The last three elements will take effect from the 2000-01 FBT year.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Not A New Tax -- A New Tax System*.

Savings Bonus for Older Australians

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Australian Taxation Office	4.3	0.9	0.2	0.1

Explanation

Funding will be provided to the Australian Taxation Office to meet the administrative costs associated with the provision of a savings bonus as part of *Not A New Tax -- A New Tax System*.

The Government has decided to pay a one-off bonus to older Australians to compensate them for the impact of the GST on their savings.

The bonus is to be paid on or after 1 July 2000. A claim for a bonus must be made by 30 June 2001. Three different agencies -- the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), the Department of Family and Community Services and the Department of Veterans' Affairs -- will decide on eligibility to a bonus for their respective client groups. ATO clients are those members of the community who have to lodge tax returns for the year ending 30 June 2000. Features of the lump sum payment are as follows:

- a tax free bonus up to \$1,000 for those Australian residents aged 60 years or more on 1 July 2000, who have any savings and investment income, and whose total income in 1998-99 or 1999-00 is less than \$30,000;
- an additional untaxed bonus of up to \$2,000 for self funded retirees of age pension age; and
- these bonuses are eligible to be paid after 30 June 2000.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Not A New Tax -- A New Tax System*.

Binding Oral Advice by the Australian Taxation Office

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				

Australian Taxation Office	2.0	4.3	3.7	3.8
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Explanation

The Government has decided that oral advice provided by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to taxpayers with simple tax affairs should be binding on the ATO. Funding will be provided to the ATO to meet the additional administrative costs of this measure.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Not A New Tax -- A New Tax System*.

Further Information

This measure will involve:

- drafting legislation to ensure taxpayers with simple tax affairs can rely on oral advice received from the ATO.
- the introduction of business support tools for staff providing binding oral advice, including the ability to record details of the advice given; and
- formulation and implementation of a communication and education strategy to ensure taxpayers and ATO staff are aware of their obligations. This will include specific publications, brochures and other marketing-related products.

Pay As You Go and New Withholding Arrangements

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Australian Taxation Office	35.7	46.7	41.2	46.4

Explanation

Funding will be provided to the Australian Taxation Office to meet the administrative costs associated with the introduction of the Pay As You Go and new withholding arrangements.

As part of *A New Tax System* (ANTS) the Government will rationalise the current withholding tax arrangements into a single Pay As You Go (PAYG) scheme. This will replace five existing payments and reporting systems (PAYE, PPS, RPS and provisional tax and company instalments) with a single new comprehensive system, avoiding confusion, potential overlaps and gaps. The reforms will also involve changes to remittance dates.

PAYG will apply a common set of rules to all instalment and withholding events under the taxation law. Similarly, existing income reporting arrangements will be streamlined through the introduction of a simple transaction reporting system. The measure also seeks to ease the administrative costs for small business in complying with tax obligations by introducing one return (or single statement) and one payment, each quarter, for large numbers of taxpayers.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Not A New Tax -- A New Tax System*.

Further Information

The new PAYG arrangements are designed to achieve several aims:

- more closely align income tax payments with current trading conditions or income flows for all entities;
- provide a single payment system for business (and investor) income tax;
- create a flexible system so that taxpayer obligations will be transparent and easily managed, paying income tax and collecting other taxes will become simpler and compliance costs will be reduced; and
- replace PAYE and PPS arrangements with a single withholding system giving businesses certainty about which payments are subject to withholding

Tax Reform price exploitation

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	11.6	9.5	6.9	-

Explanation

The Government will provide additional resources until 2001-02 to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to monitor retail prices during the transition to *A New Tax System*.

The ACCC will:

- be given additional transitional powers to monitor retail prices. The ACCC will be required to monitor and report to the Treasurer on instances where consumers have not benefited from reductions in the tax rate, or have been exposed to greater than necessary price rises;
- provide information to the community at large through national television and radio advertising and publication; and
- take enforcement action where appropriate under the new prohibition on price exploitation and related parts of the *Trade Practices Act 1974*.

The transitional price oversight role for the ACCC will begin 12 months prior to the implementation of *A New Tax System* and will continue for a further two years after the date of introduction of *A New Tax System*.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Not A New Tax -- A New Tax System*.

Australian Business Number

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Australian Taxation Office	44.6	32.9	24.8	26.6

Explanation

Funding will be provided to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to meet the administrative costs associated with the introduction of the Australian Business Number (ABN).

The Australian Business Number (ABN) is a key element of the Government's *A New Tax System* (ANTS) framework. The introduction of the ABN will allow businesses to have a single business identifier for all Commonwealth purposes. This will be more efficient for business and will also provide

an important opportunity to improve compliance. The system will also be available to State, Territory and local government bodies to facilitate single entry point arrangements for all government dealings. As such, it will increase levels of service to the business community and reduce compliance costs for business in a whole-of-government environment.

The introduction of the ABN is integral to a number of ATO specific ANTS measures including GST registration and withholding trigger mechanism.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Not A New Tax -- A New Tax System*.

The Veterans' Affairs Portfolio

Implementation of Tax Reform Package

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Veterans' Affairs	3.6	3.1	..	..

Explanation

To facilitate implementation of *A New Tax System*, the Government will fund changes necessary to the Department of Veterans' Affairs' (DVA) systems. Provision is mainly made for changes to DVA's pension systems and procedures to reflect the provisions of the new tax system, including payment of the aged person's savings bonus.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Not A New Tax -- A New Tax System*.

Rural and Regional Australia and the Environment

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Regional Forest Agreements

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	4.0	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide funding to finalise the comprehensive regional assessments of all forest values, the integration of the data and the subsequent conclusion of Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) by the end of 1999.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Our Living Heritage*.

Further Information

RFAs are reached with the relevant State and Territory Governments following Comprehensive Regional Assessments (CRAs) of all forest values. The economic, social and environmental assessments undertaken as part of the CRAs provide a crucial underpinning to the negotiation of RFAs and to the longevity of the RFAs in terms of scientific and public credibility.

CRAs are complete or substantially complete for six of the remaining eight priority area RFAs. The eight areas are Eden, the Southern, Lower North East and Upper North East regions of New South Wales, the Gippsland, Upper North East and West regions of Victoria, and the South East region of Queensland.

See also the related expense measure under the Environment and Heritage portfolio titled *Protecting Australia's forests*.

Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	3.0	6.2	7.9	8.1

Explanation

The Government will provide funding of \$31.8 million over five years from 1999-2000 to assist with the implementation of the Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan. This measure meets the Government's election commitment to support pastoral

enterprises and mining and extractive industries in or around the Great Artesian Basin by facilitating

progress towards the restoration of groundwater pressures.

Under this measure, grants will be made to States and Territories to assist bore rehabilitation, with some supplementary incentives made available for the replacement of open drains with piping. The Government may fund related activities, including promotion of the benefits of participation in bore rehabilitation and drain replacement schemes, and monitoring and evaluation to guide programme expenditure.

The Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management plan will be funded in partnership with State and Territory Governments and water users and managed to ensure lasting change in attitudes, water use and grazing management practices.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Primed for Growth*.

Supermarket to Asia Strategy

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	4.4	5.1	5.0	-

Explanation

The Government will continue funding for the Supermarket to Asia (STA) Council and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service Technical Market Access Programme for a further three years. Funding will provide for the establishment of a New Industries Development Programme, to be managed under the direction of the STA Council. This programme builds on the success of the Supermarket to Asia -- the Delicatessen programme.

See also the related expense measure below titled *Food and Fibre Supply Chain Programme*.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Primed for Growth*.

Ovine Johnes Disease Control and Evaluation Programme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	1.5	0.8	0.4	0.1

Explanation

The Government will support the implementation of the National Ovine Johnes Disease (OJD) Control and Evaluation Programme, a six-year joint undertaking involving the wool and sheepmeat industries, as well as State and Territory governments. The programme is to provide, by 2003, sufficient information to allow an informed decision on the national management of OJD.

The programme is intended to assess the feasibility and cost effectiveness of implementing a national eradication strategy, and to control the spread of the disease while this activity is taking place.

The major elements of the programme include an evaluation of de-stocking and alternative management options; surveillance and monitoring of the incidence of the disease and research to address critical deficits in knowledge about the behaviour of the disease in sheep and the environment, as well as diagnostic techniques.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Primed for Growth*.

Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	4.0	4.0	4.1	-

Explanation

The Government will fund the identification of quarantine risks to northern Australia and the provision of early warning of quarantine risks and pest incursions through a programme of monitoring, surveillance and public awareness across northern Australia and in neighbouring areas of Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. This measure will provide continued protection of Australia's animal, plant and human health and the environment.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Primed for Growth*.

Cost-sharing for emergency animal disease response

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	-	-	-

Explanation

This measure involves adoption of a new basis for determining cost sharing arrangements to enable rapid and effective containment and eradication of animal disease outbreaks.

Under the new arrangements, the contributions of governments and industry would be pre-determined according to an agreed formula for each emergency taking into account

the relative responsibilities of, and benefits for, the Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments and industry.

There will also be an expansion in the coverage of known serious diseases and previously unknown and emerging threats beyond the twelve included in the current Commonwealth/State cost sharing arrangement.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Primed for Growth*.

Food and Fibre Supply Chain Programme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	3.0	3.0	3.1	-

Explanation

The Government will provide new funding of \$9.2 million to enable the Australian agrifood and fibre industries to react effectively to changes in overseas markets.

This measure will improve the competitiveness of Australia's agrifood and fibre industries by building stronger and more cooperative relationships along the agri chain from the producer to the consumer.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Primed for Growth*.

Further Information

The programme will be managed by a subsidiary of Supermarket to Asia (STA) Ltd under a purchaser-provider model. The Government will support projects identified by enterprises or industries.

The management company will undertake a complementary communications strategy to build improved supply chain management in the Australian food and fibre industries.

See also the related expense measure above titled *Supermarket to Asia*.

Southern Shark Fishery Industry Development

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	-	-	-

Explanation

Funding of \$2.9 million has been allocated from within existing resources for 1999-00 to smooth the introduction of a fairer and more flexible licencing system and help operators deal with reductions in shark catches in the waters of Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia, known as the Southern Shark Fishery.

Details of the programme will be developed by a government-industry working group.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Wealth from the Sea*.

Further Information

The new licencing system introduces Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQ) which will help redress the current complicated and inflexible licencing system. Under the new system, each operator will receive a share, or quota, of the fishery's total allowable catch and will be able to buy and sell quotas freely. As part of the move to ITQs, a 35 per cent reduction on school shark captures will be introduced to address overfishing.

Deterring illegal fishing in Australia's subantarctic waters

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2

Explanation

The Government will increase patrols in Australia's remote subantarctic waters to deter illegal fishing. The patrols will use civil vessels that can remain on station for many weeks.

Outcomes for the programme include the prevention of illegal fishing in the Australian Fishing Zone around the subantarctic Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands with consequential protection of important fishery resources, especially of the Patagonian toothfish, which Australian-licensed vessels catch in the region.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Wealth from the Sea*.

Sustainable Fisheries Network

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	-	-	-

Explanation

From 1998-99 to 1999-00 the Government will provide, from the Natural Heritage Trust, \$0.7 million to support a joint initiative of Oceanwatch, the Australian Seafood Industry Council and the Australian Maritime Conservation Society which will promote environmentally sound fishing practices through a network of sustainable fisheries officers.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Our Living Heritage*.

National Recreational Fishing Survey

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide \$1.8 million to conduct, in 1999-00, a national survey of recreational fishing. The funding, from the Natural Heritage Trust, will meet 50 per cent of the cost with 25 per cent being provided by State fisheries agencies and the remaining funding coming from the Fisheries Research & Development Corporation.

The survey will give the Government and fisheries managers an understanding of the number of Australians who participate in recreational fishing and the number of fish that they catch. The information will help governments to better manage both commercial and recreational fisheries.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Wealth from the Sea*.

The Attorney-General's Portfolio

Extend Access to Justice in rural and regional Australia with five new community legal services

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Attorney-General's Department	1.2	1.2	1.2	-

Explanation

The Government will provide additional funding to expand assistance and extend access to justice for disadvantaged people in rural and regional Australia through the establishment of new community legal services. Five new community legal services will be established in Broken Hill, Gippsland, Kalgoorlie, Mt Gambier and Riverland SA which are high need regional hubs where there is no current access to community legal services.

In addition, a legal outreach service will be established from Darwin to service outlying areas in the Top End.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Law and Justice*.

The Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Portfolio

Eliminating TV Black Spots

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-	-	-	-

Explanation

From the Telstra Social Bonus, the Government will establish a Television Fund of \$120 million over 5 years to enable improved television reception in major black spot areas, to improve coverage of SBS television to communities of over 10,000 persons and to support a new Media Unit to be established within SBS.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Communications: Making Australia Stronger*.

Continuation of the Commonwealth Regional Arts Fund

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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Expense (\$million)				
Australia Council	2.5	2.5	-	-

Explanation

The Government will continue support for its Regional Arts Fund to ensure that the arts are more accessible to Australians in regional areas.

The Regional Arts Fund was established in the 1996-97 Budget to encourage new partners and supporters for arts activities in regional areas and increase opportunities for regional artists to undertake professional development.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Arts for Australia's Sake*.

The Education, Training & Youth Affairs Portfolio

Increased support for rural and regional New Apprenticeship incentive

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	7.8	9.9	11.0	12.7

Explanation

The Government will boost skills and opportunities for young people in rural and regional Australia in particular by providing an additional incentive payment of \$1,000 to employers who progress new apprentices to higher skill levels in trades and occupations experiencing skill shortages, essentially those included in the 'National Skills Shortage List' issued by the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business.

The measure took effect from 1 January 1999. It will assist in the order of 30,000 new apprentices and also support around 6,000 new apprenticeship commencements. The New Apprenticeship incentive is a key element in achieving education and training outcomes.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Skilling Australia for Jobs*.

The Environment & Heritage Portfolio

Cultural Heritage Projects Programme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Environment and Heritage	2.2	2.2	2.3	-

Explanation

The Government will implement the new Cultural Heritage Projects Programme (CHPP), to honour its election commitment.

The CHPP will absorb the National Estate Grants Programme (NEGP) and support the conservation and restoration of places of cultural significance, with a priority for built works and indigenous heritage.

In addition to the new funds identified in this measure, the current funding to NEGP of \$0.8 million per year will be included in the CHPP.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Our Living Heritage*.

Living Cities Programme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Environment and Heritage	10.2	20.5	20.0	-

Explanation

The Government will provide funds from 1999-2000 to 2001-02 to address urban environment problems under the Living Cities Programme.

The Programme addresses urban environmental problems and has five main elements:

- waste management to promote recycling;
- improving the management of chemicals disposal under a programme called Chemwatch;
- improving air quality;
- establishing a viable network of compressed natural gas refuelling stations; and
- an urban waterways and coastal pollution programme to improve the health of degraded urban waterways.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Our Living Heritage*.

Improved Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Surveillance

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	1.0	1.2	1.2	-

Explanation

The Government will provide an additional \$3.4 million from 1999-2000 to 2001-02 for improved surveillance and enforcement within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

This measure will ensure the protection, sustainable use and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Our Living Heritage*.

Further Information

The reported incidence of illegal fishing activity in the Park is increasing. A targeted enforcement and surveillance programme is required to contain and reduce this activity. An increase in the level of fines applicable under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* is proposed to be commensurate with relevant fisheries legislation.

Shipping transport support for Australian Antarctic Programme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Environment and Heritage	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government has sought offers, by tender, for a three year ship charter for the period from 2000-01 to 2002-03. The current charter of the *RSV Aurora Australis* concludes at the end of the 1999-2000 Antarctic Summer season and new transport arrangements are required to be in place and working by September 2000 to ensure the continuation of Australia's Antarctic programme. The three year contract will allow time for the evaluation of future air transportation systems as recommended in the Antarctic Science Advisory Committee report "Australia's Antarctic Programme Beyond 2000; A Framework for the Future" and supported by the Government.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Our Living Heritage*.

Protecting Australia's forests

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Environment and Heritage	1.8	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will continue to support the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) process by seeking to complete the Government's programme of RFAs by the end of December 1999.

Completion of the RFAs will provide environmental and industry certainty to communities for the next 20 years.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Our Living Heritage*.

Further Information

The RFAs affected by this measure are those for the Eden, the Southern, Lower North East and Upper North East regions of New South Wales, the Gippsland, Upper North East and Western regions of Victoria, and for the Southeast region of Queensland.

See also the related expense measure under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio titled *Regional Forest Agreements*.

Oceans Policy implementation

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Environment and Heritage	10.0	10.0	10.0	-

Explanation

In December 1998, the Government announced Australia's Oceans Policy, which will set in place the framework for integrated and ecosystem-based planning and management for all of Australia's marine jurisdictions. Building on existing arrangements, the Oceans Policy will promote ecologically sustainable development of the resources of our oceans and encourage internationally competitive marine industries, while ensuring the protection of marine biological diversity.

An additional \$20 million is to be funded from the Natural Heritage Trust, contingent on the sale of the second tranche of Telstra.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Our Living Heritage*.

Further Information

Further details can be obtained from the *Oceans Policy Statement* which was released by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage in December 1998.

Telstra Social Bonus -- additional funding for the Natural Heritage Trust

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Environment and Heritage	-	-	250.0	-

Note: The 1998-99 MYEFO provided estimates of the impact of measures on the underlying cash balance.

Explanation

This measure was reported in the MYEFO as follows:

"The Government made a commitment to provide additional funding for the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia in 2001-02. This measure forms part of the Government's social bonus to be funded from the sale of the second tranche of Telstra."

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *The Natural Heritage Trust -- Helping Communities Helping Australia*.

Protecting Sydney Harbour Foreshores

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03

Expense (\$million)				
Department of Environment and Heritage	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government has committed \$96 million over 4 years from 1998-99 to be funded through the Federation Fund for the management, protection and rehabilitation of five former Australian Defence Force Sites around Sydney Harbour.

At this stage, the Department of the Environment and Heritage has been allocated \$40 million of the \$96 million for the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (\$15 million in 1998-99) to enable the project to proceed.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Protecting the Sydney Harbour Foreshore* and *Our Living Heritage*.

The Family & Community Services Portfolio

Establish rural call centres

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Family and Community Services	4.6	7.7	7.6	7.7

Explanation

The Government will establish two new rural call centres, at Maryborough in Queensland and Port Augusta in South Australia, to provide a tailored service to some of Centrelink's customers in rural and regional Australia. The call centres are expected to be operational in January 2000.

The measure forms part of the Government's whole-of-government approach to meeting the needs of rural and regional Australia and also addresses a key recommendation of the Special Rural Task Force relating to farm family awareness of social security entitlements.

