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Part I: Revenue Measures

Table 1: Revenue Measures since MYEFO^(a)

	Estimated Change in Revenue(b)			
	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Measures introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget				
Income Tax				
Amendments to the Pooled Development Funds programme	-	-2.0	-3.0	-5.0
Cessation of the Tax Incentive for Heritage Conservation	-	1.1	1.1	1.1
Indirect Tax				
Civil Aviation Safety Authority cost recovery	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6
Funding for Airservices (location specific pricing) subsidy	11.4	5.1	-	-
Non-Tax				
Australian Communications Authority cost recovery	-	0.7	0.3	-
Cost recovery for Australian Broadcasting Authority costs associated with digital television	1.2	1.2	1.0	-
Phasing out of the Higher Education Equity Merit Scholarship Scheme	-	0.2	0.5	0.8
Increase Private Health Insurance Levy	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Review package - enhancement of portfolio review tribunals and extension of Asylum Seekers Assistance scheme	8.2	7.8	7.9	8.1
Increase in the non-Electronic Travel Authority visitor visa charge	6.9	7.7	8.4	9.2
Increase in the onshore long-stay visitor visa application charge	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.6
Establish an immigration presence at the Australian Consulate General in East Timor	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.4
Non-recovery for the Australian Geological Survey Organisation's offshore petroleum programme	-11.0	-11.0	-11.0	-
Civil Aviation Safety Authority restructuring	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2
Sub-Total	27.7	21.9	16.6	25.9
Measures introduced up to the 1999-2000 Budget				
Income Tax				
Taxation of collective investment vehicles	na	*	*	*
Tax relief for post-judgment interest awards in personal injury compensation cases	-14.0	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0
Taxation measures to encourage philanthropy	-5.5	-51.0	-61.0	-71.0
Deductibility of gifts	*	*	*	*
Software expenditure	*	*	*	*
Superannuation Surcharge – abolition of advance instalment	-	-120.0	-10.0	-5.0
New investment rules for superannuation funds	-	-	-	-

Table 1: Revenue Measures since MYEFO^(a) (continued)

	Estimated Change in Revenue(b)			
	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Indirect Tax				
Luxury car tax	na	35.0	40.0	40.0
Reduction in 32 per cent WST rate: date of effect	13.0	-	-	-
Reform of tobacco taxation – deferral of start date	-140.0	-	-	-
Tariff on steel tinplate and aluminium cansheet	0.3	-	-	-
Removal of tariff on machine tool parts	-5.0	-5.0	-5.0	-5.0
Privatisation of the wool stockpile				
– tax treatment of trading stock	*	*	*	*
Sub-Total	-151.3	-143.0	-38.0	-43.0
TOTAL IMPACT OF REVENUE MEASURES(c)	-123.6	-121.1	-21.4	-17.1

* The nature of this measure is such that a reliable estimate cannot be provided.

(a) Accrual revenue.

(b) A minus sign before an estimate indicates a reduction in revenue; no sign before an estimate indicates a gain to revenue.

(c) Measures may not add due to rounding.

Table 2: Revenue Measures up to MYEFO^(a)

	Estimated Change in Revenue(b)			
	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Measures Included in the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 1998-99(c)				
<i>Measures Introduced up to the 1998 Pre-Election Fiscal Outlook</i>				
Defer start date for opting out of the Superannuation Guarantee System	-	-	-	-
Cessation of the TCF Import Credit Scheme	-	107.0	120.0	133.6
Extension of the TCF Overseas Assembly Provisions	-	-8.0	-8.0	-8.2
A New Tax System	739.0	-16651.0	-17541.0	-20708.0
Student Visa Programme – additional revenue from visa processing	4.1	4.6	5.2	5.3
Extension of Electronic Travel Authority to Hong Kong and Taiwan from 1 July 1999(d)	-9.5	-10.5	-11.6	-12.4
Sub-Total	733.6	-16557.9	-17435.5	-20589.7
Measures Introduced Since the 1998 Pre-Election Fiscal Outlook				
Administrative Changes to Project By-Law Scheme	-0.6	-0.6	-0.7	-0.7
Removal of Tariffs on Medical and Scientific Equipment	-28.4	-33.2	-38.8	-45.4
Taxation Treatment on Disposal of Mining Property	*	*	*	*
Sub-Total	-28.9	-33.8	-39.5	-46.1
TOTAL IMPACT OF REVENUE MEASURES(e)	704.5	-16591.7	-17475.0	-20635.8

* The nature of this measure is such that a reliable estimate cannot be provided.

(a) Cash revenue.

(b) A minus sign before an estimate indicates a reduction in revenue; no sign before an estimate indicates a gain to revenue.

(c) Descriptions of these measures are provided in the *Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 1998-99*.

(d) Further information on client numbers since the *Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 1998-99* suggests that the impact of this measure may be lower than originally estimated.

(e) Measures may not add due to rounding.

Measures Introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget

INCOME TAX

Amendments to the Pooled Development Funds programme

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	-	-2.0	-3.0	-5.0

Explanation

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 as follows.

- 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.

Further Information

The revenue table shows the future reductions in the revenue associated with the programme enhancements. The administrative costs of the programme are shown separately in the expenses measure titled *Continuation of funding for the Pooled Development Funds Programme* described in Part II of this Budget Paper under the Industry, Science and Resources portfolio.

Cessation of the Tax Incentive for Heritage Conservation

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	-	1.1	1.1	1.1

Explanation

From 1 July 1999, the Government will convert the Tax Incentive for Heritage Conservation (TIHC) into a grants programme. The TIHC is administered under the *Income Assessment Act 1936* and provides a rebate of 20 per cent of heritage conservation works completed by taxpaying owners of heritage listed buildings and structures. The 1996-97 Tax Expenditure Review identified the TIHC as a rebate programme suitable for conversion to a grants programme.

Further Information

The cessation of the rebate will provide an estimated additional \$1.1 million in revenue per annum.

Under the new programme \$1.1 million annually will be allocated for grants to private owners of heritage listed buildings and structures to perform conservation work. See the related expense measure titled *Incentives for Heritage Programme* described in Part II of this Budget Paper under the Environment and Heritage portfolio.

INDIRECT TAX

Civil Aviation Safety Authority cost recovery

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6

Explanation

This measure increases the rate of excise and customs duty on aviation gasoline by 0.467 cents per litre, and the rate of excise and customs duty on aviation turbine fuel by 0.391 cents per litre. The measure is effective from midnight EST on Budget night, 11 May 1999 and will address a shortfall in industry contributions to air safety programmes.

Further Information

Further information on this revenue measure can be found in the expense measure titled *Civil Aviation Safety Authority – additional funding* described in Part II of this Budget Paper under the Transport and Regional Services portfolio.

Funding for Airservices (location specific pricing) subsidy

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	11.4	5.1	-	-

Explanation

This measure provides a temporary increase in the rate of excise and customs duty on aviation gasoline and aviation turbine fuel by 0.51 cents per litre effective from midnight EST on Budget night, 11 May 1999. The total revenue to be raised through this measure will be used to help maintain air traffic control services at regional and general aviation airports.

Further Information

Further information on this revenue measure can be found in the expense measure titled *Airservices Australia (Location Specific Pricing) Subsidy* described in Part II of this Budget Paper under the Transport and Regional Services portfolio.

NON-TAX

Australian Communications Authority cost recovery

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-	0.7	0.3	-

Explanation

The *Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Act 1997* allows the Australian Communications Authority to undertake full cost recovery for its activities. The measure involves the recovery from industry of costs of the Australian Communications Authority for expenses incurred in connection with:

- Analogue Closure Public Education Programme; and
- Review of Telecommunications Interception Funding Arrangements.

See also the related expense measures under the Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio titled *Analogue Closure Public Education Programme* and *Review of Telecommunication Interception Funding Arrangements*.

Cost recovery for Australian Broadcasting Authority costs associated with digital television

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	1.2	1.2	1.0	-

Explanation

The Government will recover the Australian Broadcasting Authority's costs associated with the conversion to digital television through a three year temporary surcharge commencing in 1999-2000 on licence fees paid by commercial television broadcasters. The television industry will be direct beneficiaries of this work, hence it is appropriate this sector bears the cost.

In addition, the Government will remove the current fee for service arrangement applicable to commercial television broadcasters under the *Television Broadcasting Services (Digital Conversion) Act 1998*. Fee for service is being removed because under this arrangement costs were borne disproportionately by regional broadcasters.

Further Information

The *Television Licence Fees Act 1964*, *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, and *Television Broadcasting Services (Digital Conversion) Act 1998* will require amendment to allow the administration of the surcharge.

The surcharge will be added to the licence fees payable by each commercial television broadcaster.

Phasing out of the Higher Education Equity Merit Scholarship Scheme

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	-	0.2	0.5	0.8

Explanation

The Government will phase out the Higher Education Equity Merit Scholarship Scheme from the 2000 academic year. To ensure current scholarship holders are not disadvantaged, the Government has decided that the measure will not affect scholarships already awarded.

Students who may otherwise have received a scholarship are expected to participate in the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS). The income-contingent, interest free, deferred payment arrangements available under HECS are an appropriate means of ensuring that disadvantaged students are not discouraged from participating in higher education.

Further Information

HECS debts which are deferred by students are indexed by CPI. The component in the students' debt which results from indexation is classified as non-tax revenue to the Commonwealth. The estimate of this amount for students who participate in HECS as a result of this measure is shown in the above table.

See also the related capital and expense measures under the Education, Training and Youth Affairs portfolio titled *Phasing out of the Higher Education Equity Merit Scholarship Scheme*.

Increase Private Health Insurance Levy

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3

Explanation

The Government will raise the Private Health Insurance Levy to meet the increased operational costs of the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman. This levy applies to registered health benefits organisations. It is based on the level of a health fund's membership.

Further Information

See the related expense measure under the Health and Aged Care portfolio titled *Increase funding for the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman*.

Review package - enhancement of portfolio review tribunals and extension of Asylum Seekers Assistance scheme

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Migration Review Tribunal	2.9	2.4	2.4	2.5
Refugee Review Tribunal	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.7
Total	8.2	7.8	7.9	8.1

Explanation

Consequent upon the passage of the *Migration Legislation Amendment Act No. 1 1998*, the Government will implement changes in the migration and refugee review system to improve the efficiency, credibility and accountability of immigration decision-making.

The changes proposed include increased cost recovery by:

- setting the fee for the Migration Review Tribunal at \$1,400 (which replaces the current application fees of \$500 for the Migration Internal Review Office and \$850 for the Immigration Review Tribunal). This will move substantially towards full cost recovery for applications to the Tribunal; and
- continuing arrangements for the Refugee Review Tribunal's post-decision fee of \$1,000 for unsuccessful Tribunal applicants whose application was lodged after 1 July 1997. Successful applicants are not liable to pay the fee. The post decision fee

was introduced for a two year period from 1 July 1997. Continuation of the fee is currently being considered by the Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Migration.

Further Information

The \$1,000 post decision fee was introduced as part of a series of measures to deter non-genuine onshore protection visa applicants from applying to the Tribunal for review merely to prolong their stay in Australia.

The fee of \$1,000 is sufficient to see a person registered on the *Movement Alert List* where the fee remains unpaid. A debt to the Commonwealth will prevent grant of a subsequent visa to enter Australia unless arrangements are agreed for its repayment.

For further information, see the related expense measure under the Immigration and Multicultural Affairs portfolio titled *Review package – enhancement of portfolio review tribunals and extension of Asylum Seekers Assistance scheme*.

Increase in the non-Electronic Travel Authority visitor visa charge

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs	6.9	7.7	8.4	9.2

Explanation

This measure involves an increase in the application fee for a non-Electronic Travel Authority short-term visitor visa from \$50 to \$60.

The increased fee is comparable to fees for short-term visitor applications imposed by a range of other countries, that compete with Australia for tourists. This increase will ensure that the costs of visa application processing, and any follow-up compliance action, is not borne by the Australian taxpayer.

Increase in the onshore long-stay visitor visa application charge

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.6

Explanation

The increase in the fee from \$145 to \$170 under this measure is designed to cover costs associated with checking bona-fides and undertaking follow-up compliance action for persons who either seek or obtain long-term visitor visas after arrival in Australia.

The increased fee is comparable to fees imposed by a range of other countries that compete with Australia for tourists, and will ensure that these costs are not borne by the Australian taxpayer.

Further Information

The fee increase will also help to encourage people to apply for the correct visa off-shore in the first instance.

Establish an immigration presence at the Australian Consulate-General in East Timor

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.4

Explanation

The opening of the Australian Consulate-General in Dili, East Timor will generate significant demand in immigration services (for both temporary and permanent entry) and result in increased visa revenue.

Further Information

See also related capital and expense measures in the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio entitled *Opening of an Australian Consulate-General in East Timor and an Australian Policy liaison office in Lisbon*.

Non-recovery for the Australian Geological Survey Organisation's offshore petroleum programme

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-11.0	-11.0	-11.0	-

Explanation

The Government will not seek to generate revenue of \$11 million a year over 1999-2000 to 2001-02. This original decision was taken to offset the provision of \$33.6 million to the Australian Geological Survey Organisation (AGSO) for the identification of new oil zones as announced in the 1998-99 Budget.

Further Information

See also the related:

- expense measure under the Industry, Science and Resources portfolio titled *Reversal of 1998-99 Budget decision to offset the Australian Geological Geological Survey Organisation's offshore petroleum programme*, and
- 1998-99 Budget Primary Industries and Energy portfolio measure titled *Offsets for Australian Geological Survey Organisation's offshore petroleum programme*.

Civil Aviation Safety Authority restructuring

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Civil Aviation Safety Authority	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2

Explanation

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) has embarked on a major organisational restructure (see the related capital measure under the Transport and Regional Services portfolio titled *Civil Aviation Safety Authority restructuring*). The restructure will lead to improved efficiency and effectiveness by CASA.

Measures Introduced up to the 1999-2000 Budget

INCOME TAX

Taxation of collective investment vehicles

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	na	*	*	*

Explanation

The Treasurer announced on 22 February 1999 that cash management trusts would be subject to 'flow-through' taxation under the new business entity tax regime outlined in *A New Tax System*. This means that the income earned and distributed by cash management trusts will not be taxed in the hands of the trustee (as proposed as a basis for consultation in *A New Tax System*) but rather in the hands of individual investors at their marginal tax rates. On the basis of the proposed timetable in *A New Tax System*, the measure will commence in the 2000-01 income year.

An in-principle decision has been taken for 'flow-through' taxation treatment to also apply to other collective investment vehicles. However there are a number of design details that will be determined after the release of the final report of the *Review of Business Taxation*. These include the tax treatment of the distributions of the profits of collective investment vehicles that are not paid out of the assessable income of such vehicles ('tax-preferred' income). The revenue impact of this measure cannot be determined until these design details are resolved.

Tax relief for post-judgment interest awards in personal injury compensation cases

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	-14.0	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0

Explanation

On 24 March 1999, the Assistant Treasurer announced amendments to the income tax law to provide tax relief on the amount of tax payable on post-judgment interest received in awards for damages in personal injury compensation cases. The amendments will ensure that post-judgment interest received in personal injury cases that accrues between the time of the original award of the damages and the time at which the matter is

finalised — either when any right to appeal has expired or when the matter is determined on appeal — will be exempt from tax.

The announcement was a legislative response to the full Federal Court decision in *Whitaker v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* 98 ATC 4285 that post-judgment interest forms part of assessable income in the year in which it is received.

Taxation measures to encourage philanthropy

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	-5.5	-51.0	-61.0	-71.0

Explanation

On 26 March 1999, the Prime Minister, Treasurer and Minister for Family and Community Services announced a package of measures to promote corporate and individual philanthropy. The measures included: tax deductibility for donations of property valued over \$5,000 regardless of when it was acquired or purchased; a capital gains tax (CGT) exemption for testamentary gifts of property; establishing a new category of 'private funds' that will be eligible to receive tax deductible donations without having to seek or receive donations from the general public; a CGT exemption for gifts accepted under the Cultural Gifts Programme; and allowing deductions for gifts accepted under the Cultural Gifts Programme to be apportioned over a period of up to five years. These changes will apply from 1 July 1999.

Deductibility of gifts

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	*	*	*	*

Explanation

Donations and gifts of \$2 or more to the following organisations have been made tax deductible from 1 March 1999: Stolen Children's Support Fund and the Sir William Tyree Foundation of the Australian Industry Group. The Stolen Children's Support Fund was established to assist in the counselling, educating and monitoring of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders who were removed from their families, while the Sir William Tyree Foundation was established to support the setting up of a Visiting Professorial Chair in Innovation at an Australian university or alliance of institutions. These deductions are for an indefinite period.

In addition since the 1998–99 Budget, there have been:

- 97 admissions to the Register for Cultural Organisations and 36 deletions; and
- 34 admissions to the Register for Environmental Organisations and 1 deletion.

Software expenditure

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	*	*	*	*

Explanation

The Assistant Treasurer announced on 14 December 1998 several minor legislative changes to the rules to provide for expenditure on systems and application software to be amortised at 40 per cent a year (ie over 2½ years). The amendments are:

- taxpayers will be able to ‘pool’ expenditure on developing software in an income year and write it off at 40 per cent in the following two years and 20 per cent in the third year;
- when software is no longer installed and used a balancing adjustment equal to the undeducted expenditure can be claimed as a deduction at that time; and
- software purchases of up to \$300 will be immediately deductible, subject to a *multiple purchase* rule, so that an immediate write-off is only available where the total expenditure on identical software in an income year is \$300 or less.

Further Information

As these amendments affect only a small number of taxpayers, the overall revenue impact is minor.

Superannuation Surcharge $\frac{3}{4}$ abolition of advance instalment

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	-	-120.0	-10.0	-5.0

Explanation

The Assistant Treasurer announced on 23 March 1999 that the advance instalment requirement applying to the surcharge would be removed, effective immediately. This

initiative will improve the overall operation and efficiency of the surcharge. The removal of the advance instalment will affect only the timing of surcharge collections.

New investment rules for superannuation funds

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	-	-	-	-

Explanation

In the 1998-99 Budget, the Government announced changes to the investment rules that apply to superannuation funds. The changes included ensuring that a superannuation fund would not be able to invest more than 5 per cent of its assets in certain investments, including investments in associated trusts and assets leased to associates. As announced, the changes applied from the introduction of the legislation, with funds having until 30 June 2001 to comply for existing investments. On 28 May 1998, the Government announced that the new rules would not apply to investments made before 12 May 1998.

