

Appendix A: Expenses by Function and Sub-function

Table A.1 sets out Australian Government general government sector expenses by function and sub-function for 2024–25.

Table A.1: Australian Government general government sector expenses by function and sub-function

	2023-24 Outcome	2024-25 Estimate at 2025-26 Budget	2024-25 Outcome	Change on 2025-26 Budget
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
General public services				
Legislative and executive affairs	2,125	2,335	2,406	71
Financial and fiscal affairs	10,666	10,364	10,764	400
Foreign affairs and economic aid	7,141	8,760	7,488	-1,272
General research	3,947	4,775	4,346	-429
General services	1,359	1,240	1,748	508
Government superannuation benefits	6,325	5,578	6,136	558
Total general public services	31,563	33,052	32,887	-165
Defence	45,103	49,344	47,785	-1,559
Public order and safety				
Courts and legal services	1,827	1,811	1,944	133
Other public order and safety	5,912	6,967	6,573	-394
Total public order and safety	7,739	8,778	8,517	-261
Education				
Higher education	10,788	11,515	11,399	-116
Vocational and other education	2,237	2,638	2,325	-313
Schools	29,122	31,082	31,071	-12
<i>Non-government schools</i>	<i>18,021</i>	<i>19,370</i>	<i>19,372</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Government schools</i>	<i>11,101</i>	<i>11,712</i>	<i>11,699</i>	<i>-13</i>
School education – specific funding	1,122	956	905	-51
Student assistance	4,434	16,972	4,848	-12,124
General administration	308	340	354	14
Total education	48,011	63,503	50,901	-12,602
Health				
Medical services and benefits	38,593	42,027	41,957	-70
Pharmaceutical benefits and services	19,430	22,036	21,414	-622
Assistance to the states for public hospitals	27,855	30,221	30,217	-4
Hospital services	1,136	1,180	1,092	-88
Health services	14,018	15,152	31,259	16,107
General administration	4,334	5,105	4,946	-159
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health	1,224	1,345	1,363	18
Total health	106,589	117,067	132,249	15,182
Social security and welfare				
Assistance to the aged	94,849	102,448	101,767	-681
Assistance to veterans and dependants	11,002	10,724	22,016	11,292
Assistance to people with disabilities	78,996	85,606	86,338	732
Assistance to families with children	44,107	48,873	48,193	-680

Table A.1: Australian Government general government sector expenses by function and sub-function (continued)

	2023-24 Outcome	2024-25 Estimate at 2025-26 Budget	2024-25 Outcome	Change on 2025-26 Budget
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Social security and welfare (continued)				
Assistance to the unemployed and the sick	14,859	16,458	16,728	270
Other welfare programs	1,622	1,760	1,703	-57
Assistance for Indigenous Australians nec	2,853	3,386	3,031	-356
General administration	4,896	5,646	5,704	58
Total social security and welfare	253,184	274,901	285,479	10,578
Housing and community amenities				
Housing	3,979	12,039	3,297	-8,742
Urban and regional development	1,430	3,521	2,821	-700
Environment protection	1,574	2,562	2,211	-351
Total housing and community amenities	6,982	18,122	8,330	-9,793
Recreation and culture				
Broadcasting	1,689	1,781	1,792	11
Arts and cultural heritage	2,041	2,348	2,531	183
Sport and recreation	597	937	809	-127
National estate and parks	761	793	834	41
Total recreation and culture	5,088	5,859	5,966	108
Fuel and energy	12,988	16,437	14,954	-1,484
Agriculture, forestry and fishing				
Wool industry	51	62	46	-16
Grains industry	235	292	269	-23
Dairy industry	55	58	60	2
Cattle, sheep and pig industry	252	272	261	-11
Fishing, horticulture and other agriculture	464	630	521	-108
General assistance not allocated to specific industries	44	50	46	-4
Rural assistance	326	394	299	-95
Natural resources development	851	1,313	849	-463
General administration	1,275	1,391	1,449	58
Total agriculture, forestry and fishing	3,554	4,461	3,801	-660
Mining, manufacturing and construction	5,123	5,866	4,937	-930
Transport and communication				
Communication	1,654	1,922	1,723	-198
Rail transport	2,852	4,112	4,245	133
Air transport	368	488	412	-76
Road transport	8,380	8,568	8,957	389
Sea transport	503	509	499	-10
Other transport and communication	284	381	407	26
Total transport and communication	14,041	15,980	16,244	264

Table A.1: Australian Government general government sector expenses by function and sub-function (continued)

	2023-24 Outcome	2024-25 Estimate at 2025-26 Budget	2024-25 Outcome	Change on 2025-26 Budget
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Other economic affairs				
Tourism and area promotion	192	197	196	0
Total labour and employment affairs	6,094	6,104	5,425	-679
<i>Vocational and industry training</i>	2,999	2,599	2,113	-485
<i>Labour market assistance to job seekers and industry</i>	2,164	2,395	2,268	-127
<i>Industrial relations</i>	931	1,111	1,044	-67
Immigration	3,367	3,963	3,758	-206
Other economic affairs nec	3,838	3,799	3,516	-282
Total other economic affairs	13,490	14,063	12,895	-1,167
Other purposes				
Public debt interest	22,504	23,940	23,868	-72
<i>Interest on Commonwealth Government's behalf</i>	22,504	23,940	23,868	-72
Nominal superannuation interest	13,375	14,241	14,250	9
General purpose inter-government transactions	94,607	97,382	99,937	2,555
<i>General revenue assistance – states and territories</i>	91,305	96,280	97,288	1,008
<i>Local government assistance</i>	3,301	1,102	2,649	1,547
Natural disaster relief	1,913	1,506	7,071	5,565
Contingency reserve	0	-1,747	0	1,747
Total other purposes	132,399	135,322	145,126	9,804
Total expenses	685,857	762,756	770,071	7,315