Each Call Centre will employ 50 people, recruited locally, providing a visible government presence in these regional communities. Staff will be trained to provide advice on all Centrelink programmes and services.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment.

The Industry, Science and Resources Portfolio

Upgrade Tasmanian sporting facilities

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will fund the upgrade of York Park in Launceston (\$5.0 million in 1998-99) and Bellerive Oval in Hobart (\$5.0 million in 1998-99) to ensure that international, national, and other major sporting events continue to be held in Tasmania.

The upgrade of these facilities will contribute to developing a stronger, sustainable and internationally competitive Australian sport and recreation industry. This will increase the ability of York Park and Bellerive Oval to attract major Australian and international events (eg cricket test matches) and greater tourist numbers through more widely available, high quality sporting facilities.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *A Stronger Tasmania*.

Enhancement of Regional Tourism Programme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

Explanation

The Government will fund an expansion of the Regional Tourism Programme aimed at both international and domestic markets.

The additional funding will improve the capability of organisations, businesses and individuals to deliver higher quality tourism products and services in regional Australia through:

- support for regional tourism organisations to access and capitalise on information technologies such as the Internet;
- the National Accreditation Programme, to provide quality assurance to the tourism consumer;
- strategic regional tourism infrastructure projects and initiatives; and
- special interest products and new market development.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Australia Bound*.

Regional Minerals Programme - Northwest Tasmania

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	1.0	4.0	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide resources for infrastructure development in north-west Tasmania, to implement the study currently underway within the Regional Minerals Programme.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Minerals to Market*.

Restoration of Urangan Pier

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	0.3	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide funding toward the restoration of Urangan Pier in Hervey Bay, Queensland.

Restoration of Urangan Pier will contribute to a more innovative and competitive regional tourism industry as well as facilitate the growing level of tourism between Hervey Bay and the World Heritage-listed Fraser Island.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *National Action Plan for Tourism*.

The Transport and Regional Services Portfolio

Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme - response to review

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Transport and Regional Services	20.4	20.5	21.1	21.7

Explanation

The Government will extend the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme (TFES) in response to the TFES Review Authority's June 1998 advisory opinion on rates of assistance. The TFES assists in alleviating Tasmania's comparative interstate transport cost disadvantage of shipping eligible non-bulk goods across Bass Strait. The extended scheme provides assistance to shippers based upon the cost incurred shipping goods to or from Tasmania and the cost of a similar transport task on the mainland road network.

This measure implements the 1998 election commitment made in *A Stronger Tasmania*.

Further Information

Assistance will be reviewed annually to ensure it continues to reflect the current freight cost disadvantage for shippers and is sensitive to cost savings as waterfront and shipping reforms are passed on to shippers in the form of lower freight rates.

Regional flood mitigation programme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Transport and Regional Services	6.0	7.0	7.0	-

Explanation

The Government will fund priority integrated regional flood mitigation projects, including the construction of new infrastructure, such as levees, and repair or upgrading of existing infrastructure. Projects to be supported include levees, channel improvement works, retarding basins, upgrading and replacement of existing flood structures, flood warning systems, protection levees for key infrastructure, and voluntary purchase of homes. States and Territories are expected to make matching contributions through partnership agreements. Local Government will also make a contribution.

This initiative combines the Government's two election commitments outlined in *Regional Australia: Investing in our Future* and *Primed for Growth*.

Further Information

The programme will complement natural disaster activities of Emergency Management Australia, the National Disaster Relief Arrangements, and the National Landcare Programme.

National Highway and Roads of National Importance

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Transport and Regional Services	19.0	68.0	78.0	30.0

Explanation

The Government will provide increased funding of \$195 million for specific road projects as part of the National Highway and Roads of National Importance Programmes to contribute to the upgrading of significant corridors and the elimination of transport bottlenecks. The National Highway and Roads of National Importance Programmes provide funding for roads linking Australia, including roads linking regional areas of Australia.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Transport -- Driving Forward*.

Further Information

In accordance with the election commitment, funding is provided for the following projects:

- Great Western Highway (NSW) -- \$100 million (Road of National Importance) -- the funding will form part of a joint programme with NSW to improve links between Sydney, the Blue Mountains and the central west of NSW.
- Pakenham Bypass (Princes Highway East Victoria) -- \$30 million (Road of National Importance) -- Commonwealth contribution for a bypass of Pakenham which will improve access to Gippsland and eastern Victoria.
- Pine Rivers to Caboolture (Bruce Highway Queensland) -- \$25 million (National Highway) -- initial funding to provide increased capacity on a heavily congested section of the Bruce Highway north of Brisbane.
- Main Road 92 (NSW) -- \$34 million (Road of National Importance) -- Commonwealth contribution to three-way funding with NSW and Shoalhaven Council to seal a new easier crossing of the coastal range from the Illawarra region to the southern tablelands of NSW.
- Gladstone Port Access Road (Queensland) -- \$6 million (Road of National Importance) -- provide improved access by avoiding residential areas for heavy traffic to the industrial port of Gladstone.

Extend Road Safety Black Spot Programme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Transport and Regional Services	-	40.8	41.7	-

Explanation

The Government will extend the Federal Road Safety Black Spot Programme for two further years from 2000-01. The Programme has helped to reduce the road toll with consequent economic benefits, and will continue to contribute significantly to safety and efficiency objectives. This includes measured reductions in casualty crashes and associated social and economic costs.

The two year extension of the Black Spot Programme fulfils the 1998 election commitment in *Transport -- Driving Forward*.

Further Information

Outputs under this programme include addressing black spots by providing traffic lights and roundabouts in priority areas. Other spin-offs include heightened awareness of road safety generally, realignment of State and Territory activities to the Commonwealth, priority of targeted, high safety-impact programmes, and encouragement of benchmarking and exchange of best practice among the States and Territories.

Bridge Upgrading Programme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Transport and Regional Services	6.0	6.0	6.0	-

Explanation

The Government will fund the States and Territories to upgrade bridges on the National Highway System in order to support an increase in mass limits for heavy road freight vehicles (from 42.5 tonnes to 45.5 tonnes for the most common type of long distance truck). The increase in mass limits was recommended by the National Road Transport Commission.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Transport -- Driving Forward* to allocate \$20 million (including \$18 million of new money) to a bridge upgrading programme to support increased mass limits.