On 22 April 1999, the Government announced further transitional measures, including allowing reinvestment of earnings from pre-12 May 1998 investments until 30 June 2005 and grandfathering transactions covered by contracts entered into before the Budget announcement. In addition, a superannuation fund with less than five members will be able to invest up to 100 per cent of its assets in business real property leased to related parties.

INDIRECT TAX

Luxury car tax

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	na	35.0	40.0	40.0

Explanation

The Treasurer announced on 24 March 1999, that from 1 July 2000 a luxury car tax of 25 per cent would apply to cars with a GST-exclusive retail price above the luxury car tax threshold. The luxury car tax threshold will be the car depreciation limit for income tax purposes (currently \$55,134). This differs from the \$60,000 luxury car tax threshold announced in *A New Tax System*.

Reduction in 32 per cent Wholesale Sales Tax rate: date of effect

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	13.0	-	-	-

Explanation

The phase down of the 32 per cent Wholesale Sales Tax (WST) rate was to apply from the date of Royal Assent of the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Transition) Bill 1998. However, to allow businesses to plan for this change, this measure will now apply from the 21st day following the date of Royal Assent.

Reform of tobacco taxation ~~3~~ deferral of start date

Revenue (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	-140.0	-	-	-

Explanation

On 3 February 1999, the Treasurer announced a modification to the reform of tobacco taxation outlined in *A New Tax System*. In response to the change that this represents to the tobacco industry, the new arrangements will now apply from 1 November 1999 rather than 1 July 1999 as previously announced. This is in order to give cigarette manufacturers sufficient time to implement the required changes.

Further Information

The new 'per stick' tobacco excise will apply to all cigarettes with a tobacco content up to and including 0.8 grams per cigarette. An excise per kilogram of tobacco will apply to all other tobacco products, including cigarettes heavier than 0.8 grams of tobacco per cigarette, loose tobacco and cigars. Incorporating this measure and parameter changes since MYEFO, the announcement to reform tobacco taxation is expected to raise \$440 million in a full year. There will be an increase in revenue in 1999-2000 over that estimated in *A New Tax System* by around \$50 million.

Part II: Expense Measures

Table 3: Expense Measures since the 1998-99 MYEFO

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Measures introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget				
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES				
<i>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</i>				
Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative	3.0	6.2	7.9	8.1
Cost-sharing for emergency animal disease response	-	-	-	-
Supermarket to Asia Strategy	4.4	5.1	5.0	-
Savings through application of competitive tendering and contracting principles and other performance improvement initiatives	-7.0	-7.0	-7.0	-7.0
Food and Fibre Supply Chain Programme	3.0	3.0	3.1	-
Deterring illegal fishing in Australia's subantarctic waters	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2
Ovine Johnes Disease Control and Evaluation Programme	1.5	0.8	0.4	0.1
Tasmanian Wheat Freight Shipping	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Regional Forest Agreements	4.0	-	-	-
Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy	4.0	4.0	4.1	-
	18.0	17.3	18.8	6.7
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S				
<i>Attorney-General's Department</i>				
Additional counselling and mediation dispute resolution services *	2.8	6.7	6.2	-
Establishment of a Federal Magistracy	5.2	8.2	7.3	7.2
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
Expand supervised children's contact services by 25 additional services *	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0
Extend Access to Justice in rural and regional Australia with five new community legal services	1.2	1.2	1.2	-
Establish Family Law advice telecommunications services	0.6	1.2	1.3	-
Data Protection in the Private Sector *	-0.6	-1.7	-1.4	-1.4
Implementation of the reform of Matrimonial Property Law	-	-	-	-
<i>Australian Customs Service</i>				
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
Sydney 2000 Olympic Games – Improved Security	3.0	3.6	-	-
<i>Australian Federal Police</i>				
Tough on drugs - four mobile strike teams	5.2	6.3	6.4	6.4
<i>Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission</i>				
Data Protection in the Private Sector *	0.5	1.5	1.4	1.4
	48.4	63.6	50.3	31.5

Table 3: Expense Measures since the 1998-99 MYEFO (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS				
<i>Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts</i>				
Continuation of funding to enhance the Sydney Symphony Orchestra	-	2.5	-	-
Continuation of ArtsInfo and Australia's cultural network	-1.0	0.5	0.5	-
Extension of cultural touring programmes	3.0	3.0	-	-
Establish Cooma Call and Technology Centre	1.7	-	-	-
Maintenance of the funding base of the Cultural Development Programme	5.0	4.1	-	-
Further support for Inveresk Museum and Art Gallery	1.5	-	-	-
Community Broadcasting	-0.8	1.5	1.5	-
Centenary of Federation Medallions	0.1	1.9	-	-
Support for 1999 as Online Australia Year	-	-	-	-
Analogue Closure Public Education Programme *	-0.6	-	-	-
Review of Telecommunication Interception Funding Arrangements *	-0.3	-	-	-
<i>Australia Council</i>				
Continuation of the Young and Emerging Artists Fund	1.3	1.3	-	-
Extend funding for Major Festivals Fund	0.8	0.8	-	-
Continuation of the Commonwealth Regional Arts Fund	2.5	2.5	-	-
Assist LOUDER Youth Festival	1.5	-	-	-
Australian Broadcasting Authority				
Australia's digital media future - digital television conversion	1.2	1.2	1.0	-
Australia's digital media future - regulation of online services	1.3	1.9	1.9	1.9
<i>Australian Communications Authority</i>				
Analogue Closure Public Education Programme *	0.6	-	-	-
Review of Telecommunication Interception Funding Arrangements *	0.3	-	-	-
	17.9	21.1	4.9	1.9
DEFENCE				
<i>Department of Defence</i>				
Defence New Priorities	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS				
<i>Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs</i>				
Increase support for rural and regional New Apprenticeship incentive	7.8	9.9	11.0	12.7
Extension of Commonwealth Funding for the National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools Strategy	30.0	30.0	30.0	-
Increase Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme Boarding Allowances	3.9	4.2	4.7	5.1
Quality Teacher Programme	15.2	31.0	31.4	0.1
Maintenance of Higher Education Research Infrastructure Funding	36.8	37.4	19.0	-
Funding Science Lectureships	5.0	10.0	10.0	-

Table 3: Expense Measures since the 1998-99 MYEFO (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<i>Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (continued)</i>				
Refocussing funding for the Higher Education Innovation Programme	-4.0	-4.0	-4.0	-4.0
Phasing out of the Higher Education Equity Merit Scholarship Scheme	-6.8	-9.0	-10.8	-12.3
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
Price Agreement for delivery of services by the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0
Enhancement of the National School Drug Education Strategy	1.0	2.1	3.7	3.7
Extension of Young Offender Pilot Programme	0.5	0.5	..	..
Developing an enterprise culture - women in small business	0.4	-	-	-
Additional places for the James Cook University Medical School	-	1.2	2.2	3.0
Endowment for the Sir Robert Menzies Centre for Australian Studies	5.0	-	-	-
Endowment for the Centre for Australian and New Zealand Studies	5.0	-	-	-
	131.0	146.1	122.1	10.5
EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND SMALL BUSINESS				
<i>Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business</i>				
Extension of Work for the Dole programme to year 12 school leavers	24.7	24.9	24.9	24.8
Improve job opportunities by establishing a Return to Work programme	5.0	5.9	6.1	7.2
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 Affirmative Action (Equal Employment Opportunity for Women) Act 1986	0.2	0.3	0.2	-
Developing an enterprise culture	2.0	2.2	2.2	-
	33.1	34.9	35.0	33.6
ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE				
<i>Department of the Environment and Heritage</i>				
Living Cities Programme	10.2	20.5	20.0	-
Oceans policy implementation	10.0	10.0	10.0	-
Providing world class weather forecasting	4.8	4.9	7.2	7.3
Shipping transport support for Australian Antarctic Programme	-	-	-	-
Environment and Heritage portfolio efficiency savings	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5
Cultural Heritage Projects Programme	2.2	2.2	2.3	-
Protecting Australia's forests	1.8	-	-	-
Environment Protection Programme	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4
Biodiversity Convention and Strategy Programme	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3
Australian Biological Resources Study	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2

Table 3: Expense Measures since the 1998-99 MYEFO (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<i>Department of the Environment and Heritage (continued)</i>				
Greenhouse Science initiatives	2.0	4.0	4.1	4.1
Incentives for Heritage Programme	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority				
Improved Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Surveillance	1.0	1.2	1.2	-
	39.2	50.1	52.1	18.9
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES				
<i>Department of Family and Community Services</i>				
Implement Youth Homelessness Early Intervention Programme	6.0	14.0	20.0	20.0
Establish rural call centres	4.6	7.7	7.6	7.7
Expand respite care for carers of young people with disabilities	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.2
National Homeless Strategy and the continuation of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Programme	8.7	9.3	9.3	9.3
Revise gifting rules *	1.6	-1.7	-2.9	-4.2
Clarify, simplify and strengthen debt recovery	1.3	-26.3	-27.6	-28.6
Use Tax File Numbers in Data Matching of Employment Declaration Forms, Prescribed Payment System and Reportable Payment System	0.1	-14.1	-23.4	-24.0
Tax reform family assistance package *	-12.6	48.6	60.9	76.5
Pay Centrelink and Health Insurance Commission for delivery of current system of child care payments	9.0	-	-	-
Tax Reform Package	103.7	132.0	66.5	64.3
Improve access to Centrelink through Electronic Service Delivery	4.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
Extend Eligibility for Student Financial Supplement Scheme Loan	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.6
Establishment of an Australian Household Panel Survey	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Simplify International Payments *	1.3	2.9	-8.6	-9.4
Provision of Outposted Centrelink/ATO Project Officers	-1.0	-4.6	-4.7	-4.8
Assessment of undisclosed assets across Income Support Payments	-0.9	-0.2	..	..
Survey of the Level and Reasons for Incorrect Payments for Major Income Support Payments	1.0	-1.9	-	-
Additional funding for Marriage and Relationship Education	2.0	2.0	2.0	-
Continuation of the Housing Reform Fund	-	-	-	-
End Double Rent Assistance for Blended Families	0.5	-0.5	-0.8	-1.1
Increase Funding for the Continence Aids Assistance Scheme	1.5	1.1	0.6	0.3
Continue Child Care National Information Strategy for Parents to 2000	-	-	-	-
Increase Men's access to Family Relationship Support Services	3.0	3.0	3.0	-
Improve Rent Assistance Compliance	3.7	-1.7	-2.4	-3.1
New income support arrangements for separated parents sharing care of a child *	-	3.3	-1.3	-2.2
Simplification of the Isolated and Secondary Student Boarder Concession	-	-	-	-
Additional counselling and mediation dispute resolution services *	0.2	0.2	0.2	-

Table 3: Expense Measures since the 1998-99 MYEFO (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<i>Department of Family and Community Services (continued)</i>				
Extend the definition of "Independent Employment" used under the Family Actual Means Test to include young people employed by their family	-	-	-	-
Data Matching with the Registrars-General Birth Records	-2.3	-0.6	-	-
Data Matching with the Australian Stock Exchange Clearing House Electronic Sub-register System records	-1.8	-1.0	-	-
Data matching with State and Territory Superannuation Administration Authorities	-3.2	-1.1	-	-
Data Matching of Prescribed Payment System data between Centrelink and the ATO	-2.0	-5.8	-5.9	-6.1
Simplify Technical Rules	-	..	-	-
Additional counselling and mediation dispute resolution services *	0.2	0.2	0.2	-
Expand supervised children's contact services by 25 additional services *	-	-	-	-
Align Invalidity Service Pension Assessments *	0.3	5.0	9.1	10.0
	137.9	179.8	112.3	115.4
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION				
<i>Department of Finance and Administration</i>				
Commercialisation of Property Portfolio - reduction in price of outputs	-29.5	-27.3	-27.9	-29.3
Australian Electoral Commission				
Referendum on whether Australia becomes a Republic	63.4	0.3	-	-
<i>Commonwealth Grants Commission</i>				
Develop measures of relative disadvantage to target resources for indigenous Australians	3.2	2.5	-	-
<i>Office of Asset Sales and Information Technology Outsourcing</i>				
Revision to estimated sale costs for the further sale of Telstra	7.5	-	-	-
Extension of the Information Technology outsourcing programme	14.3	9.8	-	-
Reinstatement of price of output funding for the Office of Asset Sales and Information Technology Outsourcing	4.1	-	-	-
	62.9	-14.8	-27.9	-29.3
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE				
<i>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</i>				
Opening of an Australian Consulate-General in East Timor and an Australian Policy Liaison Office in Lisbon *	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.3
Opening of Australian Embassy in Zagreb *	0.9	1.9	1.9	2.0
<i>AusAID</i>				
Opening of an Australian Consulate-General in East Timor and an Australian Policy liaison Office in Lisbon *	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
<i>Australian Trade Commission</i>				
Opening of Australian Embassy in Zagreb *	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
	6.6	7.8	7.9	8.2

Table 3: Expense Measures since the 1998-99 MYEFO (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
HEALTH AND AGED CARE				
<i>Department of Health and Aged Care</i>				
National Illicit Drug Strategy - additional funding for drug treatment	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6
Helping people with chronic disease manage their illness	1.6	3.4	4.3	5.1
Preventing falls in older people	1.1	1.1	2.2	2.2
Hepatitis C education and prevention	1.5	3.6	3.6	3.7
Population Health Evidence Base Advisory Mechanism	-	-	-	-
New pathology partnership to strengthen quality *	-7.7	-18.4	-30.2	-46.5
Quality incentives for prescribing pharmaceuticals	-28.3	-38.9	-55.5	-64.7
General practitioner involvement in coordinated care planning	3.6	11.2	16.8	22.9
Multidisciplinary case conferencing *	0.8	2.1	3.1	4.2
Practice Incentives Programme - new care plan targets	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1
Voluntary annual health assessments for those aged 75 years and over *	1.7	9.2	12.1	15.8
Expanded Medicare easyclaim facilities	1.6	6.2	6.7	4.7
Medicare - electronic commerce initiative	-	-	-4.0	-6.0
Simplified billing in the private health industry	2.5	0.2	0.2	0.2
Lifetime Health Cover	12.3	2.0	1.7	1.4
Helping general practitioners participate in multidisciplinary care planning	2.4	2.4	1.6	1.7
Integration of health information systems to support better delivery of care	3.4	6.7	-	-
Additional coordinated care trials	6.2	10.3	10.5	6.2
Fighting suicide	8.0	10.2	10.4	10.6
Retention payments for general practitioners in rural and remote areas	10.5	10.7	10.9	11.0
Developing a national strategic approach to improving asthma management	1.9	3.6	3.7	-
Fly-in fly-out female general practitioner services to meet the needs of rural women	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1
Strengthening support for women with breast cancer	0.8	1.3	1.0	1.0
Ongoing funding for the National Breast Cancer Centre	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Deferral of some acute health care microeconomic reform activities	-1.0	-	-	-
30 new Regional Health Service Centres	5.9	11.8	11.7	11.4
Bush Crisis Line upgraded	-	-	-	-
Further training for remote area nurses	-	-	-	-
Better hearing services *	50.5	51.1	52.5	54.2
Improving access to health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	6.8	16.0	22.5	33.5
Improved living conditions in remote communities *	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3
Carelink - information on community care	3.6	11.8	12.5	13.3
100 extra aged care beds in Regional Health Service Centres	-	0.3	0.6	1.1
Enhanced respite care services	20.0	20.4	20.7	21.1

Table 3: Expense Measures since the 1998-99 MYEFO (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Aged care capital funding assistance targeted particularly to rural Australia	-	19.5	6.1	-
Industry restructuring - an investment in better aged care facilities	-	8.2	-	-
Targeting residential care funds to those most in need	-22.7	-23.1	-23.5	-23.9
Pre 1 October 1997 Nursing Home Residents *	4.5	3.2	3.0	3.2
Simplifying aged care planning for rural and remote areas	1.2	1.9	1.2	1.0
Infrastructure support for health and medical research institutes	5.0	15.0	-	-
Establishing regional medical schools	4.0	4.1	5.2	5.3
Tax reform family assistance package *	-	5.5	6.0	6.6
Establish National Strategy for Biotechnology *	3.8	3.8	-	-
New income support arrangements for separated parents sharing care of a child *	-	..	-0.2	-0.2
Align Invalidation Service Pension Assessments *	..	0.5	1.0	1.1
<i>Australia New Zealand Food Authority</i>				
Reforms to food hygiene and safety standards	1.0	-	-	-
<i>Professional Services Review</i>				
Strengthening the Professional Services Review Scheme	1.5	2.1	3.9	4.4
	119.9	190.5	134.1	117.5
IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS				
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs				
Review package - enhancement of portfolio review tribunals and extension of Asylum Seekers Assistance scheme *	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Development of purchasing agreement	-	-2.2	-	-
Additional funding to extend Living in Harmony campaign	2.5	2.5	-	-
Establish an immigration presence at the Australian Consulate General in East Timor	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3
<i>Migration Review Tribunal</i>				
Review package - enhancement of portfolio review tribunals and extension of Asylum Seekers Assistance scheme *	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3
<i>Refugee Review Tribunal</i>				
Review package - enhancement of portfolio review tribunals and extension of Asylum Seekers Assistance scheme *	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.5
	11.6	9.2	9.1	9.3
INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES				
<i>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</i>				
Extension of the Shipbuilding Production Bounty	13.7	12.4	1.5	0.7
Establish Printing Industry Competitiveness Scheme	6.5	4.6	4.7	4.8
Upgrade Tasmanian sporting facilities	-	-	-	-
Support domestic tourism campaign	6.0	-	-	-
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
Reversal of 1998-99 Budget decision to offset the Australian Geological Geographical Survey Organisation's offshore petroleum programme	-5.3	-5.3	-5.3	-5.3