Upgrade of Rockhampton Airport Runway

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Transport and Regional Services	1.0	6.0	-	-

Explanation

The Government will contribute to the Rockhampton City Council upgrade of Rockhampton Airport's runway from 1980 metres to 2680 metres. This will enable the airport to take heavily-laden B767 as well as B747 and larger military freight aircraft. The measure will assist the Capricornia region of Queensland to better position itself in the lucrative tourism and defence exercise markets.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment.

Further Information

This initiative is consistent with the Government's liberalised aviation policy objective to encourage passenger and freight services to secondary gateways such as Rockhampton.

Telstra Social Bonus -- Rural Transaction Centres

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Transport and Regional Services	30.0	30.0	9.0	-

Note: The 1998-99 MYEFO provided estimates of the impact of measures on the underlying cash balance.

Explanation

The Government committed \$1.0 million in 1998-99 on a cash outlays basis in the MYEFO.

This measure was reported in the MYEFO as follows:

"As part of the Government's social bonus, to be funded from the proceeds of sale of the second tranche of Telstra, the Government will fund the establishment of up to 500 rural transaction centres. Rural transaction centres will fill the gaps in banking, postal, phone, fax, medicare claim and other services in smaller towns that are no longer able to attract some or all of these services."

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Rural Transaction Centres*.

The Veterans' Affairs Portfolio

Additional Funding for Regional War Memorials Project

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Veterans' Affairs	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1

Explanation

The Government will increase funding to the Regional War Memorials Project, which will enable many more communities to restore, renovate or create new memorials as the focus for local commemorative

activities.

This measure is currently underway and the additional funds will be expended over the four years to 2002-03.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Saluting their Service*.

Families and the Community

The Attorney-General's Portfolio

Additional counselling and mediation dispute resolution services

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Attorney-General's Department	2.8	6.7	6.2	-
Department of Family and Community Services	0.2	0.2	0.2	-
Total	3.0	6.9	6.4	-

Explanation

This measure is a cross-portfolio measure affecting both the Attorney-General's and Family and Community Services portfolios.

The Government will provide funding over three years for its election commitment to increase awareness of alternatives to litigation and to increase the availability of non-litigious dispute resolution services. This will be achieved by providing community and professional awareness and education campaigns and by increasing the availability of counselling, mediation and primary dispute resolution services through Legal Aid Commissions and community based organisations.

The Attorney-General's Department and the Department of Family and Community Services have implemented a partnership arrangement to more effectively deliver counselling and mediation services to troubled families.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Our Families, Our Strength, Our Future*.

Expand supervised children's contact services by 25 additional services

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Attorney-General's Department	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0
Department of Family and Community Services	-	-	-	-

Total	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0
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Explanation

The Government will provide funding for its election commitment to at least 25 additional children's contact services to meet the growing demand for greater accessibility to these services and to reduce delays and waiting times. Children's contact

services help those separated parents who have difficulties in working within agreed access or parenting arrangements by facilitating safe contact with or handover of children.

The additional services will also assist in reducing the numbers of parents contesting breaches of contact orders by providing safe, appropriate and managed opportunities for contact and changeover of children and referrals to other appropriate services to assist with conflict between parents.

The Attorney-General's Department and the Department of Family and Community Services have implemented a partnership arrangement to more effectively deliver children's contact services.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Our Families, Our Strength, Our Future*.

Establish Family Law advice telecommunication services

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Attorney-General's Department	0.6	1.2	1.3	-

Explanation

The Government will establish a national family law telecommunication advice and information service to facilitate the resolution of family disputes and encourage compliance with parenting orders and child support payments. The advice and information service will be easily accessible to clients across Australia. It will also provide a viable alternative to litigation for families by providing access to timely and cost effective information and primary dispute resolution services.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Law and Justice* and *Our Families, Our Strength, Our Future*.

The Education, Training and Youth Affairs Portfolio

Enhancement of the National School Drug Education Strategy

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	1.0	2.1	3.7	3.7

Explanation

The Government announced in 1998 that, as part of its commitment to the National Illicit Drug Strategy, it would provide additional funding to extend activities under the National School Drug Education Strategy.

This measure provides funding for the extension of professional development and pre-service training of teachers, information and education for parents on drug matters and school and community partnership projects. It enhances and builds on existing State and Territory activities and is consistent with Government objectives set out in the *National Drug Strategic Framework 1998-99 to 2002-03*.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Tough on Drugs -- Strengthening the Fight*.

The Family and Community Services Portfolio

Additional funding for Marriage and Relationship Education

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Family and Community Services	2.0	2.0	2.0	-

Explanation

The Government will provide additional funding for three years to support community-based marriage and relationship services and to promote greater community awareness and use of the full range of preventative relationship breakdown support services. Greater use of preventative services may assist in reducing levels of demand on other family support and crisis services such as counselling, therapy, youth, legal and Child Support Agency services.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Our Families, Our Strength, Our Future*.

Increase Men's access to Family Relationship Support Services

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Family and Community Services	3.0	3.0	3.0	-

Explanation

The Government will provide funding until the end of 2001-02 for projects to increase men's access to relationship support services. In addition to the \$9 million allocated through this measure, \$1.5 million of funding was provided in 1998-99.

This initiative is part of the Government's commitment to strengthen and support families, especially through preventative action.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Our Families, Our Strength, Our Future*.

Improve access to Centrelink through Electronic Service Delivery

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Family and Community Services	4.4	0.2	0.2	0.1

Explanation

The Government will fund a trial which will allow people dealing with Centrelink to make simple enquiries about their payments and entitlements over the phone without the need to speak directly to an operator. The pilot will be limited to a specific geographic area in regional Australia and will complement other regional initiatives of the Government. It is expected to be in operation by December 1999.

This measure will:

- allow Centrelink to develop and trial a pilot automated call handling facility; and
- allow the Department of Family and Community Services, in consultation with the Office of Government Online, to report in the 2000-01 Budget context on broader proposals for increased provision of electronic service delivery as a means of conducting business with the Government.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Securing Our Information Future*.

Expand respite support for carers of young people with disabilities

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Family and Community Services	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.2

Explanation

The Government will expand carer respite support from 1999-2000 for the carers of young people with disabilities.

This measure will support some 900 carers who have been unable to access existing State respite care or assistance provided under Commonwealth initiatives.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Our Families, Our Strength, Our Future*.

Optical surveillance to assist in detecting cases of serious social security fraud

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Family and Community Services	-16.5	-18.3	-18.8	-

Note: The 1998-99 MYEFO provided estimates of the impact of measures on the underlying cash balance.

Explanation

The Government announced savings of -\$8.6 million in 1998-99 on a cash outlays basis in the MYEFO.

This measure was reported in the MYEFO as follows:

"The Government has decided that Centrelink will contract reputable surveillance providers to assist in investigating up to 2,000 cases of serious social security fraud in a full year. The measure, which is to be implemented from 1 January 1999, is expected to significantly reduce cases of serious fraud on the social security system.

Surveillance will be instituted only after careful consideration of whether such action is in the public interest and after all alternative methods of investigation have been exhausted. Private surveillance companies contracted by Centrelink will be required to adhere to all relevant privacy legislation, guidelines and conditions."

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment.

The Finance and Administration Portfolio

Develop measures of relative disadvantage to target resources for indigenous Australians

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Commonwealth Grants Commission	3.2	2.5	-	-

Explanation

To ensure funding for programmes aimed at improving the situation of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is distributed on a needs basis, the Government has decided that the Commonwealth Grants Commission will develop measures of relative disadvantage to help target resources for indigenous Australians.

The Commission will produce a report on the relative needs of indigenous Australians across each programme area (housing, infrastructure, health, etc) for each Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission region, and by State and Territory. This report will be used as a basis for implementing new arrangements that improve the allocation of funding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Beyond Welfare*.

Further Information

The *Commonwealth Grants Commission Amendment Bill 1999* was introduced into the House of Representatives on 30 March 1999. The Act must be amended before the Commission can be asked to commence its inquiry.

The Immigration and Multicultural Affairs Portfolio

Additional funding to extend Living in Harmony campaign

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs	2.5	2.5	-	-

Explanation

The Government will promote and celebrate community harmony in Australia by providing an additional \$5 million to extend its *Living in Harmony* campaign.

The initiative is designed to engage all Australians in recognising that social harmony is the hallmark of a successful diverse society. The initiative consists of three linked strategies, a community grants programme (as its centrepiece), a partnerships programme, and a public information strategy.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Living in Harmony*.

Adult migrant English programmes and settlement programmes

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government remains committed to the continuation and improvement of the Adult Migrant English Programme (AMEP) and will, through the maintenance of current funding levels, provide \$336m over 4 years (\$85.9m in 1999-00) for this purpose. The AMEP provides basic English language tuition to adult migrants for whom English is not the first language. This commitment recognises that English language ability is one of the key factors in the successful settlement of migrants into the Australian community.

The Government has undertaken a number of reforms within current resources, including:

- tendering the AMEP Research Centre function, with the decision on the successful tenderer to be announced in June/July 1999 and a new five year contract to begin in January 2000;
- continuing to manage the operations and eligibility criteria of the AMEP in a flexible way to ensure that non-English speaking migrants derive effective and long-lasting benefits; and
- maintaining resources for English Language and Literacy training and education.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Living in Harmony*.

The Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Additional funding for partnerships against domestic violence

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	3.0	5.3	8.3	8.3

Explanation

This measure meets the Government's election commitment to provide an additional \$25 million to renew *Partnerships Against Domestic Violence* and to build on its success.

The new funding will build on the outcomes of *Partnerships Against Domestic Violence* and will focus on better prevention strategies in key areas such as community education, children affected by domestic violence, perpetrators of domestic violence and family violence in indigenous communities.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Opportunity and Choice*.

Further Information

Partnerships Against Domestic Violence is a collaborative initiative between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories for developing innovative approaches to the prevention of domestic violence across Australia.

The Veterans' Affairs Portfolio

Production of Documentary 'Australians at War'

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Veterans' Affairs	3.0	2.0	-	-

Explanation

The Government will fund the production of a documentary series, *Australians at War*, for the Centenary of Federation, as a means of focussing attention on the contributions made by Australia's veterans in serving their country.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Saluting their Service*.

Establish ANZAC Commemorative Site at Gallipoli, Turkey

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				

Department of Veterans' Affairs	1.2	-	-	-
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Explanation

The Government will establish an ANZAC commemorative site at Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey, in conjunction with the New Zealand Government. The commemorative site will serve both as a venue for the annual Anzac Day Dawn Service held in Gallipoli and to inform visitors throughout the year of the Gallipoli campaign in World War I. Subject to Turkish Government approval, it is planned the new site will open on Anzac Day 2000.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Saluting their Service*.

Improve Claims Management Process

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Veterans' Affairs	1.1	2.1	1.9	1.9

Explanation

The Government will increase funding for ex-service organisations to train advocates, through the Training and Information Programme and to replace the lapsing Claims Assistance Grants Scheme with a new support programme called Building Excellence in Support and Training, to assist veterans, war widows and widowers to lodge claims.

This measure will provide ex-service organisations with assistance for necessary training and resources to help veterans, war widows and widowers with the preparation of their claims and reduce the rate of appeals. The measure will improve access to entitlements by veterans, war widows and widowers, especially those living in rural and remote areas. The proposal will be implemented from 1 July 1999.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Saluting their Service*.

ANZAC Hall at the Australian War Memorial

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Capital (\$million)				
Australian War Memorial	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government has committed \$11.9 million (\$4.0 million in 1998-99) from the Centenary of Federation Fund, to construct a new ANZAC Hall behind the existing War Memorial.

The new hall, to be built at the rear of the existing structure, will house many substantial items from the national collection which are currently too large to be displayed. This project will give future generations of Australians the opportunity to see and appreciate important historical relics, and will strengthen awareness in the community of the achievements and sacrifices of Australian service men and women.

The ANZAC Hall is scheduled to open on ANZAC Day 2001.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Saluting their Service*.

Construction of a Memorial to Bomber Command

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Capital (\$million)				
Department of Veterans' Affairs	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The construction of a Memorial to Bomber Command will commemorate the achievements and sacrifices of the RAAF bomber command squadrons in World War II. This will promote respect and understanding by the community of the role of Australian service men and women and the part they played in shaping the Australian character. The memorial is being developed from within existing resources at a cost of \$100,000.

The memorial is proposed for development during the 1999-00 financial year.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Saluting their Service*.