Table 3: Expense Measures since the 1998-99 MYEFO (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<i>Department of Industry, Science and Resources (continued)</i>				
Department of Industry, Science and Resources - use of departmental expenses to partially offset election commitments and other measures	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0
Tough on Drugs in Sport *	1.1	-	-	-
Establish National Strategy for Biotechnology *	6.0	4.0	-	-
Regional Minerals Programme - Northwest Tasmania	1.0	4.0	-	-
Extension of Country of Origin Awareness Campaign	1.2	-	-	-
Restoration of Urangan Pier	0.3	-	-	-
Enhancement of Regional Tourism Programme	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
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
Enhancing Value Chains for Action Agenda Sectors	0.9	1.3	1.0	-
<i>Australian Institute of Marine Science</i>				
Australian Institute of Marine Science infrastructure refurbishment	-	-	-	3.4
<i>Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation</i>				
Funding for waste management plan implementation	-	5.0	-	-
<i>Australian Sports Commission</i>				
Funding for the Australian Sports Commission	1.9	50.9	46.1	49.1
Tough on Drugs in Sport *	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Australian Sports Drug Agency</i>				
Tough on Drugs in Sport *	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.0
<i>Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation</i>				
Maintain Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation funding	-	23.9	27.1	30.8
	28.4	95.4	68.8	77.1
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET				
<i>Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</i>				
Additional funding for partnerships against domestic violence	3.0	5.3	8.3	8.3
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission</i>				
Improved living conditions in remote communities *	-	-	-	-
<i>Office of National Assessments</i>				
Additional capacity for analysis of international developments	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
	3.9	6.2	9.2	9.2
TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES				
<i>Department of Transport and Regional Services</i>				
Extend Road Safety Black Spot Programme	-	40.8	41.7	-
National Highway and Roads of National Importance	19.0	68.0	78.0	30.0
Tasmanian Freight Equalization Scheme - response to review	20.4	20.5	21.1	21.7
Increase support for the Indian Ocean Territories	6.5	6.9	7.9	-
Regional flood mitigation programme	6.0	7.0	7.0	-
Local Government Incentive Programme	3.5	3.5	-	-
Upgrade of Rockhampton Airport Runway	1.0	6.0	-	-
Airservices Australia (Location-Specific Pricing) Subsidy	9.0	7.0	-	-
Bridge Upgrading Programme	6.0	6.0	6.0	-

Table 3: Expense Measures since the 1998-99 MYEFO (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<i>Australian Maritime Safety Authority</i>				
Continue funding for coastal radio network	-	3.0	3.0	3.0
<i>Civil Aviation Safety Authority</i>				
Civil Aviation Safety Authority - additional funding	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6
	80.0	177.4	173.3	63.4
TREASURY				
<i>Department of the Treasury</i>				
Establishment of the Australian Office of Financial Management	5.2	5.6	5.4	5.4
Additional funding for taxation reform	3.1	2.1	1.1	-
Enhancement of the Corporations and Securities Panel	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Savings to offset National Competition Council measure "Additional legal funding for matters relating to Part IIIA of the Trade Practices Act 1974"	-0.2	-0.2	-	-
Australia as a Centre for Global Financial Services	3.5	3.5	-	-
<i>Australian Competition and Consumer Commission</i>				
Tax Reform Price exploitation	11.6	9.5	6.9	-
Telecommunications - Australian Competition and Consumer Commission - additional functions and powers	0.9	-	-	-
<i>Australian Securities and Investment Commission</i>				
Corporate Law Economic Reform Programme	2.8	2.0	3.5	0.9
<i>Australian Taxation Office</i>				
Australian Business Number	44.6	32.9	24.8	26.6
Pay As You Go and New Withholding Arrangements	35.7	46.7	41.2	46.4
Fringe benefits tax reform	9.1	2.9	2.0	0.2
Business taxation reform	23.8	-	-	-
Tax reform and Australian Taxation Office efficiencies	-37.6	-77.8	-126.8	-160.7
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
<i>National Competition Council</i>				
Additional legal funding for matters relating to Part IIIA of the Trade Practices Act 1974	0.2	0.2	-	-
	110.8	34.3	-36.4	-75.4
VETERANS' AFFAIRS				
<i>Department of Veterans' Affairs</i>				
Continuation of Community Care Seeding Grants Programme	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4
Improve Claims Management Process	1.1	2.1	1.9	1.9
Production of Documentary "Australians at War"	3.0	2.0	-	-
Additional Funding for Regional War Memorials Project	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1
Establish ANZAC Commemorative Site at Gallipoli, Turkey	1.2	-	-	-
Service Delivery to Veterans in Rural and Remote Areas - Agency arrangements	-	-	-	-
Extend provision of Veterans' Children Education Scheme assistance for the children of Extreme Disablement Adjustment pensioners	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Additional Funding support for ANZAC Parade National Memorials	1.0	-	-	-

Table 3: Expense Measures since the 1998-99 MYEFO (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<i>Department of Veterans' Affairs (continued)</i>				
Managing Health Care expenditure	-	-	-	-
Enhance debt recovery	-	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Home support - extend the HomeFront Initiative and introduce Home Support Loans	-1.7	-2.0	-1.9	-1.9
Implementation of Tax Reform Package	3.6	3.1	..	..
Align Invalidation Service Pension Assessments *	0.4	-5.4	-13.0	-16.1
Revise gifting rules *	0.4	-0.4	-0.6	-0.9
Multidisciplinary case conferencing *	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.7
Voluntary annual health assessments for those aged 75 years and over *	0.1	1.3	1.9	2.2
Better hearing services *	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
New pathology partnership to strengthen quality *	-0.7	-1.4	-2.2	-3.1
Simplify International Payments *	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Pre 1 October 1997 Nursing Home Residents *	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
	11.3	2.0	-11.2	-15.0
Total measures introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget	861.0	1020.9	722.3	383.4
Measures introduced up to the 1999-2000 Budget				
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES				
<i>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</i>				
Pork Industry Assistance Package - further measures	5.0	-	-	-
	5.0	-	-	-
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S				
<i>Attorney-General's Department</i>				
Republic Referendum Advertising Campaigns	15.7	-	-	-
National Illicit Drug Strategy - early intervention and diversion *	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
<i>Australian Federal Police</i>				
National Illicit Drug Strategy - early intervention and diversion *	6.5	5.5	5.7	5.6
<i>Australian Transactions Reports and Analysis Centre</i>				
National Illicit Drug Strategy - early intervention and diversion *	3.0	2.2	2.1	2.1
<i>National Crime Authority</i>				
National Illicit Drug Strategy - early intervention and diversion *	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9
	27.5	9.9	10.0	9.9
COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS				
<i>Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts</i>				
Assistance to Community Broadcasters for costs associated with commercialisation of the transmission network	-	-	-	-
Restriction of access to adult telephone services regime *	-0.2	-	-	-
<i>Australian Broadcasting Authority</i>				
Restriction of access to adult telephone services regime *	0.2	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

Table 3: Expense Measures since the 1998-99 MYEFO (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS				
<i>Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs</i>				
Redevelop ABSTUDY payment and management system	6.5	2.7	2.3	2.2
Quadrennium funding for non-government schools	2.7	56.6	110.4	168.5
National Illicit Drug Strategy - early intervention and diversion *	2.9	3.9	1.8	0.7
	12.1	63.3	114.5	171.4
EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND SMALL BUSINESS				
<i>Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business</i>				
Expansion of Mutual Obligations *	0.5	33.8	33.8	33.8
Redirection of Funds to Mutual Obligations and Indigenous Employment Programme	-16.2	-38.2	-24.7	3.6
Introduction of an Indigenous Employment Policy	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
	9.3	20.6	34.2	62.4
ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE				
<i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority</i>				
Funding for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to cover increased costs of the Independent Monitor for the Port Hinchinbrook project	0.2	-	-	-
	0.2	-	-	-
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES				
<i>Department of Family and Community Services</i>				
Additional Funding for Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement for net increase in public housing costs, as a result of tax reform	-	89.7	89.7	89.7
National Illicit Drug Strategy - early intervention and diversion *	2.0	3.1	3.1	3.2
Expansion of Mutual Obligations *	3.2	2.0	2.0	1.8
	5.2	94.8	94.7	94.7
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION				
<i>Department of Finance and Administration</i>				
Exmouth Emergency Relief Fund *	-	-	-	-
Reduction in the Department of Finance and Administration's price of outputs	-0.6	-	-	-
National Illicit Drug Strategy - early intervention and diversion *	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3
Commonwealth contribution to the Crookwell bushfire appeal *	-	-	-	-
	-0.5	0.1	0.2	0.3
HEALTH AND AGED CARE				
<i>Department of Health and Aged Care</i>				
National Illicit Drug Strategy - early intervention and diversion *	21.7	33.0	42.9	60.6
Assisting rural medical students through their studies	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
International Year of Older Persons - celebration to mark the start of cultural change	5.0	-	-	-
Health and medical research boost	16.7	51.0	86.4	119.9
<i>Private Health Insurance Ombudsman</i>				
Increase funding for the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
	44.7	85.3	130.6	181.7

Table 3: Expense Measures since the 1998-99 MYEFO (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES				
<i>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</i>				
Contribute to construction of Maitland Federation Centre	-	-	-	-
Grant to Gum San Heritage Museum, Ararat, Victoria	-	-	-	-
Strategy for tourism development, Burnie, Tasmania	-	-	-	-
Inveresk Woodchopping Stadium	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET				
<i>Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</i>				
Commonwealth contribution to the Crookwell bushfire appeal *	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES				
<i>Department of Transport and Regional Services</i>				
Exmouth Emergency Relief Fund *	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
TREASURY				
<i>Department of the Treasury</i>				
A New Tax System - grants to balance State budgets	-	-	365.3	345.5
	-	-	365.3	345.5
Total measures introduced up to the 1999-2000 Budget	103.5	273.8	749.6	866.0
Total impact of expense measures	964.5	1294.8	1471.9	1249.3

Totals may not add due to rounding

* Measure affects more than one portfolio

Table 4: Expense Measures up to the 1998-99 MYEFO^(a) (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY				
<i>Measures introduced up to the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Sugar Industry Assistance Package	4.4	3.9	2.8	-
Pork Industry Assistance Package	1.5	0.5	-	-
East Gippsland floods - grant to Victorian Farmers Federation for fodder transport	-	-	-	-
Loxton Irrigation Area Water System - refurbishment	-	-	-	-
Drought Exceptional Circumstances Assistance - Duinga, Monaro C and Cobar/Wilcannia	3.2	0.1	-	-
<i>Measures introduced since the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Drought Exceptional Circumstances Assistance - Wentworth and Broken Hill areas	1.4	0.2	-	-
Savings from the Rural Adjustment Scheme to offset the grant to the Victorian Farmers Federation for fodder transport to East Gippsland	-	-	-	-
Costs associated with the privatisation of the Wool International stockpile	-	-	-	-
	10.5	4.7	2.8	-
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S				
<i>Measures introduced up to the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Child Support - pilot services to assist parents when contact orders are made	0.6	0.6	-	-
Australian Federal Police - resourcing needs and reform programme	21.9	16.0	-	-
	22.5	16.6	0.0	-
COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS				
<i>Measures introduced up to the 1998 PEFO</i>				
National Gallery of Australia - building repairs	-	-	-	-
Telstra Social Bonus - upgrade of the telecommunications infrastructure in remote Australia to facilitate the abolition of pastoral call rate	50.0	50.0	50.0	-
Telstra Social Bonus - increased funding for Networking the Nation	20.0	20.0	20.0	-
<i>Measures introduced since the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Telstra Social Bonus - further increased funding for Networking the Nation	7.0	7.0	7.0	-
Telstra Social Bonus - Television fund initiative	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0
Grant to John Saunders Foundation	-	-	-	-
Australian Broadcasting Authority - funding for planning requirements related to digital broadcasting	-	-	-	-
Savings in running costs - offsets to funding Australian Broadcasting Authority for planning requirements related to digital broadcasting	-	-	-	-
	101.0	101.0	101.0	24.0

Table 4: Expense Measures up to the 1998-99 MYEFO^(a) (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS				
<i>Measures introduced up to the 1998 PEFO</i>				
A New Tax System - increased assistance for social security recipients	-	7.5	6.9	7.2
<i>Measures introduced since the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Additional funding to Catholic Education Systems	98.3	103.8	106.6	109.3
Extra student places for James Cook University	4.6	5.4	5.6	5.7
Strategic Partnerships - Industry Research and Training Scheme	12.4	23.4	24.0	-
Short-term Emergency Assistance for School-term Hostels	-	-	-	-
	115.4	140.2	143.1	122.1
EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND SMALL BUSINESS				
<i>Measures introduced up to the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Enhancement to Job Network Services	16.6	-	-	-
Employment Services Market - reprioritisation of funding	-10.1	-	-	-
A New Tax System - goods and services tax business startup package	500.0	-	-	-
	506.5	0.0	0.0	-
ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE				
<i>Measures introduced since the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Telstra Social Bonus - additional funding for the Natural Heritage Trust	-	-	250.0	-
	0.0	0.0	250.0	244.2
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES				
<i>Measures introduced up to the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Child Care Communication Strategy - enhancement of information activities	-	-	-	-
Apply full rate of rent assistance to people lodging in marginal accommodation - bring forward implementation to 1 January 1999	-0.4	..	..	-
Salvation Army - leadership training in the delivery of social welfare and health related services	0.5	0.5	0.5	-
Drought Exceptional Circumstances Assistance - Duinga, Monaro C and Cobar/Wilcannia	0.3	..	-	-
Exempt Farm Family Restart Scheme re-establishment grants from income test lump sum provisions	1.7	-	-	-
A New Tax System - increased assistance for social security recipients	-	1600.6	1485.2	1548.0
A New Tax System - improving assistance to families	-	1157.3	1219.7	1284.2
A New Tax System - aged persons savings bonuses	-	1140.5	-	-
A New Tax System - reduction in pension taper rate	-	325.2	339.6	360.0
A New Tax System - reforming the fringe benefits tax provision	-	-14.3	-29.6	-30.7

Table 4: Expense Measures up to the 1998-99 MYEFO^(a) (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<i>Measures introduced since the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Drought Exceptional Circumstances Assistance - Wentworth and Broken Hill areas	0.2	0.1	-	-
Extension of Youth Homelessness Pilot Programme	-	-	-	-
Ex Gratia payments to pensioners without departure certificates	-	-	-	-
Additional funding for medical assessments for disability support payments	-	-	-	-
Grants to family relationship support organisations - services to support men in their family relationships	-	-	-	-
Optical surveillance to assist in detecting cases of serious social security fraud	-16.5	-18.3	-18.8	-19.2
Ex Gratia payments for Disability Support Pensions recipients affected by the implementation of the Youth Allowance	-	-	-	-
Ex Gratia payments for Austudy recipients affected by the implementation of the Youth Allowance	-	-	-	-
	-14.2	4191.6	2996.6	3142.3
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION				
<i>Measures introduced up to the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters - Report on the 1996 Election - funding of Government response	5.1	4.2	4.2	4.3
Restoration of Harrick's Cottage - grant to Brimbank Council	-	-	-	-
Grant to St Peter's Church, East Melbourne	-	-	-	-
Administrative savings in management of non-commercial estate - Harrick's Cottage and St Peter's Church	-	-	-	-
Natural disaster mitigation studies	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Natural disaster mitigation studies - funded from within Natural Disaster Relief Assistance	-3.0	-3.0	-3.0	-3.0
<i>Measures introduced since the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Victoria Emergency Fund	-	-	-	-
Payment to administrators of Cobar Mines Pty Ltd	-	-	-	-
Costs associated with the privatisation of the Wool International stockpile	-	-	-	-
Reimbursement of costs associated with the privatisation of the Wool International stockpile*	-	-	-	-
	5.1	4.2	4.2	4.3
HEALTH AND AGED CARE				
<i>Measures introduced up to the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Australian Health Care Agreements - additional funding to the States	192.7	169.2	180.1	191.5
Establish an Institute of Clinical Studies	5.0	5.1	-	-
Private health insurance industry reforms - re-insurance consultancy and consumer information service	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Drought Exceptional Circumstances Assistance - Duinga, Monaro C and Cobar/Wilcannia	0.1	-	-	-

Table 4: Expense Measures up to the 1998-99 MYEFO^(a) (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
HEALTH AND AGED CARE (continued)				
Additional aged care places in rural and regional communities	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.8
Transfer of aged care places to rural and regional communities	-1.6	-1.7	-1.7	-1.9
A New Tax System - private health insurance initiative	949.0	1016.0	1089.0	1162.5
<i>Measures introduced since the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Drought Exceptional Circumstances Assistance - Wentworth and Broken Hill areas	0.1	..	-	-
Additional funding for residential aged care services continuing to receive additional recurrent funding	1.3	2.4	3.1	2.7
Assistance to remote Aboriginal communities to purchase (Avgas) aviation fuel instead of petrol to combat petrol sniffing	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
	1149.0	1194.1	1273.6	1358.2
IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS				
<i>Measures introduced up to the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Student Visa Programme - additional compliance and processing costs	3.7	4.2	4.8	5.5
Extension of Electronic Travel Authority to Hong Kong and Taiwan - offsetting savings	-9.5	-10.3	-11.1	-
	-5.8	-6.1	-6.3	5.5
INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES				
<i>Measures introduced up to the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Assistance to Textile, Clothing, Footwear and Leather industries	-	10.2	144.7	147.3
Australian Commonwealth Games Association - grant to assist preparation for, and involvement in, the 1998 Commonwealth Games	-	-	-	-
<i>Measures introduced since the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Investment incentives for Visy Pulp and Paper mill project	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
	3.0	13.2	147.7	150.3
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET				
<i>Measures introduced up to the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Federation Fund - revised funding profile	100.0	-	-100.0	-
Federation Fund - additional funding	6.8	-	-	-
Flood relief - Wollongong	-	-	-	-
<i>Measures introduced since the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Referendum on the Republic	-	-	-	-
	106.8	0.0	-100.0	-

Table 4: Expense Measures up to the 1998-99 MYEFO^(a) (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<i>TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES</i>				
<i>Measures introduced up to the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Sydney to Canberra Very High Speed Train Project - proving up phase	-	-	-	-
A New Tax System - new States responsibilities towards local government	-	-1335.7	-1382.2	-1430.3
<i>Measures introduced since the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Northern Territory Indigenous Health Infrastructure	-	-	-	-
Telstra Social Bonus - Rural Transaction Centres	30.0	30.0	9.0	-
	30.0	-1305.7	-1373.2	-1430.3
<i>TREASURY</i>				
<i>Measures introduced up to the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Community education and information programme on the tax system	-	-	-	-
Community education and information programme on the tax system - private health insurance rebate	-	-	-	-
Community education and information programme on the tax system - tax reform call centres	-	-	-	-
A New Tax System - reduction in Financial Assistance Grants	-	-18176.0	-18809.0	-19463.0
A New Tax System - grants to balance State budgets	-	-	941.0	321.0
A New Tax System - replacement of the Diesel Fuel Rebate Scheme	-	-1585.0	-1702.0	-1793.0
A New Tax System - diesel fuel rebate for remote power	-	9.0	9.0	10.0
A New Tax System - excise credit to replace Diesel Fuel Rebate Scheme	-	3579.0	3842.0	4047.0
A New Tax System - goods and services tax policy and administration costs	350.0	350.0	300.0	290.0
A New Tax System - impact on public debt interest of tax reform	98.0	179.0	302.0	599.0
A New Tax System - advances to balance State budgets	-	-	-	-
	448.0	-15644.0	-15117.0	-15989.0
<i>VETERANS' AFFAIRS</i>				
<i>Measures introduced up to the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Extend rent assistance eligibility for the Veterans' Children Education Scheme	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
A New Tax System - increased assistance for social security recipients	-	178.4	159.5	166.1
A New Tax System - aged persons savings bonuses	-	162.5	-	-
A New Tax System - reduction in pension taper rate	-	55.0	60.0	60.0
	0.6	396.5	220.1	226.7

Table 4: Expense Measures up to the 1998-99 MYEFO^(a) (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<i>MEASURES NOT ABLE TO BE ALLOCATED TO A PORTFOLIO</i>				
<i>Measures introduced up to the 1998 PEFO</i>				
A New Tax System - reduced costs to government from indirect tax reform	-	-537.0	-568.0	-599.0
<i>Measures introduced since the 1998 PEFO</i>				
Decisions taken but not yet announced	-	-	-	-
	0.0	-537.0	-568.0	-599.0
Total of all measures to the PEFO	2311.5	-11612.9	-12440.1	-13111.4
Total of all measures since the PEFO	166.9	182.1	414.6	126.5

Measures may not add due to rounding.

(a) Policy decisions taken up to 13 December 1998.

Measures Introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 in *Primed for Growth* 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.

Cost-sharing for emergency animal disease response

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	-	-	-

Explanation

In accordance with the Government's election commitment in *Primed for Growth*, 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.

Supermarket to Asia Strategy

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 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 under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio titled *Food and Fibre Supply Chain Programme*.

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

Savings through application of competitive tendering and contracting principles and other performance improvement initiatives

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-7.0	-7.0	-7.0	-7.0

Explanation

This saving in departmental expenses represents efficiencies which are to be derived by the application of competitive tendering and contracting and other performance improvement initiatives.

Savings will be generated by internal efficiencies, and are not expected to have any community impact.

Food and Fibre Supply Chain Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	3.0	3.0	3.1	-

Explanation

The Government will provide new funding of \$9.2 million to implement its election commitment in *Primed for Growth* 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.

See also the related expense measure under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio titled *Supermarket to Asia Strategy*.

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.

Deterring illegal fishing in Australia's subantarctic waters

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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, fulfilling an election commitment in *Wealth from the Sea*. 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 (AFZ) around the subantarctic Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) with consequential protection of important fishery resources, especially of the Patagonian toothfish, which Australian-licensed vessels catch in the region.

Ovine Johnes Disease Control and Evaluation Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	1.5	0.8	0.4	0.1

Explanation

The Government will, in accordance with its election commitment in *Primed for Growth*, 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.

Tasmanian Wheat Freight Shipping

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2

Explanation

The Government will extend the Tasmanian Wheat Freight Scheme (TWFS). The scheme will be reviewed after the 1999-2000 financial year. The TWFS, which covers most of the costs of shipping and unloading wheat from the mainland to Tasmania, will assist the economic sustainability of the cereal processing and related baking, intensive animal, feedlot and aquaculture industries in Tasmania.

Regional Forest Agreements

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 (RFA) by the end of 1999. This increased funding honours 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*.

Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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, and honours a Government election commitment in *Primed for Growth*.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S

Additional counselling and mediation dispute resolution services

Expense (\$m)

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

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*.

Establishment of a Federal Magistracy

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Attorney-General's Department	5.2	8.2	7.3	7.2

Explanation

The Government will establish a federal magistracy to serve the interests of the Australian community by increasing the accessibility of justice for all Australians.

The Federal Magistrates Service, as it will be known, will provide effective, appropriate and timely access to justice in all matters within its jurisdiction. It will use alternative dispute resolution procedures where appropriate, with an emphasis in its family law jurisdiction on the conciliation of disputes and the welfare of children.

Further Information

A federal magistracy will deal with less complex cases, enabling judges of both the Family and Federal Courts to concentrate on the more complex areas of law. The magistracy will ease the workload of the Federal and Family Courts and will address delays which have built up particularly in the family law jurisdiction. It is anticipated that the magistracy will commence in early 2000 following passage of the enabling legislation through Parliament.

Establish a National Crime Information System (CrimTrac)

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Attorney-General's Department	20.0	20.0	10.0	-

Explanation

Following its election commitment 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

Expense (\$m)

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

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Customs Service	3.3	7.2	7.8	7.7

Explanation

As part of the expansion of the Tough on Drugs strategy announced as an election commitment, 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.

- See also related capital measure under the Attorney-General's portfolio titled *Tough on drugs - increased search capacity and purchase of x-ray technology to enhance capacity for drug detection at the nation's borders*.

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

Tough on drugs - four mobile strike teams

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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, which it announced as an election commitment. 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*.

Expand supervised children's contact services by 25 additional services

Expense (\$m)

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

Explanation

The Government will provide funding for its election commitment in *Our Families, Our Strength, Our Future* for 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.

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

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Attorney-General's Department	1.2	1.2	1.2	-

Explanation

Following its election commitment in *Law and Justice*, 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.

Establish Family Law advice telecommunications services

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 thereby meeting its election commitment in *Law and Justice* and *Our Families, Our Strength, Our Future*. 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.

Sydney 2000 Olympic Games - Improved Security

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Customs Service	3.0	3.6	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide additional resources for the Australian Customs Service to ensure that the extraordinary volume of tourists and goods entering and departing Australia for the Olympics are expeditiously processed while appropriate border controls are maintained. The major areas of Customs' operations affected by this measure will be passenger processing, cargo management and the marine fleet.

Data Protection in the Private Sector

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Attorney-General's Department	-0.6	-1.7	-1.4	-1.4
Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission	0.5	1.5	1.4	1.4
Total	-0.1	-0.1	-	-

Explanation

The Government will implement a consistent standard of privacy protection in the private sector. An integral part of this framework will be light touch legislation to support self-regulatory privacy codes, approved by the Privacy Commissioner and provide a legislative framework where codes are not in place. This legislation will provide effective privacy protection to Australians, without imposing unnecessary compliance costs on business.

The legislation is being developed in consultation with representatives from key industry sectors, the Privacy Commissioner, the States and Territories and consumer and privacy groups.

Further Information

The Privacy Commissioner will be a key focus point in implementing the legislation, with community education, including working closely with the business community, a primary

role. The Commissioner will provide assistance to business in understanding and applying the requirements of privacy protection, through the issue of guidelines and advice, with special assistance to small business enterprises. The Commissioner will provide advice and assistance to individuals wishing to make a complaint, and investigate and seek to resolve complaints where no code complaint mechanism is in place.

This measure is budget neutral. Reduced cost of outputs in the Attorney-General's Department will be used to fund this expense and the related capital measure titled *Data Protection in the Private Sector*.

Implementation of the reform of Matrimonial Property Law

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Attorney-General's Department	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government is committed to reform of matrimonial property law to ensure greater certainty and clarity in the allocation of matrimonial property, including accumulated superannuation interests, after marriage breakdown and to safeguard and protect the interests of all parties. The measure will contribute towards achieving a more effective, equitable and accessible law and justice within the system of government by the provision of an education campaign on amendments to the law about matrimonial property and accumulated superannuation interests, as well as the development of valuation factors by the Australian Government Actuary for accumulated superannuation interests.

Changes to the law about matrimonial property and accumulated superannuation interests could affect the entire married community. It will, therefore, be essential to educate the community as to the nature of the changes, how they will be affected by them and where they can get additional information about them.

This measure is budget neutral. The expenses associated with this measure will be funded from reduced cost of outputs in the Attorney-General's Department.

COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

Continuation of funding to enhance the Sydney Symphony Orchestra

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-	2.5	-	-

Explanation

The Government will continue its enhancement funding for the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (SSO) for a further year, to assist it in becoming a world class orchestra and meet planned commitments for the Sydney 2000 Olympics. Initial enhancement funding of \$2.5 million a year from 1995-96 was provided for the SSO to allow it to become a world class orchestra.

A wide ranging inquiry into the major performing arts sector, including the Sydney Symphony Orchestra is now underway. Future funding for the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will be considered after the completion of the review, for which a report is due in August.

Continuation of ArtsInfo and Australia's cultural network

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-1.0	0.5	0.5	-

Explanation

The Government will continue funding ArtsInfo and Australia's Cultural Network (ACN). This measure builds on the success of implementing the Government's policy of increasing access to Australian culture via the Internet.

Funding for this measure of \$1.5 million over three years is to be offset by savings in the departmental expenses of Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts in 1999-2000.

Further Information

ArtsInfo provides information on opportunities for assistance, employment, training and business development as well as reference information.

ACN was launched in April 1998 to improve online access to, and participation in Australia's cultural endeavours, commerce activities and events.

Extension of cultural touring programmes

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 in its policy statement *Arts for Australia's Sake*, to increase high quality cultural activity in regional Australia by extending the impact of Playing Australia, Visions of Australia and Festivals of Australia.

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.

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Establish Cooma Call and Technology Centre

Expense (\$m)

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

Maintenance of the funding base of the Cultural Development Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	5.0	4.1	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide additional funding to the Cultural Development Programme as announced in its 1998 election policy statement *Arts for Australia's Sake*. 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.

Further support for Inveresk Museum and Art Gallery

Expense (\$m)

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

A commitment to support the Inveresk development was made in the Government's 1998 election policy statement *A Stronger Tasmania*.

Community Broadcasting

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-0.8	1.5	1.5	-

Explanation

As part of its commitment to support community broadcasting, the Government will continue special purpose funding of \$4.5 million over three years for the community broadcasting infrastructure investment package and multicultural community radio broadcasting.

This funding will support community ethnic language radio groups and community radio stations which provide ethnic language programming. It will allow for the extension of the Community Access network to include new stations, mainly in regional areas; continued upkeep and further development of the Community Broadcasting Database; and continuation of the current level of multicultural broadcasting.

This measure will be partly offset by savings of \$2.3 million in 1999-2000 in the departmental expenses of the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts in 1999-2000.

Centenary of Federation Medallions

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	0.1	1.9	-	-

Explanation

The Government will give a Centenary of Federation Commemorative Medallion to each primary school child in Australia in 2001. This memento, to the generation that will carry the nation into the future, will complement education programmes planned for school children in the Centenary year of nationhood.

Further Information

Activities for the Centenary of Federation are being co-ordinated by the National Council for the Centenary of Federation, which will play the leading role in the oversight of centenary related activities, celebrations and commemorations in Australia and overseas.

Support for 1999 as Online Australia Year

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will support 1999 as Online Australia Year, as announced in its 1998 election policy *Securing Our Information Future*. 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.

Analogue Closure Public Education Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-0.6	-	-	-
Australian Communications Authority	0.6	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will support an Analogue Closure Public Education Programme to assist the Australian Communications Authority to fulfil its consumer protection functions under the *Australian Communications Act 1997* more effectively. The programme will involve advising analogue users of details of the staged analogue closure to assist them to make informed decisions, particularly about purchasing other telecommunications products and services, including other mobile services.

The funding for the Australian Communications Authority will be offset by savings in departmental expenses of the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

Further Information

The analogue mobile network will close on a staged basis. At December 1998, there were 1.379 million analogue services in use.

Costs associated with the education programme will be recovered from industry via cost recovery arrangements.

See the related revenue measure in Part II titled *Australian Communications Authority cost recovery*.

Review of Telecommunication Interception Funding Arrangements

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-0.3	-	-	-
Australian Communications Authority	0.3	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide additional resources to the Australian Communications Authority (ACA) to conduct a review of the longer term cost effectiveness of telecommunication interception arrangements. The ACA will report to the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts by 28 May 1999. A specialist member has been appointed to the ACA for the duration of the review to lead it.

The funding for the Australian Communications Authority will be offset by savings in the departmental expenses of the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

Further Information

See the related revenue measure in Part II titled *Australian Communications Authority cost recovery*.

Australia's digital media future - digital television conversion

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Broadcasting Authority	1.2	1.2	1.0	-

Explanation

The Government will provide additional resources for the Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA) to undertake activities related to digital television conversion.

The *Television Broadcasting Services (Digital Conversion) Act 1998* (the Act) sets out the legislative framework for converting all national and commercial television services from analogue to digital mode, with a commencement date of 1 January 2001 for the five largest metropolitan centres, and by 1 January 2004 for regional Australia.

The Act requires the ABA to develop conversion schemes for commercial and national television broadcasters that will include the development of digital channel plans and

approval of implementation plans by each commercial and national broadcaster. The Act also requires the ABA to assess technical feasibility of access to transmission towers and sites by broadcasters and datacasters for installation of transmission equipment.

Costs associated with this measure will be recovered from industry. See the related revenue measure in Part II titled *Cost recovery for Australian Broadcasting Authority costs associated with digital television*.

Australia's digital media future - regulation of online services

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Broadcasting Authority	1.3	1.9	1.9	1.9

Explanation

To protect Australian citizens, especially children, against illegal or highly offensive material on the internet, the Government will establish a regime to regulate the carriage of content over the internet. The Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA) will administer this regime.

This measure honours the Government's commitment to make the internet safe and secure, maximising business and consumer confidence in the internet, online services and electronic commerce as announced in its 1998 election policy *Securing Our Information Future*.

Further Information

The Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts announced these changes on 19 March 1999. The Broadcasting Services Amendment (Online Services) Bill 1999 was introduced into the Parliament in April 1999.

Continuation of the Young and Emerging Artists Fund

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australia Council	1.3	1.3	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide for continuation of the Young and Emerging Artists Fund as announced in its 1998 election policy statement *Arts for Australia's Sake*, 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.

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

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 honours a commitment made by the Government in the 1998 election policy statement *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.

Continuation of the Commonwealth Regional Arts Fund

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 honours a commitment made by the Government in the 1998 election policy statement *Arts for Australia's Sake*.

Assist LOUDER Youth Festival

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 honours a commitment made by the Government in the 1998 election policy statement *Arts for Australia's Sake*.

DEFENCE

Defence New Priorities

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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, which honour the Government's election commitments, will be absorbed within the Defence global budget.

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

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

Increase support for rural and regional New Apprenticeship incentive

Expense (\$m)

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

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

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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, *Raising Standards*, 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.

Increase Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme Boarding Allowances

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 and this increased funding meets the Government's 1998 education election commitments announced in *Raising Standards*.

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.

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.

Quality Teacher Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 in *Raising Standards*, 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.

Maintenance of Higher Education Research Infrastructure Funding

Expense (\$m)

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

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 made in *Science – A Vision for Excellence* 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.

Refocussing funding for the Higher Education Innovation Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	-4.0	-4.0	-4.0	-4.0

Explanation

The Government has been able to deliver savings of \$4 million per annum to the Budget by focussing remaining programme funding in the Higher Education Innovation Programme on a smaller number of key priority areas including:

- improvements to teaching and learning; and
- delivery of higher education curriculum by the incorporation of flexible delivery mechanisms and emerging information technology.
-

Phasing out of the Higher Education Equity Merit Scholarship Scheme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	-6.8	-9.0	-10.8	-12.3

Explanation

The Government has decided to phase out the Higher Education Equity Merit Scholarship Scheme from the 2000 academic year. To ensure current scholarship holders are not disadvantaged, the Government has decided that the measure will not affect scholarships already awarded.

Students who may otherwise have received a scholarship are expected to participate in the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS). The income-contingent, interest free, deferred payment arrangements available under HECS are an appropriate means of ensuring that disadvantaged students are not discouraged from participating in higher education.

Further Information

The savings from this measure arise from phasing out of the HECS exemption available to scholarship recipients.

See also the related capital and revenue measures under the Education, Training and Youth Affairs portfolio titled *Phasing out of the Higher Education Equity Merit Scholarship Scheme*.

Improvement of School Students' Literacy and Numeracy Skills

Expense (\$m)

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

This decision honours the Government's election commitment announced in *Raising Standards* to provide additional funding to further improve literacy and numeracy in schools.

For further information see the related expense measure under the Education, Training and Youth Affairs portfolio titled *Literacy and Numeracy in the Middle Years of Schooling*.

Literacy and Numeracy in the Middle Years of Schooling

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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, announced in *Raising Standards*. 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 under the Education, Training and Youth Affairs portfolio titled *Improvement of School Students' Literacy and Numeracy Skills*.

Price Agreement for delivery of services by the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0

Explanation

The Government has endorsed an agreement between the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA) and the Department of Finance and Administration which establishes the price of delivering DETYA's services to the community. This will result in a reduction in price of DETYA's outputs by \$40 million over the budget and

forward estimates. The savings will be achieved through efficiencies in DETYA's operations, which will have no impact on the level of service to the community.

Enhancement of the National School Drug Education Strategy

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	1.0	2.1	3.7	3.7

Explanation

The Government announced in its 1998 election policy statement, *Tough on Drugs – Strengthening the Fight*, 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 honours that commitment. It 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*.

Extension of Young Offender Pilot Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 announced in the Law and Justice policy statement – *A Safer and Stronger Australia*, 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.

Developing an enterprise culture - women in small business

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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, outlined in *Opportunity and Choice*, to support women participating effectively in small business, which is vital to generating and maintaining employment, growth and prosperity.

Additional places for the James Cook University Medical School

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 James Cook University 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 entitled *Establishing regional medical schools*.

Endowment for the Sir Robert Menzies Centre for Australian Studies

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	5.0	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide a one-off endowment in 1999-2000, to the Sir Robert Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, University of London. The endowment replaces previous Commonwealth annual grant payments, and gives the Centre long-term security of funding. The Centre promotes Australian studies and individual and institutional linkages through activities such as guest-lectures by eminent Australians, academic and student exchanges, discussion forums and conferences.

This initiative will raise the level of interest in and excellence of Australian studies overseas and will help Australia to win recognition as a world class contributor to education, training and research. It also links to Government priorities for the promotion of Australia's cultural, economic and social achievements and to broader government-to-government links.

Endowment for the Centre for Australian and New Zealand Studies

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	5.0	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide a one-off endowment in 1999-2000 to the Centre for Australian and New Zealand Studies at Georgetown University in Washington DC. The endowment replaces previous Commonwealth annual grant payments, and gives the Centre long-term security of funding. The Centre promotes Australian studies and individual and institutional linkages through activities such as guest-lectures by eminent Australians, academic and student exchanges, discussion forums and conferences.