Australia's Cultural Identity

The Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Portfolio

Further support for Inveresk Museum and Art Gallery

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	1.5	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will support the next stage of the planned Inveresk redevelopment in Launceston, Tasmania, which will involve the establishment of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery within the site. This phase will see the redevelopment of more than 20 former railway buildings, the creation of working exhibits based on the State's industrial heritage, such as the old blacksmith's shop and the restoration/construction of a new art gallery.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *A Stronger Tasmania*.

Continuation of Young and Emerging Artists Fund

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03

Expense (\$million)				
Australia Council	1.3	1.3	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide for continuation of the Young and Emerging Artists Fund, with a stronger focus on youth.

The Government's commitment to the Young and Emerging Artists Fund provides greater public exposure for the work of new artists, assisting their career development.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Arts for Australia's Sake*.

Further Information

In its first 18 months, the Emerging Artists Fund provided 61 grants to organisations and 208 grants to individuals.

Extend funding for Major Festivals Fund

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Australia Council	0.8	0.8	-	-

Explanation

The Government will extend funding for the Major Festivals Fund, which was established in the 1996-97 Budget. The Fund provides support to Australia's major international festivals to enable them to develop and present large scale commissioned works.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Arts for Australia's Sake*.

Further Information

As a result of the high profile exposure gained by arts productions through the Major Festivals Fund, several national and international tours have been negotiated, such as *Cloudstreet* to Melbourne, Sydney, Zurich, London and Dublin; the Stalker Theatre Company's *Blood Vessel* to Europe in 1998 and 1999; and the Australian Dance Theatre's *Possessed* to France and Germany.

On the basis of past performance, it is estimated that State and Territory Governments and other partners in programme delivery contribute at least one dollar for every dollar the Commonwealth invests in the Major Festivals Fund, thereby doubling the community impact.

Assist LOUDER Youth Festival

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Australia Council	1.5	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will make funding available to assist the LOUDER Youth Festival, which is planned for January 2001. LOUDER is the sequel to LOUD, Australia's first national media festival of youth culture and the arts which took place in January 1998. LOUD highlighted the creativity of Australians aged 12 to 25 using television, radio, print media, advertising and the Internet.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Arts for Australia's Sake*.

Maintenance of the funding base of the Cultural Development Programme

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	5.0	4.1	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide additional funding to the Cultural Development Programme. This additional money will help to maintain the funding base for the major national cultural organisations and training institutions and schemes funded through the Programme, such as Opera Australia and the National Institute of Dramatic Arts. It will also provide funding for the protection and return of Indigenous cultural property and the establishment of a National Cultural Heritage Fund.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Arts for Australia's Sake*.

Extension of cultural touring programmes

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	3.0	3.0	-	-

Explanation

As part of its regional arts strategy, the Government will provide funding of \$6 million over two years to increase access to, and targeted support for, cultural activities. This meets the Government's election commitment to increase high quality cultural activity in regional Australia by extending the impact of Playing Australia, Visions of Australia and Festivals of Australia.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Arts for Australia's Sake*.

Further Information

Visions of Australia grants have dramatically improved the touring of exhibitions in Australia since 1994. The programme has offered some 300 grants for exhibition development and touring. Attendance at exhibitions has been almost 3 million since 1994.

Playing Australia grants have substantially increased the number of performances of the performing arts in regional Australia. During 1998-99, Playing Australia will assist approximately 730 performances of Australia's best performing arts outside the capital cities.

Festivals of Australia has offered 311 grants to festivals in all states and territories, distributing the funds to regional and remote areas of Australia. Approximately 80 per cent of the grant funds have been distributed to festivals outside metropolitan Australia.

Contemporary Music Development

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	3.0	3.4	-	-

Explanation

The Government has provided additional funding of \$8.6m over 3 years (\$3.0m in 1999-00) to the Australia Council for research and development of new technology options, including online initiatives to support the profile and export of Australian contemporary music. \$2.3m has been provided on a cash outlays basis in the 1998-99 Additional Estimates process.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Arts for Australia's Sake*.

Grant to John Saunders Foundation

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-	-	-	-

Note: The 1998-99 MYEFO provided estimates of the impact of measures on the underlying cash balance.

Explanation

The Government committed \$1.0 million in 1998-99 on a cash outlays basis in the MYEFO.

The measure was reported in the MYEFO as follows:

"To ensure that the Sydney Jewish Museum has a secure future, the Government has provided a grant to the John Saunders Foundation."

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment.

The Finance and Administration Portfolio

Referendum on whether Australia becomes a Republic

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				

Australian Electoral Commission	63.4	0.3	-	-
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Explanation

The Government will conduct a Referendum on issues relating to whether Australia should become a Republic. This funding will enable the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to conduct the Referendum towards the end of 1999, as announced by the Government. The measure will also enable the AEC to prepare and process separate ballot papers for each question at the Referendum, if there is more than one question to be put.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment.

Further Information

The Referendum will be conducted under the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984*. Services provided to voters will be similar to those provided at the 1998 Federal Election. Information will be supplied to each elector by the Australian Electoral Commission detailing the purpose of the Referendum and stating the cases for and against the proposals.

Additional funding has been provided under the Attorney-General's portfolio for advertising campaigns promoting the arguments for and against the republic model. For further information see the related expense measure in Budget Paper 2 under the Attorney-General's portfolio titled *Republic Referendum Advertising Campaigns*.

The Industry, Science and Resources Portfolio

Contribute to construction of Maitland Federation Centre

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will contribute \$2 million in 1998-99 to the construction of a multi-purpose community and convention centre for the people of Maitland. The development

of the Centre will provide the Maitland region with a venue suitable for multi-sport, community and entertainment activities.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment.

Tamar River Festival

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government has committed \$140,000 to assist with the running of the Tamar River Festival, which was held in October 1998. The payment was made in 1998-99.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *A Stronger Tasmania and Tamar River Environs Project*.

Inveresk Woodchopping Stadium

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide \$60,000 in 1998-99 for a new Inveresk Woodchopping Stadium in Launceston, Tasmania. The Stadium will contribute to an innovative and competitive regional tourism industry and be used for woodchopping competitions; other visitor events, and as exhibition space for information and historic displays. Consistent with the Government's broader agenda for strengthening regional Australia, the new stadium will help implement the Tourism Action Agenda -- the *National Action Plan for Tourism*. Completion is expected during 1999-2000.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *A Stronger Tasmania*.