This initiative will raise the level of interest in and excellence of Australian studies overseas and will help Australia to win recognition as a world class contributor to education, training and research. It also links to Government priorities for the promotion of Australia's cultural, economic and social achievements and to broader government-to-government links.

EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND SMALL BUSINESS

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

Expense (\$m)

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

Improve job opportunities by establishing a Return to Work programme

Expense (\$m)

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

Workplace Reform - Secret Ballots

Expense (\$m)

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

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 Affirmative Action (Equal Employment Opportunity for Women) Act 1986

Expense (\$m)

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

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 (SBCEP). 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 SBCEP 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 Millenium*.

Further Information

The SBCEP'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.

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Living Cities Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the 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 was an election commitment in *Our Living Heritage*.

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.

Oceans policy implementation

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the 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.

Consistent with the Government's election commitment in *Our Living Heritage*, an additional \$20 million is to be funded from the Natural Heritage Trust, contingent on the sale of the second tranche of Telstra.

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.

Providing world class weather forecasting

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the Environment and Heritage	4.8	4.9	7.2	7.3

Explanation

The Government will continue its increased support for the operations and services of the Bureau of Meteorology, in response to the recommendations of the 1996 *Review of the Operation of the Bureau of Meteorology*. The Review recommended that additional funds be provided for the Bureau to perform effectively the range of functions expected of Australia's national meteorological service. This measure extends the additional funding initially provided for a three year period in the 1996-97 Budget to 2002-03.

Among other things, this funding will improve public access to the Bureau's databases and upgrade public and marine weather services and services to provincial areas.

Shipping transport support for Australian Antarctic Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the 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*.

Environment and Heritage portfolio efficiency savings

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the Environment and Heritage	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5

Explanation

The Government has identified administrative savings to be generated from within the Environment and Heritage portfolio through the more efficient delivery of programmes. A review will be conducted over the next 12 months to scope options for further possible savings.

Cultural Heritage Projects Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the 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 in *Our Living Heritage*.

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.

Protecting Australia's forests

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the 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. This increased funding honours the Government's election commitment announced in *Our Living Heritage*.

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

Further Information

The RFA's 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 West regions of Victoria, and for the South East region of Queensland.

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

Environment Protection Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the Environment and Heritage	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4

Explanation

A portion of the Environment Protection Programme was due to lapse in 1999-2000. The Government will continue the current level of funding to address environmental priorities in a number of areas including:

- environment impact assessments of major development proposals and other projects arising from Commonwealth decisions;
- meeting Australia's commitments under international regimes for the sound management of chemicals;
- regulating trade in and illegal traffic management of hazardous waste;
- addressing the rehabilitation of contaminated sites;

- promoting Australia's environment industries particularly in the Asia Pacific region;
- supporting our international negotiations and efforts to protect the ozone layer;
- promoting national initiatives for the protection of the nation's water resources; and
- fulfilling Australia's environmental obligations under the London Convention on sea dumping and sea installations.

Biodiversity Convention and Strategy Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the Environment and Heritage	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3

Explanation

The Government will continue to provide funds for monitoring progress towards the implementation of a National Strategy for the effective identification, conservation and management of Australia's biological diversity.

Australian Biological Resources Study

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the Environment and Heritage	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2

Explanation

The Government will continue to fund the Participatory Programme research grant scheme of the Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) at current levels to provide the underlying taxonomic knowledge necessary for the conservation and sustainable use of Australia's biological diversity.

Greenhouse Science initiatives

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the Environment and Heritage	2.0	4.0	4.1	4.1

Explanation

The Government will continue to fund Greenhouse Science for the four years from 1999-2000 until 2002-03 at the current level. Funding for the activity was due to reduce by \$2 million in 1999-2000 and cease thereafter.

This measure supports continued investigation of climate systems, improving climate change models, detecting regional climate change and supporting international climate change science.

Further Information

This initiative is part of Australia's commitment to supporting global research on greenhouse science under the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Incentives for Heritage Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the Environment and Heritage	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1

Explanation

The Government will convert the former Taxation Incentive for Heritage Conservation Scheme (TIHC) into a grants programme. Under the new Cultural Heritage Projects Programme approximately \$1 million annually will be allocated for grants to private owners of heritage listed buildings and structures to perform conservation work.

Further Information

The TIHC is administered under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* and provides a rebate of 20 per cent on heritage conservation works completed to taxpaying private owners of heritage places.

Translation to a grants programme will not involve any additional impact on the 1999-2000 Budget as the taxation rebates previously available under the TIHC will cease.

See also the related revenue measure in Part II titled *Cessation of Tax Incentive for Heritage Conservation*.

Improved Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Surveillance

Expense (\$m)

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

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Implement Youth Homelessness Early Intervention Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	6.0	14.0	20.0	20.0

Explanation

The Government will implement a new youth homelessness early intervention programme in 1999-2000. This programme will fund services for early intervention and support to families where conflict involving adolescents threatens to result in the young person's separation from family, school and their community.

The measure arises from recommendations in the final report of the Prime Ministerial Youth Homelessness Taskforce, Putting Families in the Picture, and will be implemented through a staged process. The initial focus will be on projects in areas with the highest need. When fully operational, the programme will consist of approximately 100 services providing assistance to some 12,000 cases per annum, involving around 7,000 young people and 5,000 families.

Establish rural call centres

Expense (\$m)

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

Expand respite support for carers of young people with disabilities

Expense (\$m)

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

National Homeless Strategy and the continuation of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	8.7	9.3	9.3	9.3

Explanation

The Government will continue funding for the Supported Accommodation Assistance Programme (SAAP) beyond the current Agreement, which expires in December 1999. It will also provide increased resourcing, including parity funding, to redress potential inequities in Commonwealth funding between the States and Territories that have arisen from increased wage costs for SAAP services.

SAAP services are delivered through a network of approximately 1,200 community organisations. It is Australia's primary service delivery response to homelessness and provides transitional support and accommodation to help homeless people and people at risk from domestic violence.

This initiative extends assistance to homeless people who are disadvantaged, in crisis and/or on low incomes. At the same time, it will assist in preventing ongoing dependence on welfare support and promoting engagement in work and other aspects of life.

The Government will also develop a national homelessness strategy that will include improved co-ordination and linkages with related programmes.

Revise gifting rules

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	1.6	-1.7	-2.9	-4.2
Department of Veterans' Affairs	0.4	-0.4	-0.6	-0.9
Total	1.9	-2.1	-3.6	-5.1

Explanation

This measure reduces from \$10,000 to \$5,000 the amount that pension beneficiaries can gift each year without attracting the deprivation provisions. Currently the *Social Security Act 1991* allows a person or a couple to give away up to \$10,000 per year without that gift being considered to be a deprived asset. As a result of this measure, and with effect from 1 July 1999, amounts gifted in excess of the \$5,000 limit will be treated as a deprived asset for five financial years from the date of gift. Existing cases of deprivation will continue to be treated under the old rules, as will those who have not yet claimed but have given away assets on the understanding that gifts less than \$10,000 were exempt.

From 1 July 1999, the period in which pension beneficiaries or future beneficiaries can make gifts changes from a “pension year”, which is based on the anniversary of their grant of payment, to the more commonly understood and widely used financial year.

Clarify, simplify and strengthen debt recovery

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	1.3	-26.3	-27.6	-28.6

Explanation

The Government will take steps to ensure that, where a person has been over paid benefits under the *Social Security Act 1991*, the excess amount is treated as a debt and simple administrative debt recovery powers, involving recovery direct from the recipient’s account by way of notice on the bank or financial institution concerned, can be used to complement the provisions already available under the Act (eg. legal proceedings).

The use of administrative debt recovery processes will ensure social welfare beneficiaries effect repayments expeditiously, resulting in administrative savings to the Budget.

Use Tax File Numbers in Data Matching of Employment Declaration Forms, Prescribed Payment System and Reportable Payment System

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	0.1	-14.1	-23.4	-24.0

Explanation

The Government will use Tax File Numbers as the primary match key when comparing Centrelink records with Employment Declaration Forms, and Prescribed Payment System and Reportable Payment System records. This will facilitate the early identification of potential overpayments and reduce the expenses associated with maintaining the social safety net.

Tax reform family assistance package

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	-12.6	48.6	60.9	76.5
Department of Health and Aged Care	-	5.5	6.0	6.6
Total	-12.6	54.1	67.0	83.1

Explanation

As part of implementing *A New Tax System*, the structure and delivery of family assistance will be simplified by reducing from twelve to three the number of assistance types for families through the tax and social security systems. Benefits to families are increased and income and asset tests and taper rates are eased.

The three new forms of assistance are:

- Family Tax Benefit Part A (FTB(A)) which replaces Family Allowance, Family Tax Payment (Part A) and Family Tax Assistance (Part A);
- Family Tax Benefit Part B (FTB(B)) which replaces Basic Parenting Payment, Guardian Allowance, Family Tax Payment (Part B), Family Tax Assistance Part B, the with children rate of the Dependent Spouse Rebate and the Sole Parent Rebate; and
- Child Care Benefit (CCB) which replaces Childcare Rebate and Childcare Assistance.

New initiatives announced in this Budget now enhance the measures above by:

- extending eligibility for FTB(A) to cover young people up to the age of 21 (both job-seekers and students) who are not receiving Youth Allowance. Further, where the rate of Youth Allowance is less than the rate of FTB(A), they will be able to choose to receive FTB(A);
- easing of the income test tapering arrangements for Parenting Payment recipients who are members of a couple;
- changing the definition of income and indexation arrangements for the three forms of assistance (FTB part A and B and the Child Care Benefit);
- removing a number of minor 'grandfathering' provisions (mainly for family allowance) that currently exist;
- extending FTB to 16 and 17 year olds who attend tertiary education; and
- introducing a 10 per cent loading on maximum Child Care Benefit for children using less than 34 hours of care a week in long day care centres.

Pay Centrelink and Health Insurance Commission for delivery of current system of child care payments

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	9.0	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will continue the existing arrangements for delivery of child care payments by Centrelink and the Health Insurance Commission, pending the implementation of the new Child Care Benefit in July 2000.

Tax Reform Package

Expense (\$m)

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

Improve access to Centrelink through Electronic Service Delivery

Expense (\$m)

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

Extend Eligibility for Student Financial Supplement Scheme Loan

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.6

Explanation

The Government will increase the family asset threshold governing access to a Student Financial Supplement Scheme (SFSS) loan by increasing the discount for on-farm and business assets from 50 per cent to 75 per cent. The Government is concerned that the former asset threshold may have imposed a disincentive for students from families with farm and small business assets to continue with education. This measure increases the limit for on-farm and business assets from \$820,000 to \$1.6 million.

The SFSS provides the option of a voluntary loan for those dependent young people undertaking an approved tertiary course who are ineligible for Youth Allowance because of the Parental Income Test and Family Actual Means Test, where their parental income is less than \$55,350 (plus sibling concessions). The maximum loan available is \$2,000 per annum.

Further Information

This measure may impact on the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs ABSTUDY program. Its legislation will be aligned with the SFSS legislation applied to Youth Allowance, Austudy and Pensioner Education Supplement from 1 January 2000.

Establishment of an Australian Household Panel Survey

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

Explanation

This measure provides for the establishment of an Australian household panel survey to explore the dynamics of families and their incomes. In a changing environment, the study will enable the Department to provide more informed and accurate advice to Government on policy and evaluation issues and will serve to support policy development in other portfolios.

The Panel Survey would be undertaken in consultation with a number of other interested departments.

Data collected will be suitable for assessing the effects of policy and other changes on:

- families and household formation;
- labour market and education participation; and
- retirement and retirement preparation.

Simplify International Payments

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	1.3	2.9	-8.6	-9.4
Department of Veterans' Affairs	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	1.6	3.0	-8.5	-9.3

Explanation

The Government will:

- standardise the portability rules for payment of social security benefits outside Australia;
- extend the requirement for Australian pensioners to claim unclaimed social security entitlements from overseas (comparable foreign payments); and
- simplify the qualifying residence rules for Australian entitlement.

Standardisation of the portability rules would be prospective. Those already overseas would not be affected.

Provision of Outposted Centrelink/ATO Project Officers

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	-1.0	-4.6	-4.7	-4.8

Explanation

The Government will place 23 full time Centrelink staff in the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) Branches nationwide to enhance the business relationship between the two agencies, particularly with respect to cash economy compliance.

The enhancement of current Centrelink/ATO data exchange activities such as the Hint Case Work initiative and Joint Audits will enable an increased identification of Centrelink customers who fail to declare or who under-declare earnings to Centrelink or the ATO or both.

Similarly, data collected from the ATO's compliance activities, where appropriate, will be passed on to the Centrelink/ATO Special Project Officers for matching to ensure that welfare beneficiaries are receiving entitlements consistent with their other income across all Government programmes.

Assessment of undisclosed assets across Income Support Payments

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	-0.9	-0.2	..	..

Explanation

The Government will help ensure that income support payments only go to those who are entitled to them by initiating a pilot project to identify people who either do not disclose or who under-declare the value of their assets. In this pilot data matching between Centrelink and the Australian Taxation Office will be conducted to obtain data on negative gearing, imputation credits, capital gains and other key elements, which will indicate potentially undeclared assets.

The data will also be matched against other databases such as the Australian Securities and Investment Commission, Lands Title Offices and the Australian Valuation Office to refine and improve the quality of the cases selected for review. Reviews will be conducted across all income support programmes.

Survey of the Level and Reasons for Incorrect Payments for Major Income Support Payments

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	1.0	-1.9	-	-

Explanation

The Government will review a random sample of 15,000 benefit recipients to measure the level of and reasons for incorrect payment by Centrelink. The payments to be surveyed are Parenting Payment (Partnered), Newstart Allowance and Disability Support Pension.

Data gathered in this survey will provide better information on how incorrect payment occurs (particularly the circumstances in which customers do not fulfill their obligations to advise of changes in their personal and financial circumstances) and will allow for better targeting of compliance activity and resources.

Additional funding for Marriage and Relationship Education

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 additional funding meets an election commitment made in *Our Families, Our Strength, Our Future*.

Continuation of the Housing Reform Fund

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will extend the Housing Reform Fund for a further three years at the current level of funding. The current funding of \$1.7 million a year expires in 1999-2000. Ongoing funding for 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 will be met from existing departmental expenses.

End Double Rent Assistance for Blended Families

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	0.5	-0.5	-0.8	-1.1

Explanation

The Government will remove a legislative anomaly which permits blended families, where both members of a couple are receiving Family Allowance, to claim double rent assistance for the total rent paid on a single dwelling. Entitlement to rent assistance for blended families will now be based on the total number of Family Allowance children and the actual rent liability for the family.

Increase Funding for the Contenance Aids Assistance Scheme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	1.5	1.1	0.6	0.3

Explanation

The Government will provide additional funding for the Contenance Aids Assistance Scheme (CAAS) to meet the greater than expected increase in demand. This funding will provide continued service to existing levels of recipients.

Currently under CAAS, recipients are able to purchase continence aids and appliances up to the value of \$450 each financial year. Eligibility is limited to those with a permanent disability-related continence condition, who are of working age and in receipt of income support payments.

Continue Child Care National Information Strategy for Parents to 2000

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will continue the Child Care National Information Strategy to the end of June 2000. A key element of the strategy is the Child Care Access Hotline, which

provides information to assist families across Australia to make decisions about which child care services would best suit their needs. Other elements include the provision of detailed information to service providers who are planning to establish child care services, as well as a range of materials to assist families and the child care industry to remain well informed.

Funding for this initiative will be met from within existing departmental resources.

Increase Men's access to Family Relationship Support Services

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 Rent Assistance Compliance

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	3.7	-1.7	-2.4	-3.1

Explanation

The Government will improve Rent Assistance verification procedures by introducing a six monthly review process, involving enhanced certification by landlords, for people in informal renting situations (such as lodging with relatives or paying rent to other members of a share house).

This initiative will identify incidences of incorrect payments and increase the level of voluntary compliance.

New income support arrangements for separated parents sharing care of a child

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	-	3.3	-1.3	-2.2
Department of Health and Aged Care	-	..	-0.2	-0.2
Total	-	3.3	-1.5	-2.4

Explanation

The Government has decided that separated parents sharing care of their children between 40 per cent to 60 per cent of the time will each be eligible for Job Entry Training and Newstart or Youth Allowance with a modified activity test. Parenting Payment will then only be payable to new claimants with at least 60 per cent care of a child.

To ensure that existing Parenting Payment recipients sharing care are not disadvantaged, the Government will protect their entitlements until the youngest qualifying shared care child at January 2001 turns 16 or otherwise ceases to be a qualifying child.

Expenses in 2000-01 largely reflect administrative systems and other set-up costs.

Simplification of the Isolated and Secondary Student Boarder Concession

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will simplify the current complex concession arrangements under the Youth Allowance Family Actual Means Test (FAMT). Under the measure, if a claimant's sibling is an isolated boarder or secondary student boarder, they will automatically qualify for the maximum concession under FAMT. This new arrangement will be less complex to administer and provide greater transparency about beneficiary entitlements.

The departmental expenses for implementing this measure will be met from within existing resources.

Extend the definition of "Independent Employment" used under the Family Actual Means Test to include young people employed by their family

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government has decided that the Youth Allowance Family Actual Means Test (FAMT) should no longer distinguish between 'independent employment' and employment in the family business or farm. This will provide increased financial support for young people whose siblings are employed in the family business or farm.

Under the previous FAMT up to \$6,000 of a sibling's income could be excluded from the actual means test. However earnings from employment in the family business or farm were not excluded, as these were not considered to have been earned from independent employment.

The expenses for this measure will be met from within existing resources. The measure will be implemented from 1 January 2000.

Data Matching with the Registrars-General Birth Records

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	-2.3	-0.6	-	-

Explanation

The Government will undertake a feasibility study using birth records from the Registrars-General Offices (RGO) to detect cases where Family Allowance has been paid for children with fraudulent identities. The feasibility study will determine the cost-effectiveness of improving the integrity of Centrelink Family Allowance payments by data-matching with RGO birth records.

This proposal adds to the range of data-matching projects undertaken by Centrelink to give effect to the Government's commitment to provide assistance only to those persons who are legally entitled to that assistance, with a consequential reduction in the Family Allowance expenses of Government.

Data Matching with the Australian Stock Exchange Clearing House Electronic Sub-register System records

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	-1.8	-1.0	-	-

Explanation

The Government will undertake a feasibility study using the Australian Stock Exchange Clearing House Electronic Sub-register System (CHES) records to identify beneficiary claimants who have not advised Centrelink of shareholdings.

The feasibility study will determine the cost-effectiveness of data-matching with CHES records to improve the integrity of Centrelink payments.

The departmental expenses for this measure will be met from within existing resources.

Data matching with State and Territory Superannuation Administration Authorities

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	-3.2	-1.1	-	-

Explanation

The Government will undertake a feasibility study using State and Territory Superannuation Administration Authorities (SAA) data to identify beneficiary claimants who have not advised that they are in receipt of a superannuation pension. The feasibility study will determine the cost-effectiveness of improving payment integrity by data-matching with SAA records.

Data Matching of Prescribed Payment System data between Centrelink and the ATO

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	-2.0	-5.8	-5.9	-6.1

Explanation

The Government will undertake increased data matching of Centrelink records and payee declaration form records held on the Australian Taxation Office Prescribed Payment System. This will identify anomalies between data held by the two agencies and enhance compliance with the income provisions of the *Social Security Act 1991*. Reviews will be conducted across all income security programmes.

Data transfers between the two agencies will be undertaken on a regular basis to ensure timely processing and minimise debts.

Simplify Technical Rules

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will simplify the existing machinery provisions of the *Social Security Act 1991* by consolidating the provisions relating to payments and other administrative provisions in a new Social Security (Administration) Bill 1999.

The expenses for this measure will be met from efficiencies within departmental expenses.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Commercialisation of Property Portfolio - reduction in price of outputs

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Finance and Administration	-29.5	-27.3	-27.9	-29.3

Explanation

The Government will continue with the commercialisation of its property portfolio. One of the key features of this initiative is the introduction of commercial rents which will be used to fund expenses previously paid for through appropriations to the Department of Finance and Administration (DOFA). This change will result in a reduction in DOFA's price of outputs by \$114 million over the four year period from 1999-2000 to 2002-2003.

The impact of this measure on the net operating balance would be offset by the extent of supplementation to some agencies for payment of commercial rental rates. Supplementation would be by way of a variation of the estimates for the relevant agencies.

See the related capital measures under the Finance and Administration portfolio titled *Commercialisation of Property Portfolio – Equity Injection*, *Commercialisation of Property Portfolio – Equity Repayment*, and *Commercialisation of Property Portfolio – Payment of Notional Tax and Dividends*.

Referendum on whether Australia becomes a Republic

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Electoral Commission	63.4	0.3	-	-

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 under the Attorney-General's portfolio titled *Republic Referendum Advertising Campaigns*.

Develop measures of relative disadvantage to target resources for indigenous Australians

Expense (\$m)

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

Revision to estimated sale costs for the further sale of Telstra

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Office of Asset Sales and Information Technology Outsourcing	7.5	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide additional funds for sale costs for the further sale of Telstra.

This revision reflects increased estimates of sale proceeds due to an anticipated increased share price, offset by lower unit costs secured in contracts with suppliers.

Extension of the Information Technology outsourcing programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Office of Asset Sales and Information Technology Outsourcing	14.3	9.8	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide further funds to support its Information Technology (IT) outsourcing programme through to 31 December 2000. The programme is yielding substantial savings to the Commonwealth – of the order of 10 per cent to 15 per cent – and the measure recognises the costs of the Office of Asset Sales and Information Technology Outsourcing (OASITO) leadership and management role.

The role of OASITO has now been expanded, and it is playing a greater role in implementing the IT outsourcing programme by managing and actively implementing the initiative with the full cooperation of agencies.

Further Information

Outsourcing of the Commonwealth's IT infrastructure services is conducted against an industry development framework which aims to aid the growth of the Australian IT industry, increase the international competitiveness of Australian IT industry and increase regional development and employment opportunities. The programme has stimulated the IT industry by extending Commonwealth IT expenditure into the commercial market.

Reinstatement of price of output funding for the Office of Asset Sales and Information Technology Outsourcing

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Office of Asset Sales and Information Technology Outsourcing	4.1	-	-	-

Explanation

Funding will be provided to meet the 1999-2000 core departmental expenses of the Office of Asset Sales and Information Technology Outsourcing (OASITO) to undertake activities associated with its asset sales programme. The measure re-instates funding for a notional asset sales team of about 30 staff on a full year basis.

Further Information

Consistent with previous practice, the departmental expenses for OASITO are determined in the annual budget process.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

Opening of an Australian Consulate-General in East Timor and an Australian Policy Liaison Office in Lisbon

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
AusAID	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.3
Total	5.7	5.6	5.7	6.0

Explanation

The Government has decided to establish an Australian Consulate-General, including an AusAID office, in Dili, East Timor and to open an Australian policy liaison office in Lisbon, Portugal. This forms part of the Government's response to the high level of Australian community interest in developments in East Timor.

The Consulate-General will allow the Australian Government to monitor developments in Dili more effectively and will support Australia's role in assisting a peaceful transition process in East Timor.

The AusAID office in the Consulate-General will help decide the most appropriate Australian aid response to developments in East Timor. It will support the implementation of an expanded aid programme to assist East Timor. The Australian policy liaison office in Lisbon will help build and maintain a substantial dialogue with Portugal as the transition unfolds.

Any future Australian involvement in an international confidence-building and administrative role during any transitional process in East Timor would also benefit from the presence of the Consulate-General.

Further Information

See also the related capital measure under the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio titled *Opening of an Australian Consulate-General in East Timor and an Australian Policy liaison Office in Lisbon* and measures in the Immigration and Multicultural Affairs portfolio titled *Establish an immigration presence at the Australian Consulate-General in East Timor*.

Opening of Australian Embassy in Zagreb

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	0.9	1.9	1.9	2.0
Australian Trade Commission	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total	1.0	2.2	2.2	2.2

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.

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

For further information see the related capital measure under the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio titled *Opening of Australian Embassy in Zagreb*.

HEALTH AND AGED CARE

National Illicit Drug Strategy - additional funding for drug treatment

Expense (\$m)

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

- *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:

- *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.

Helping people with chronic disease manage their illness

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	1.6	3.4	4.3	5.1

Explanation

The Government will promote education and support for people with chronic diseases to help themselves by assisting them to gain a better understanding of their conditions and how to manage them. This measure will seed the development of community based, self-help groups for chronic disease sufferers, using skilled trainers to educate sufferers in proven self management techniques. The groups will complement and enhance professional care and rehabilitation.

The aim is to improve quality of life for those with chronic conditions which in turn reduces demand on the health care system and reduces the incidence of costly re-hospitalisation.

This measure forms part of a package of initiatives to enhance primary care in particular for older Australians, people with chronic illnesses and those who require a range of different services to support them in the community.

Further Information

More than three million Australians suffer from chronic, disabling conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, heart disease, asthma and emphysema. These conditions are on the increase in the community, due in part to the ageing of the population and to improvements in life saving treatments.

Preventing falls in older people

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	1.1	1.1	2.2	2.2

Explanation

This measure to prevent falls among older people forms part of the Government's package of initiatives to enhance primary care, in particular, for older Australians, people with chronic illnesses and those who require a range of different services to support them in the community. The Government programme will provide funding for:

- the development of appropriate interventions to reduce the incidence, severity and mortality associated with falls in both community and residential care settings;
- piloting of programmes to minimise the risk of injury including promotion of the benefits of appropriate exercise levels in active older people, better methods of medication management, environmental modifications and the use of devices which prevent injury;
- research into the areas of identification of risk factors, burden/cost of injuries and evidence on effectiveness and cost benefit analysis of interventions; and
- development of workforce education in community, acute care and residential settings.

Hepatitis C education and prevention initiative

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	1.5	3.6	3.6	3.7

Explanation

The Government will provide improved education, prevention and health maintenance initiatives for those currently infected and those at risk of becoming infected to lower the current rate of transmission of Hepatitis C in Australia. Building on proven strategies, research will be commissioned to inform the design of elements of the national response in key areas, including epidemiology, social and behavioural factors, and education and prevention programmes. This initiative will be managed by the National Centre for Disease Control in the Department of Health and Aged Care.

Further Information

Hepatitis C is a blood borne virus that can lead to cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer. Recent estimates indicate that over 200,000 Australians (just over 1 per cent of the total population) have already been infected with the Hepatitis C virus, with around 11,000 new infections occurring each year.

Population Health Evidence Base Advisory Mechanism

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will fund the establishment of a Population Health Evidence Base Advisory Mechanism to facilitate the adoption of more cost-effective health promotion and disease prevention strategies.

This measure will also provide a flexible funding mechanism to identify more effective ways of achieving improved population outcomes. A significant consideration will be the extent to which interventions will not only result in improvements to health outcomes, but will also be likely to achieve savings to Commonwealth expenses.

Funding of around \$5 million from existing portfolio resources will be spent on the programme over the next four years.

Reforms to food hygiene and safety standards

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australia New Zealand Food Authority	1.0	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will implement a range of initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Australia's food hygiene standards. This will include implementation of model umbrella legislation and evaluation of the safety of individual products. This measure is in response to community health and safety concerns.

New pathology partnership to strengthen quality

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	-7.7	-18.4	-30.2	-46.5
Department of Veterans' Affairs	-0.7	-1.4	-2.2	-3.1
Total	-8.4	-19.8	-32.5	-49.7

Explanation

The Government has entered a further three year agreement with pathologists for the period 1999-2000 to 2001-2002. The Government's objective is to contain growth in pathology under the Medicare Benefits arrangements, while addressing areas for reform within the industry and strengthening the quality use of pathology. This agreement builds on the success of the first agreement with pathologists, which delivered significant savings to the Government. Growth in expenses will be an average of 5 per cent per annum compared to an average of 6 per cent per annum under the previous agreement.

A quality use of pathology programme will be established to bring together requesting doctors and pathologists to develop and implement a range of initiatives to promote quality ordering, practice and use of pathology services. To support the wider adoption of these initiatives, an incentives programme, including financial incentives, will be established.

Quality incentives for prescribing pharmaceuticals

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	-28.3	-38.9	-55.5	-64.7

Explanation

The Government will provide incentives for General Practitioners (GPs) prescribing pharmaceuticals to change their prescribing behaviour, both to improve the quality of patient care and to lead to better use of resources through the Quality Incentives for General Practice Programme.

The programme involves measuring the savings accruing from changes in prescribing practices, and allocating half of these savings to GPs. Three high cost/high growth drug groups (antibiotics, peptic ulcer drugs and cardiovascular drugs) which account for around \$1.4 billion in expenses per annum have been identified as having the most potential for achieving improved prescribing practices.

Changes in practice will be driven by improved information provision, in conjunction with the financial incentives. This information will be based on 'Quality Use of Medicines' educational principles.

Further Information

Changes in prescribing patterns will be measured from 1 July 1999. The initial incentive payments will be made early in 2000-01, based on changes achieved in prescribing in the previous financial year.

The detailed design of the package will be done in full consultation with the medical profession.

Strengthening the Professional Services Review Scheme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Professional Services Review	1.5	2.1	3.9	4.4

Explanation

The Government will consolidate the existing Professional Services Review (PSR) scheme functions from the Department of Health and Aged Care into a single agency to be known as the Director of Professional Services Review. The new agency will have increased funding to support expanded investigative and administrative functions.

The changes are aimed at improving the Scheme's administration to ensure that the needs for legal effectiveness, transparency and natural justice are met as well as ensuring the maintenance of the peer review process upon which the Scheme is constructed. Increased funding for the new agency is partly offset by decreased funding to the Department of Health and Aged Care (for PSR Tribunal functions).

General practitioner involvement in coordinated care planning

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	3.6	11.2	16.8	22.9

Explanation

The Government will provide, through the Medicare Benefits Schedule, for general practitioners to work with other health professionals, including other medical practitioners, domiciliary nurses, and home and community care providers, to develop coordinated care plans for people with chronic and complex care needs. This measure forms part of the Government's package of initiatives to enhance primary care, in particular, for older Australians, people with chronic illnesses and those who require a range of different services to support them in the community.

The measure includes an incentive for achieving such plans for a prescribed proportion of those aged 65 and over attending a practice. This measure is related to the expense measure under the Health and Aged Care portfolio titled *Helping general practitioners participate in multidisciplinary care planning*, which supports participation in multidisciplinary care.

Multidisciplinary case conferencing

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	0.8	2.1	3.1	4.2
Department of Veterans' Affairs	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.7
Total	0.9	2.4	3.6	4.8

Explanation

The Government will provide, through the Medicare Benefits Schedule, for medical practitioners to work with other health professionals to undertake multi-disciplinary case conferencing. This is part of a package of Government initiatives which will enhance primary care in particular for older Australians, people with chronic illnesses and those who require a range of different services to support them in the community.

Case conferences facilitate better communication between a patient's health care providers. Involving general practitioners and other care providers in case conferences will also help ensure that for patients with complex needs, the right health care providers are providing the most appropriate services at the right time.

Practice Incentives Programme - new care plan targets

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1

Explanation

The Government will make payments to general practitioners to achieve coordinated care plans for a proportion (yet to be prescribed) of their patients aged 65 years and over with chronic and complex health care needs. The measure is a part of a package of initiatives to enhance primary care in particular for older Australians, people with chronic illnesses and those who require a range of different services to support them in the community. This practice based incentive will complement the payment of Medicare Benefits Schedule fee items for each individual care plan provided.

The cost of the incentive payments for this measure will be met from within the existing Practice Incentives Programme. The minor expenses shown for this measure reflect departmental expenses required to establish this new programme.

Voluntary annual health assessments for those aged 75 years and over

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	1.7	9.2	12.1	15.8
Department of Veterans' Affairs	0.1	1.3	1.9	2.2
Total	1.8	10.5	14.1	17.9

Explanation

The Government will provide for Medicare Benefits Schedule rebates for voluntary annual health assessments for those Australians aged 75 years and over. The measure forms part of a package of initiatives to enhance primary care, in particular, for older Australians, people with chronic illnesses and those who require a range of different services to support them in the community.

These assessments will be designed to ensure early identification of health problems of old age, particularly those problems amenable to early intervention, and opportunities for prevention (for example, of falls).

Expanded Medicare easyclaim facilities

Expense (\$m)

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

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.

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

Medicare - electronic commerce initiative

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	-	-	-4.0	-6.0

Explanation

The Health Insurance Commission is actively pursuing innovation in health-related electronic commerce within the current legislative and policy framework. A number of trials are currently in progress to maximise the benefits to consumers, taxpayers and the medical profession. The outcomes of these trials will deliver savings from 2001-02 onwards.

Simplified billing in the private health industry

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	2.5	0.2	0.2	0.2

Explanation

The Government will provide funding to encourage greater private health care usage by promoting simplified billing.

This funding will develop electronic commerce within the private health sector. This funding will be used to create electronic links between billing agents, health funds, hospitals and medical practitioners by enhancing the Health Insurance Commission's electronic links system, and working with the private health industry, including information technology specialists.

Seeding money will be provided to identified areas within the industry for the development of other relevant electronic commerce to complement existing systems. This is consistent with achieving the broader policy objective of improving the value of private health insurance for consumers.

Further Information

Simplified billing addresses multiple bills and unknown out of pocket costs. Trials of simplified billing concluded in September 1998. The evaluation of these trials found that further promotion within the industry was required. The trials also demonstrated that a key factor in successfully implementing simplified billing was the widespread utilisation of electronic commerce in the private health sector.

Lifetime Health Cover

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	12.3	2.0	1.7	1.4

Explanation

The Government will implement Lifetime Health Cover as a part of its broader private health insurance reform strategy to ensure long term stability and balance in both the public and private health sectors.

Lifetime Health Cover will enable health funds to charge different premiums to people, depending on the age at which they first joined a health fund. People taking out hospital

cover early in their lives will pay lower premiums than those taking it out later in life. The new system therefore rewards early and continuous membership. The premium paid by people entering private health insurance will be based on the age at which they first join and, once set, remains at that rate relative to premiums for people entering at different ages.

To ensure an equitable and fair transition, a 12 month grace period – from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 – will allow people who are not insured to take out hospital cover at the base rate premium. Anyone currently with hospital cover will be credited with the lowest possible joining age and continue to pay the base rate premium.

Special provisions apply to people who are aged 65 and over on 1 July 1999. They can take out hospital cover at any time in the future and still be credited with the minimum joining age.

This measure, together with concurrent reforms, has the potential to encourage a rise in health insurance membership numbers together with an improvement in membership profile. Funding for this measure is allocated towards a national education campaign and programme management costs for private health policy.

Further information

Lifetime Health Cover operates with a threshold age of 30 years. Anyone joining before or at the age of 30 pays the base rate premium for the rest of their membership life. People over the age of 30 pay a 2 per cent loading on top of the base rate premium for every year they delay joining. For example, a person who delays joining until the age of 40 will pay 20 per cent more than someone who joined at the age of 30. The maximum loading allowed will be 70 per cent (at age 65) above the base rate paid by a 30 year old.

Helping general practitioners participate in multidisciplinary care planning

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	2.4	2.4	1.6	1.7

Explanation

The Government will provide for education and training for general practitioners to engage in the new arrangements in the enhanced primary care package. The measure forms part of a package of initiatives to enhance primary care, in particular, for older Australians, people with complex or chronic illnesses and those who require a range of different services to support them in the community. The measure links with other initiatives in the area of general practitioner education and training.

The measure will make use of existing structures and programmes that are part of the General Practice Strategy and will have four key elements:

- a targeted research programme to explore the impact of the overall package;
- development and trialing of a clinical audit package for use by general practitioners over the years 1999-2000 to 2000-2001;
- assistance to Divisions of General Practice to enhance implementation of the overall package at the local level; and
- in partnership with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the development of aged care core curriculum components of a postgraduate training programme.

Further Information

This measure links closely with changes to research, education and evaluation strategies which were recommended in the General Practice Strategy Review. This measure relates to the expense measure under the Health and Aged Care portfolio titled *General practitioner involvement in coordinated care planning*

Integration of health information systems to support better delivery of care

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	3.4	6.7	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide funding for a two year programme to:

- support research and development into the wider adoption of data communications to support care delivery; and
- to support consideration of data communications across health and community care services as part of planning information technology investments in both the public and the private sectors.

The measure forms part of a package of initiatives to enhance primary care, in particular, for older Australians, people with chronic illnesses and those who require a range of different services to support them in the community.

Timely communication of relevant information is an important element in the coordinated delivery of care across different services and localities. The rapidly developing area of data

communications provides new opportunities to facilitate such communication where it can help achieve better care.