Strategy for tourism development, Burnie, Tasmania

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-	-	-	-

Explanation

In 1998-99 the Government will commit \$50,000 to the development of a strategy to assist tourism in the Burnie region of Tasmania. The tourism strategy will identify tourism projects and actions which will contribute to a more innovative and competitive regional tourism industry, with the capacity to help overcome current challenges in the region including structural readjustment, the decline in the length of stay of visitors, and relatively low growth in international and domestic tourism. Consistent with the Government's broader agenda for strengthening regional Australia, the project will help implement the Tourism Action Agenda -- the *National Action Plan for Tourism*. Completion of the strategy is expected in 1999-2000.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *A Stronger Tasmania*.

Grant to Gum San Heritage Museum, Ararat, Victoria

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide \$0.2 million in 1998-99 to assist with the construction of the Gum San Heritage Museum, including information displays which will feature the history of the goldfields and the contribution made by the Chinese community, a restaurant and seminar facilities. Consistent with the Government's broader agenda for strengthening regional Australia, the development of the Museum

will help implement the Tourism Action Agenda -- the *National Action Plan for Tourism* -- and will benefit the regional economy through increased tourism expenditure and employment.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment.

International Relations and Security

The Attorney-General's Portfolio

Establish a National Crime Information System (CrimTrac)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Attorney-General's Department	20.0	20.0	10.0	-

Explanation

The Government, in conjunction with State and Territory counterparts, will establish a National Crime Information System (CrimTrac) to provide police in all jurisdictions with rapid access to detailed, current information. In particular, CrimTrac will establish, for the first time, a national DNA Criminal Intelligence Database and a National Child Sex Offender Database. It will also replace the outdated National Automated Fingerprint Identification System. CrimTrac will allow real time access to operational policing data on a national basis.

The development and implementation of CrimTrac will be phased. It is envisaged that by the end of 2000 a new fingerprint identification system will be in operation and significant components of the DNA and child sex offender databases will have been implemented. Further enhancements to CrimTrac will occur in the following years.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *A Safer and Stronger Australia*.

Building safer communities - develop new approaches to crime prevention

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Attorney-General's Department	3.5	5.6	6.1	6.2

Explanation

The Government will provide funding over four years to implement its election commitment for a National Crime Prevention programme. This programme will be aimed at identifying and promoting ways to effectively reduce and prevent crime, and fear of crime in society and to prevent future involvement of young people in crime and delinquent behaviour.

The programme will be implemented in partnership with other Commonwealth agencies, the States and Territories, local government and the non-government sector. As part of the National Crime Prevention programme, the Government will provide funding for an

early intervention programme, which will work with families and young people, to prevent young people entering into criminal or delinquent behaviours.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *A Safer and Stronger Australia*.

Tough on drugs - increased search capacity and purchase of x-ray technology to enhance capacity for drug detection at the nation's borders

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Australian Customs Service	3.3	7.2	7.8	7.7
Capital (\$million)				
Australian Customs Service	7.0	2.4	-	-

Explanation

As part of the expansion of the Tough on Drugs strategy, the Government will provide additional resources to the Australian Customs Service to significantly increase Customs' ability to detect and seize illicit drugs being imported into Australia. The funding will provide Customs with an increased search capability through:

- an enhanced x-ray search capacity to:
 - better identify which cargo should be subject to physical examination;
 - target which part of the container should be searched, minimising the time required to examine the cargo; and
 - improve the rate and quality of examinations performed on high risk consignments.
- the creation of specialist ship and aircraft search teams to improve drug detection and seizure at Australian ports and airports; and
- the deployment of an additional marine crew to strengthen the coverage in the Torres Strait.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Tough on Drugs -- Strengthening the Fight*.

Tough on drugs - four mobile strike teams

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Australian Federal Police	5.2	6.3	6.4	6.4

Explanation

The Government will provide funding for four additional strike teams as part of its expansion of the Tough on Drugs strategy. The strike teams will comprise investigators, intelligence and financial analysts, technical experts, surveillance and counter intelligence personnel as required.

This initiative will provide the Australian Federal Police (AFP) with increased scope to build teams of differing composition and duration to pursue drug trafficking activity on a broader front and in greater depth. The new strike teams will allow the AFP to deploy resources to locations where the threat of

illegal activity is significant but where a large permanent AFP presence cannot be justified.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Tough on Drugs -- Strengthening the Fight*.

The Defence Portfolio

Defence New Priorities

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Department of Defence	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will progress initiatives to enable the Australian Defence Force to balance and enhance its capabilities in priority areas such as defeating air and maritime threats, strike and land forces.

Specifically, the Government has determined that:

- the Jindalee Over the Horizon Radar Network project will be remediated through the introduction of a new contract management company and revised project management arrangements;
- concerns regarding the Collins Class Submarine project will be addressed through the contract and ongoing testing and trials;
- Defence Reform Programme savings will be reinvested to fund the expansion of the combat force;
- it will support competitive remuneration rates through the development of a revised remuneration structure, in line with its commitment to give the Australian Defence Force a modern value-driven remuneration system;
- Defence will create an Office of the Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) and additionally, some \$10 million will be provided to the Defence Science and Technology Organisation to conduct research into RMA; and
- Defence will invest \$23 million in chemical, biological and radiological defence.

These measures will be absorbed within the Defence global budget.

These measures deliver on the Government's election commitment in *Building Combat Capability*.

The Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio

Opening an Australian Embassy in Zagreb

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Expense (\$million)				
Australian Trade Commission	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	0.9	1.9	1.9	2.0
Total	1.0	2.2	2.2	2.2
Capital (\$million)				
Australian Trade Commission	0.2	-	-	0.1
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	2.0	..	..	0.1
Total	2.2	..	..	0.2

Explanation

The Government has decided to establish an Australian Embassy in Zagreb, Croatia, including Austrade marketing staff.

The Embassy in Zagreb will strengthen Australia's diplomatic representation in Central Europe. It will work to advance Australia's bilateral and regional interests including trade and investment. Delivery of consular, passport and visa services in Croatia will improve significantly. The establishment of the Embassy in Zagreb will also further enhance the Government's market diversification strategy in Central and Eastern Europe.

Capital

As an integral part of the decision to open an Australian Embassy in Zagreb, Croatia, the Government has provided an equity injection for the acquisition of non-current assets for the mission. The main asset purchases will be office fitout, communications and office equipment, furniture (office and residential), and motor vehicles.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment in *Advancing Australia's Interests*.