Further Information

Research and development funds will be applied to address two issues central to wide adoption of data communications in support of coordinated health care delivery:

- developing approaches to secure electronic transactions in the health sector which are capable of being adopted system wide; and
- exploring mechanisms for consumers to be involved in decisions about access to information about them, in a new environment of electronic information exchange.

Additional coordinated care trials

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	6.2	10.3	10.5	6.2

Explanation

The Government will establish additional coordinated care trials in capital cities and selected regional centres to explore integrated delivery of health care to meet the needs of older people who are chronically ill or disadvantaged. There are currently nine general trials and four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander trials underway.

The measure forms part of the Government's package of initiatives to enhance primary care in particular for older Australians, people with chronic illnesses and those who require a range of different services to support them in the community.

- This measure will support the extension and further development of existing coordinated care trials where appropriate.
- As with the current trials, these new trials need to be developed in collaboration with the States and Territories as well as the medical profession and other health service providers. Cooperation in the new trials will also be sought from the non-government and charitable sector.
- The new trials will also support the establishment of a number of private sector trials targeting the development of new, more flexible forms of health insurance to cover coordinated care for those with private health insurance.
- Trials for those with health insurance will explore the development of health insurance cover for community support services to enable people, particularly older people, to continue to live independently in the community, and to spend less time in hospital, where this is clinically appropriate.

Fighting suicide

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	8.0	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, which involves \$48 million of funding over the next five years, was foreshadowed in the Government's election document *Our Families, Our Strength, Our Future*.

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.

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.

Retention payments for general practitioners in rural and remote areas

Expense (\$m)

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

Developing a national strategic approach to improving asthma management

Expense (\$m)

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

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

Expense (\$m)

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

Strengthening support for women with breast cancer

Expense (\$m)

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

Ongoing funding for the National Breast Cancer Centre

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

Explanation

The Government will continue its funding for the National Breast Cancer Centre in Sydney. The measure will enable the Centre to maintain its key role in improving outcomes for women with, or at risk of, breast cancer.

Further Information

The Commonwealth has funded the National Breast Cancer Centre since 1995. The National Breast Cancer Centre aims to improve breast cancer control by improving clinical management and information access, supported by the best scientific evidence available across the continuum of care.

To date, the National Breast Cancer Centre has had a significant impact, particularly in the areas of improving the treatment of breast cancer, monitoring outcomes and disseminating information to women and health care professionals. There is no other organisation within Australia which provides a national focus and coordinates activity aimed at improving outcomes for women with, or at risk of, breast cancer.

Deferral of some acute health care microeconomic reform activities

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	-1.0	-	-	-

Explanation

This measure will defer commencement of some projects as part of acute health care microeconomic reform initiatives. This will allow sufficient time for consultation with key stakeholders within the community including consumers and health providers to ensure the reforms are delivered more effectively.

30 new Regional Health Service Centres

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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)*.

Bush Crisis Line upgraded

Expense (\$m)

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

Further training for remote area nurses

Expense (\$m)

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

Better hearing services

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	50.5	51.1	52.5	54.2
Department of Veterans' Affairs	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total	50.8	51.4	52.8	54.5

Explanation

The Government will ensure the demand for hearing services vouchers by eligible clients is met by providing for an additional 67,000 vouchers per annum, over and above the 83,000 vouchers per annum currently provided for. This will enable contracted service providers to continue to provide services through an adequate fee structure. The Government will also make available some additional funding to ensure that community service obligations are met, particularly in relation to services to children.

In addition, the measure includes the indexation of the maintenance charge (which service providers collect from clients) in line with Consumer Price Index movements. It will also introduce a new client charge for replacing lost or damaged hearing aids, and will encourage greater prescription of Assistive Listening Devices in preference to hearing aids where this will provide appropriate outcomes for the client.

Improving access to health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	6.8	16.0	22.5	33.5

Explanation

This measure will take forward the Government's commitment to address the poor health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by enabling better access to comprehensive primary health care services. This measure is expected to make a sustainable difference to the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the longer term.

This measure provides for the establishment of a framework for a planned and coordinated expansion of comprehensive primary health care services which includes clinical care, population health and education and health promotion activities. Funds will be invested in areas where needs have been identified through completed joint Commonwealth/State/community regional health plans or where existing coordinated care trials have established that there is both a need and capacity to utilise funds effectively to deliver the required mix of services (including clinical care, population health and education and health promotion activities).

The new arrangements will involve continuing collaboration with the Aboriginal community controlled health sector, State and Territory governments, general practice and other health professionals. They will bring about a better integration of general practice and mainstream health providers in delivering services for Indigenous people.

Further Information

This Commonwealth funding will be conditional on States and Territories providing resources to meet their funding obligations in this area and will be subject to output-based accountability arrangements.

Improved living conditions in remote communities

Expense (\$m)

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

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, sewerage, 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.

Carelink - information on community care

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	3.6	11.8	12.5	13.3

Explanation

The Government will establish Carelink – single contact points for the 58 Home and Community Care Regions across Australia – to simplify access to community services. This measure forms part of the Government's package of initiatives to achieve a substantial advance in the quality of health care delivered to older Australians.

With the establishment of these contact points, a single telephone call will provide access to information about service availability and eligibility for community care services. This

measure will provide a crucial link between the health and community care sectors, and enable health professionals, general practitioners, other service providers, family carers, and individuals to gain easy access to the whole range of agencies providing support services in a region.

100 extra aged care beds in Regional Health Service Centres

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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)*.

Enhanced respite care services

Expense (\$m)

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

Aged care capital funding assistance targeted particularly to rural Australia

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	-	19.5	6.1	-

Explanation

The Government will provide additional funding to improve the infrastructure of residential aged care facilities, particularly those in rural and remote areas and those catering for other special needs groups. The measure provides additional funding for the ongoing targeted capital programme that was established during the 1996-97 Structural Reform of Aged Care.

Industry restructuring - an investment in better aged care facilities

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	-	8.2	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide targeted assistance for residential aged care facilities to restructure to meet accreditation standards by 1 January 2001. This initiative will encourage longer term solutions such as the provision of detailed professional advice on long-term business options for financial viability, assistance in changing work practices to improve long-term viability and assistance to implement best-practice management and business arrangements.

The measure will improve the infrastructure and management capabilities of residential aged care facilities.

Further Information

Accreditation is the formal recognition provided to a residential care service by the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency where that service is considered to be operating in accordance with the legislative requirements of the *Aged Care Act 1997*, and providing high quality care within a framework of continuous improvement. All services must obtain accreditation by 1 January 2001 to continue to receive Commonwealth government funding. In addition, services must meet certain building standards to receive certification.

The measure builds upon the 1997 measure to assist residential aged care facilities to restructure and meet certification and accreditation requirements.

Targeting residential care funds to those most in need

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	-22.7	-23.1	-23.5	-23.9

Explanation

The Government has decided to improve the risk management framework for residential aged care. The measure provides for additional audits of residents' classifications. It will ensure that subsidy payments made on the basis of claims by service providers are consistent with residents' confirmed care needs under the Resident Classification Scale.

Further Information

The funding received by service providers for care recipients depends upon the provider's self-assessment of the care recipient's needs under a Residential Classification Scale. This arrangement involves the dual risks that some providers may overestimate the needs of care recipients and that some care recipients will not be assessed as receiving the care that they require.

Pre 1 October 1997 Nursing Home Residents

Expense (\$m)

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

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.

Simplifying aged care planning for rural and remote areas

Expense (\$m)

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

Infrastructure support for health and medical research institutes

Expense (\$m)

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

Establishing regional medical schools

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 under the Education, Training and Youth Affairs portfolio titled *Additional places for the James Cook University Medical School*.

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Review package - enhancement of portfolio review tribunals and extension of Asylum Seekers Assistance scheme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Migration Review Tribunal	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3
Refugee Review Tribunal	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.5
Total	7.7	7.6	7.8	8.0

Explanation

Consequent upon the passage of the *Migration Legislation Amendment Act No. 1 1998*, the Government will implement changes in the migration and refugee review system to improve the efficiency, credibility and accountability of immigration decision-making.

This measure will fund the provision of formal written judgements to applicants, in a form that they can understand, except where the judgement is delivered on the spot or where the applicant is in detention.

The Migration Review Tribunal and the Refugee Review Tribunal will be prescribed under the *Financial Management Accountability (FMA) Act 1997* to ensure that they have full accountability and responsibility for their financial management.

In addition, the measure will provide for a limited extension of the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme at the review stage of processing for certain cases in dire need. The scheme is administered by the Red Cross under contract with the Department.

See also the related revenue measure under the Immigration and Multicultural Affairs portfolio titled *Review package – enhancement of portfolio review tribunals and extension of Asylum Seekers Assistance scheme*.

Development of purchasing agreement

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs	-	-2.2	-	-

Explanation

The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs will deliver savings to the Government as the result of efficiencies negotiated under a purchasing agreement with the Department of Finance and Administration. These efficiencies will ensure the quality of services provided by the Department.

Additional funding to extend Living in Harmony campaign

Expense (\$m)

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

Establish an immigration presence at the Australian Consulate General in East Timor

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3

Explanation

The Government has decided to open an Australian Consulate-General in Dili, East Timor. It is expected that, once the Consulate-General is open, a significant demand for

immigration services will emerge. The Government has determined that an immigration presence is desirable to meet this anticipated demand.

See also the related capital measure under the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio titled *Opening of an Australian Consulate-General in East Timor and an Australian Policy liaison Office in Lisbon*.

INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES

Extension of the Shipbuilding Production Bounty

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	13.7	12.4	1.5	0.7

Explanation

This measure honours the Government's 1998 election commitments set out in *Making Industry Stronger* and *A Stronger Tasmania* 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.

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.

Establish Printing Industry Competitiveness Scheme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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, set out in *Making Industry Stronger*, 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.

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.

Upgrade Tasmanian sporting facilities

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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. This meets the Government's 1998 election commitment set out in *A Stronger 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.

Support domestic tourism campaign

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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. This meets the Government's 1998 election commitment announced in *Australia Bound*.

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.

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.

Introduce Shipbuilding Innovation Scheme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 assistance provided in this measure meets the Government's 1998 election commitments set out in *Making Industry Stronger* and *A Stronger Tasmania*.

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.

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 under the Industry, Science and Resources portfolio titled *Reallocation in R & D START funding*.

Reallocation in R & D START funding

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 under the Industry, Science and Resources portfolio titled *Introduce Shipbuilding Innovation Scheme*.

Reversal of 1998-99 Budget decision to offset the Australian Geological Survey Organisation's offshore petroleum programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-5.3	-5.3	-5.3	-5.3

Explanation

Funds of \$21 million have been identified in the departmental expenses of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, which will be used, in part, to fund the Australian Geological Survey Organisation's offshore petroleum programme.

Further Information

See the related Industry, Science and Resources revenue measure titled *Non-recovery for the the Australian Geological Survey Organisation's offshore petroleum programme*, and also the 1998-99 Budget measure under the Primary Industries and Energy portfolio titled *Offsets for Australian Geological Survey Organisation's offshore petroleum programme*.

Department of Industry, Science and Resources - use of departmental expenses to partially offset election commitments and other measures

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0

Explanation

The Department of Industry, Science and Resources will offset departmental expenses for election commitments, lapsing programmes and other Budget measures.

These savings are possible as a result of efficiencies and reprioritising.

Funding for the Australian Sports Commission

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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. This measure honours the Government's election commitments in its policy statement *The Winning Advantage*, including those for athlete preparation for the Sydney Olympics and 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.

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.

Tough on Drugs in Sport

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 meets the Government's election commitment set out 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 titled *Department of Industry, Science and Resources – use of departmental expenses to partially offset election commitments and other measures*.

Maintain Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation funding

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	-	23.9	27.1	30.8

Explanation

The Government will provide additional funding in the forward years to maintain CSIRO's funding at 1999-2000 levels.

Establish National Strategy for Biotechnology

Expense (\$m)

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

Explanation

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.

Regional Minerals Programme - Northwest Tasmania

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 will meet the Government's 1998 election commitment announced in *Minerals to Market*.

Extension of Country of Origin Awareness Campaign

Expense (\$m)

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

Restoration of Urangan Pier

Expense (\$m)

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

Enhancement of Regional Tourism Programme

Expense (\$m)

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

This measure implements the Government's undertaking in its tourism policy statement *Australia Bound*. 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.

Boosting Australia's Innovation and Science Culture

Expense (\$m)

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

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4

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.

This measure is to meet the Government's election commitment announced in *Making Industry Stronger*. The taxation impact of the measure is described in the Revenue Measures section of this Budget Paper.

Funding for waste management plan implementation

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation	-	5.0	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide an extra \$5 million to enable timely implementation of ANSTO's Waste Management Action Plan (WMAP) at the Lucas Heights site in Sydney. The Plan provides a comprehensive programme for management of radioactive waste arising from operations at the Lucas Heights Science and Technology Centre (LHSTC), including the upgrade of the existing low level liquid effluent treatment facility.

Australian Institute of Marine Science infrastructure refurbishment

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Institute of Marine Science	-	-	-	3.4

Explanation

The Government will increase funding to the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) to allow it to complete urgently required refurbishment to bring ageing research facilities up to Occupational Health and Safety Standards. Total funding for this measure is \$5.5 million, including \$2.1 million to be provided from AIMS funding in 2003-04, which will enable the refurbishment of the existing facilities and allow completion of the refit of the *RV Lady Basten*.

Enhancing Value Chains for Action Agenda Sectors

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	0.9	1.3	1.0	-

Explanation

The Government will extend existing programmes to achieve a whole-of-industry approach to pursuing market opportunities in Australia and overseas. This approach will contribute to creating a stronger, more sustainable and internationally competitive Australian industry.

The programme builds on the achievements of the Supply Chain Partnerships Programme (SCPP) and the Business Networks Programme (BNP) and will involve engaging teams of facilitators, accredited under the SCPP and the BNP, to work with Action Agenda industry sectors to identify impediments to growth relating to value chains.

The Government will provide funding to these facilitation teams to develop and implement industry sector demonstration projects. These projects will link companies with complementary skills and capabilities with their respective suppliers and customers, to develop solutions to identified impediments. Industry will co-fund the implementation phase of the projects.

PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Additional funding for partnerships against domestic violence

Expense (\$m)

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

Additional capacity for analysis of international developments

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Office of National Assessments	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9

Explanation

The Government will provide additional funding to the Office of National Assessments to maintain and enhance its analytical capabilities in support of policy formulation in a fluid international environment.

TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES

Extend Road Safety Black Spot Programme

Expense (\$m)

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

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.

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

National Highway and Roads of National Importance

Expense (\$m)

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

Further Information

In accordance with its 1998 election commitment in *Transport – Driving Forward*, 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.

Tasmanian Freight Equalization Scheme - response to review

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Transport and Regional Services	20.4	20.5	21.1	21.7

Explanation

The Government will extend the Tasmanian Freight Equalization 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.

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.

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

Increase support for the Indian Ocean Territories

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Transport and Regional Services	6.5	6.9	7.9	-

Explanation

The Government will increase funding for services to the Indian Ocean Territories so that the inhabitants of Christmas and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands will continue to enjoy services which are comparable to those available to mainland Australians.

Further Information

The increased funding will ensure, for example, that air services to the Indian Ocean Territories are maintained.

Regional flood mitigation programme

Expense (\$m)

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

Further Information

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

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

Local Government Incentive Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Transport and Regional Services	3.5	3.5	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide direct support to local government to encourage adoption and transfer of best practice skills and project experience with the objectives of increasing the efficiency with which they regulate business activities and deliver services. This will include sharing of economic advice to assess the merits of investment projects, information technology support to improve billing systems, initiatives to reduce red tape and business compliance costs through planning reforms, increasing quality of life through cultural, environmental and community projects, and access to capital markets.

Further Information

Grants will be provided to individual councils and also where two or more local governments propose a co-operative project. All grants will be contingent on additional funding from other sources.

Upgrade of Rockhampton Airport Runway

Expense (\$m)

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

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, and is in accordance with the Government's commitment.

Airservices Australia (Location-Specific Pricing) Subsidy

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Transport and Regional Services	9.0	7.0	-	-

Explanation

This funding supplements the \$2 million in 1999-2000 provided in the 1998-99 Budget to ease the introduction of location specific pricing for tower services at regional and general aviation airports. This measure will support transport access and safety in regional Australia. The subsidy will be funded by an increase in excise and customs duty on aviation turbine fuel and aviation gasoline.

See also the revenue measure in Part II titled *Funding for Airservices (location specific pricing) subsidy*.

Bridge Upgrading Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 implements the 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.

Continue funding for coastal radio network

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Maritime Safety Authority	-	3.0	3.0	3.0

Explanation

The Government will support maritime safety and continue funding for the coastal radio network from 2000-01.

Further Information

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority currently provides coastal radio communication facilities to all vessels under the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) conventions through contractual arrangements with Telstra. This arrangement is to cease from 1 July 2000 following the introduction of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), although radio coverage of non-SOLAS vessels, including recreational and small commercial vessels, will continue past the introduction of GMDSS.

Civil Aviation Safety Authority - additional funding

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Civil Aviation Safety Authority	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6

Explanation

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority has been operating with a shortfall of industry contributions. An increase in the rate of excise and customs duty on aviation fuel will be introduced to address this shortfall (a description of the revenue measure can be found in *Civil Aviation Safety Authority cost recovery* in Part II of this budget paper). The effect of this measure is an increase in revenue of \$8.6 million per annum. The measure will be indexed to the CPI.

TREASURY

Establishment of the Australian Office of Financial Management

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the Treasury	5.2	5.6	5.4	5.4

Explanation

The Government will establish a specialist agency, the Australian Office of Financial Management (AOFM) within the Treasury portfolio. The new agency will significantly enhance the Commonwealth's capacity to manage its net debt portfolio, offering the prospect of savings in debt service costs and an improvement in balance sheet net worth over time. The AOFM will commence operations from 1 July 1999. The Office will assume responsibility for the Commonwealth's existing debt management activities, currently undertaken within the Department of the Treasury.

Further Information

The AOFM will be established within the Treasury portfolio as a 'prescribed' agency under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

See also the related capital measure under the Treasury portfolio titled *Establishment of the Australian Office of Financial Management*.

Australian Business Number

Expense (\$m)

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

Pay As You Go and New Withholding Arrangements

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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;
- replace PAYE and PPS arrangements with a single withholding system giving businesses certainty about which payments are subject to withholding.

Fringe benefits tax reform

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 designed to make the tax system fairer for all Australians are:

- 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 taxed currently; and
- 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*.

Business taxation reform

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	23.8	-	-	-

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.

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

Tax reform and Australian Taxation Office efficiencies

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	-37.6	-77.8	-126.8	-160.7

Explanation

The introduction of the Government's tax reform package will result in administrative savings in the running costs of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). This will be achieved through:

- phasing out the existing Wholesale Sales Tax system; and

- the rationalisation of five existing reporting and withholding systems into a single Pay As You Go system.

In addition, the ATO has recently undertaken several benchmarking and contestability studies in relation to its existing operations. Efficiencies are expected in areas such as auditing, provision of technical advice and data capture and management.

Additional savings expected from the recently announced outsourcing of the ATO Information Technology infrastructure are also included in this measure.

Tax Reform price exploitation

Expense (\$m)

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

Additional funding for taxation reform

Expense (\$m)

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

Enhancement of the Corporations and Securities Panel

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the Treasury	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8

Explanation

The Government will allocate additional resources to the Corporations and Securities Panel to fund its enhanced role and to provide a full-time independent secretariat to service the Panel.

The Corporations and Securities Panel provides a mechanism for peer review of takeover activity, with the aim of being more efficient and less formal than a court. Under proposals currently before the Parliament, the Panel's role is to be greatly expanded, so that it will take the place of the courts as the principal forum for the resolution of takeover disputes under the Corporations Law, during the bid period. Reduced litigation will allow takeovers to be based on commercial rather than legal considerations.

The operation of the Panel will be effectively cost neutral within the context of the national corporations scheme. The ongoing costs of the Panel are to be recovered in the same manner as the costs of the regulator (the Australian Securities and Investments Commission), that is through the imposition on parties bringing matters before the Panel of fees and charges based on expenditure in the previous financial year. The fees and charges will be set as part of a review of companies' fees to be completed in December 1999.

Savings to offset National Competition Council measure "Additional legal funding for matters relating to Part IIIA of the Trade Practices Act 1974"

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the Treasury	-0.2	-0.2	-	-

Explanation

This measure will provide for the offsetting savings to enable the National Competition Council to meet the costs of additional legal obligations associated with Part IIIA of the *Trades Practices Act 1974*.

See also related expense measure under the Treasury portfolio titled *Additional legal funding for matters relating to Part IIIA of the Trade Practices Act 1974*.

Savings Bonus for Older Australians

Expense (\$m)

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

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	2.0	4.3	3.7	3.8

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.

Telecommunications - Australian Competition and Consumer Commission - additional functions and powers

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	0.9	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide additional resources (for 1999-2000 only) for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to administer the new powers and functions proposed in the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment Bill 1998.

This measure will establish a more comprehensive information transfer, monitoring and reporting regime and will allow the ACCC to facilitate commercial infrastructure access negotiations. The additional powers and functions will enable the ACCC to achieve the Government's goal of increasing competition in the telecommunications industry and is a response to amendments proposed by the industry (including through submissions to the Senate Inquiry on the Telstra Privatisation).

Further Information

The costs incurred in each financial year by the ACCC relating to telecommunications activities are recovered from the telecommunications industry through an annual carrier licence fee.

A review of the operation and effectiveness of the telecommunications competitive conduct scheme will be initiated before 1 July 2000. The ACCC's telecommunications resource requirements will be evaluated following the report of the review, and funding for 2001-02 will depend on the extent of continuing ACCC functions and powers.

Additional legal funding for matters relating to Part IIIA of the Trade Practices Act 1974

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
National Competition Council	0.2	0.2	-	-

Explanation

This proposal will enable the National Competition Council (NCC) to meet the costs of additional legal obligations associated with Part IIIA of the *Trade Practices Act 1974*.

Part IIIA provides a regime for granting businesses access to significant infrastructure facilities or 'services' that would be uneconomical to duplicate. Under Part IIIA, the NCC may recommend that a particular service be 'declared'. If the Minister accepts an NCC recommendation and 'declares a service', access to the 'service' is negotiated privately, or is subject to arbitration. These decisions are appealable to the Australian Competition Tribunal. The Tribunal may require the NCC to provide it information, reports, or other assistance as requested.

See also the related expense measure under the Treasury portfolio titled *Savings to offset National Competition Council measure "Additional legal funding for matters relating to Part IIIA of the Trade Practices Act 1974"*

Australia as a Centre for Global Financial Services

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the Treasury	3.5	3.5	-	-

Explanation

Australia has the ability to develop further as a centre for global financial services (CGFS) and to gain a greater share of world financial services business.

While the Government's key role in promoting Australia as a CGFS will remain to ensure that the overall economic and regulatory policy framework continues to be of international best practice, there is a need for more effective and coordinated promotion of Australia as a CGFS.

This measure provides \$3.5 million in each of 1999-2000 and 2000-01 for initiatives that will promote Australia as a CGFS.

Corporate Law Economic Reform Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 Program (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 CLERP 7 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)*.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Continuation of Community Care Seeding Grants Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Veterans' Affairs	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4

Explanation

The Government will continue the Community Care Seeding Grants programme. This programme will improve the independence and quality of life of veterans, war widows and widowers living in the community by increasing access to community care services and residential and community-based respite care. The programme will also target preventative health.

This measure will ensure that veterans will be provided with opportunities for community aged care and greater social, home and community support.

This measure continues funding which was due to lapse on 30 June 1999.

Improve Claims Management Process

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 (TIP) and to replace the lapsing Claims Assistance Grants Scheme (CAGS) with a new support programme called Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST), 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*.

Production of Documentary "Australians at War"

Expense (\$m)

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

Additional Funding for Regional War Memorials Project

Expense (\$m)

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

Establish ANZAC Commemorative Site at Gallipoli, Turkey

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Veterans' Affairs	1.2	-	-	-

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*.

Service Delivery to Veterans in Rural and Remote Areas - Agency arrangements

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Veterans' Affairs	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will build on current initiatives to improve delivery of services to the veteran community in rural and remote areas. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will continue to expand its service network by developing strategic partnerships with Commonwealth, State and local agencies, while better targeting its Outreach Programme.

Further Information

More than 70 agency agreements are already in place, widely extending the scope of DVA services throughout country areas. The improved level of service is being funded from available Departmental resources.

Extend provision of Veterans' Children Education Scheme assistance for the children of Extreme Disablement Adjustment pensioners

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Veterans' Affairs	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Explanation

The Government will extend provision of Veterans' Children Education Scheme (VCES) assistance to the children of extreme disablement adjustment (EDA) pensioners.

This measure will remedy an anomaly where school-age children of living veterans who receive an EDA pension do not receive VCES assistance, whereas children of deceased EDA veterans are eligible. Specialist academic counselling and financial assistance under

the VCES will be available to the school-age children of veterans receiving an EDA pension and they will now have access to the same level of education assistance as the children of special rate veterans.

This measure will be implemented from 1 January 2000, subject to passage of enabling legislation.

Additional Funding support for ANZAC Parade National Memorials

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Veterans' Affairs	1.0	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide additional funding support to the Australian Service Nurses' National Memorial and the Australian National Korean War Memorial.

Both Memorials are to be constructed during the 1999-2000 financial year on Anzac Parade, Canberra.

Managing Health Care expenditure

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Veterans' Affairs	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will develop a computer system to allow for more effective management of the Department of Veterans' Affairs' (DVA) Health Care expenses of over \$2.5 billion a year.

This measure will help ensure that the health care services paid for are both appropriate for veterans and represent value for money. The initial phase of development will commence on 1 July 1999 and will be funded out of the Department's ongoing budget provision for information technology development. Further funding will depend on evaluation of the outcome of the system, which will be based on data warehousing technology.

Enhance debt recovery

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Veterans' Affairs	-	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1

Explanation

The Government is enhancing systems to allow improvements to debt recovery. The current administrative charge on outstanding debt will be replaced by a penalty interest charge on debts for which there is no recovery agreement. The impact of this measure will be to ensure that debts owed to the Commonwealth are recovered more cost effectively. The measure will be implemented by 1 July 2000.

Home support - extend the HomeFront Initiative and introduce Home Support Loans

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Veterans' Affairs	-1.7	-2.0	-1.9	-1.9

Explanation

The Government will extend the HomeFront initiative to veterans with specific treatment entitlements (known as White Card holders). The HomeFront initiative provides a free home assessment to identify hazards in and around the home which may cause falls or accidents. The initiative covers the provision and installation of minor home modifications or aids and appliances up to an annual limit of \$150. HomeFront will assist veterans, war widows and widowers to live independently in their own homes, thereby reducing medical and hospital costs.

In addition, a new Home Support Loan (under Defence Service Homes scheme) will be introduced to assist eligible veterans, war widows and widowers with the cost of home maintenance and modifications to their own homes. This scheme will allow them to borrow up to \$10,000 for this purpose.

Implementation of Tax Reform Package

Expense (\$m)

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

Align Invalidation Service Pension Assessments

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	0.3	5.0	9.1	10.0
Department of Health and Aged Care	..	0.5	1.0	1.1
Department of Veterans' Affairs	0.4	-5.4	-13.0	-16.1
Total	0.7	0.2	-2.9	-5.0

Explanation

The Government will apply a more consistent and equitable approach to the assessment of the eligibility criteria for invalidity service pensions within the Department of Veterans' Affairs. This will align the measurement of permanent incapacity for an invalidity service pension with the measurement applied in disability compensation assessment. Those affected by this measure will retain access to Commonwealth income support provided through the Department of Family and Community Services and related health care assistance provided through the Department of Health and Aged Care.

This will ensure a more objective and soundly based method for the determination of the invalidity service pension assessment.

Measures Introduced up to the 1999-2000 Budget

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Pork Industry Assistance Package - further measures

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	5.0	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide a further \$6 million to the Pork Industry Assistance Package. Of this, \$1 million represents a reallocation of funds from the National Pork Industry Development Grants programme.

This measure has been designed to assist the most severely affected pork producers exit pork production voluntarily through the provision of financial assistance. It will assist those pork producers who may be in financial difficulty, are unable to borrow and who have made the decision to exit the pork industry, to do so with dignity, and without exhausting all their family assets.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S

Republic Referendum Advertising Campaigns

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Attorney-General's Department	15.7	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide \$15 million to be shared equally for the national advertising campaign promoting the arguments for and against the republic model. The advertising campaign is to be conducted in the 3-4 week period leading up to the referendum.

In addition, the Government will provide \$0.7 million to the Referendum Taskforce for expert legal and administrative support in relation to the conduct of the campaigns and the referendum process.

COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

Assistance to Community Broadcasters for costs associated with commercialisation of the transmission network

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government has agreed to provide additional assistance of \$80,000 per annum to community broadcasters (through the Community Broadcasting Foundation) to meet increasing costs from commercialisation of the national transmission network. Funds will be provided through allocation of existing resourcing for the National Transmission Authority.

Further Information

The Community Broadcasting Foundation will allocate this funding to its members according to established guidelines.

Restriction of access to adult telephone services regime

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-0.2	-	-	-
Australian Broadcasting Authority	0.2	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will address community concerns that telephone sex lines are too easily accessed by children. Additional resources will be provided to the Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA).

Proposed regulations will prohibit the supply of telephone sex services where the telephone company bills the customer for the service except where:

- the customer has given their prior written agreement to telephone sex services being accessed using their telephone service;

- the customer has been given a personal identification number (PIN) which must be used to access the service; and
- the service is supplied using a specific number range (1901).

This measure will reduce the number of instances when an unauthorised person (usually a child of the household) calls a telephone sex line without the permission of the person who is liable for the telephone account (usually the parent).

Funding for this measure will be offset by savings in the departmental expenses of the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

Redevelop ABSTUDY payment and management system

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	6.5	2.7	2.3	2.2

Explanation

This measure reflects increased departmental expenses to fund Centrelink to upgrade the ABSTUDY payment and management system to effect the new ABSTUDY benefits arrangements and to make the system year 2000 compliant. Also included are associated staffing costs.

The new ABSTUDY benefit arrangements commence on 1 January 2000. The Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs announced the new arrangements on 15 December 1998.

Quadrennium funding for non-government schools

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	2.7	56.6	110.4	168.5

Explanation

The Government will put in place new arrangements for the 2001-2004 quadrennium for non-government schools recurrent funding covering the financial years 2000-01 to 2003-04.

The major features will be:

- a new system of needs-based allocation of general recurrent funding to non-government schools, based on a measure of the socio-economic status of the school community rather than the Education Resources Index (ERI). This will involve transition to the new arrangements over the quadrennium;
- increased funding to support schools during the transitional period; and
- provision for additional departmental expenses for implementation of the new arrangements.

The financial impact of this measure arises from:

- additional funding to schools that benefit from the new arrangements. Increased funding will be phased-in over the quadrennium, with schools receiving 25 per cent of the increase each year, so that by 2004 schools will be funded at their new level;
- the funding guarantee to schools that would otherwise have been financially disadvantaged by the new arrangements. They will have their year 2000 per capita entitlements guaranteed and adjusted in line with the most recently agreed Average Government Schools Recurrent Costs figures; and
- the Government's 1998 election commitment, in *Raising Standards*, to Category 11 funding for Catholic Schools.

Further Information

The main element of the measure is a fairer, more transparent and simpler mechanism for assessment of need in relation to non-government school recurrent funding, to enable parents to exercise choice and to remove disincentives to private investment. The approach assesses need according to a measure of the socio-economic status of parents rather than the school's own resource levels (as measured by the ERI). It is, in effect, a measure of the relative capacity of non-government school communities to support their schools financially.

The main features of the model are that:

- the minimum and maximum funding levels are set at 13.7 per cent and 70 per cent of the Average Government School Recurrent Costs, with a continuum of funding between the minimum and maximum funding levels;
- the minimum Commonwealth payment provides a base level of funding for all students attending non-government schools;
- funding for schools catering to the most disadvantaged families is increased;

- Catholic systems will attract funding on a basis that essentially preserves over the quadrennium the per capita equivalent of their current funding categories in the year 2000; and
- increased entitlements will be phased in over the quadrennium at a rate of 25 per cent of the gain each year, so that by 2004 schools will be funded at their new level.

The measure is part of a package of Government policy decisions related to the 2001-04 school quadrennium. Related decisions include:

- an increased focus on accountability and outcomes, with education authorities being required to commit to delivering measurable improvements in the outcomes of all students as a condition of receiving Commonwealth programme funds; and
- further streamlining of and simplified allocative mechanisms for targeted programmes which focus primarily on improving participation and outcomes of educationally disadvantaged students.

These decisions build on the work currently under way to establish nationally agreed, measurable targets for Australia's schools.

EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND SMALL BUSINESS

Expansion of Mutual Obligations

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business	0.5	33.8	33.8	33.8
Department of Family and Community Services	3.2	2.0	2.0	1.8
Total	3.7	35.8	35.8	35.7

Explanation

The Government will expand Mutual Obligation (MO) to a wider group of unemployment beneficiaries and strengthen the obligation on those who depend on the community for income support to contribute something in return. This measure is being managed in conjunction with the Department of Family and Community Services.

Further Information

This measure provides for:

- expanding MO arrangements to 25-34 year olds who reach 12 months on unemployment payments;

- increasing the hours of participation for people choosing to satisfy their MO through voluntary work or part time paid work;
- extending eligibility for Work for the Dole (one option open to MO clients) to 25-34 year olds who have been receiving unemployment payments for 12 months or more; and
- doubling the number of Work for the Dole places from 25,000 in 1998-99 to 50,000 places in 2000-01.

Redirection of Funds to Mutual Obligations and Indigenous Employment Programme

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business	-16.2	-38.2	-24.7	3.6

Explanation

The Government will redirect some funding previously allocated to the Job Network to the Expansion of Mutual Obligations (\$37 million a year from 2000-01) and the introduction of a new Indigenous Employment Programme (\$25 million a year from 1999-2000). At the same time, Job Network funding requirements have been reassessed and the Government has agreed that some funding previously provided for in 1998-99 will be carried forward to 1999-2000 and subsequent years to support the continued development of the Network.

Overall, up to 860,000 placements per year in employment assistance will be provided under these arrangements.

Introduction of an Indigenous Employment Policy

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0

Explanation

The Government is determined to address the severe employment problems faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Additional funding of \$25 million per year is

being provided as part of an overall policy package which includes enhancements to Job Network, and creation of a new Indigenous Employment Programme (IEP) to replace and expand the former Training for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders Programme.

The Training for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders Programme (TAP) had previously been allocated \$25 million per annum to increase employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians. Existing funds from the former TAP will be combined with the additional \$25 million provided under this measure to form a new \$50 million Indigenous Employment Programme focussed on private sector employment. A further \$2 million will be set aside from the Regional Assistance Programme and the Small Business Enterprise Culture Programme to support the generation of indigenous small businesses.

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Funding for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to cover increased costs of the Independent Monitor for the Port Hinchinbrook project

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	0.2	-	-	-

Explanation

Under the joint Deed of Agreement between the Commonwealth and the State of Queensland an independent monitor has been appointed to oversee the construction of marina access from the resort being developed at Port Hinchinbrook, Queensland to the Hinchinbrook Channel. The channel is part of an area which is listed under the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Lengthy delays in completing the dredging work on the project have resulted in increased activity by the independent monitor. This delay has increased the cost to the Commonwealth from \$165,000 to \$315,000. The measure will fund the extended monitoring programme through to the completion of commitments under the Deed of Agreement.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Additional Funding for Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement for net increase in public housing costs, as a result of tax reform

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	-	89.7	89.7	89.7

Explanation

This measure provides funding for the 1999 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) in respect of the net increase in public housing costs as a result of taxation reform. This funding was agreed at the April 1999 Premiers' Conference.

The measure provides an additional \$269 million for the CSHA, spread evenly over the final three years of the Agreement, starting in 2000-01, with the distribution among the States and Territories to be agreed.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Exmouth Emergency Relief Fund

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Finance and Administration	-	-	-	-
Department of Transport and Regional Services	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

Explanation

Following the devastation of Cyclone Vance in the area around Exmouth in Western Australia in March 1999, the Commonwealth agreed to contribute \$5 million in 1998-99 as part of its commitment to a joint Commonwealth/Western Australian fund to assist in recovery.

The Prime Minister also announced financial support measures to provide immediate financial assistance to victims. One of these measures is to make ex-gratia payments available to every family whose home was destroyed or severely damaged by the Cyclone. The payments amount to \$1,000 for each adult and \$200 for each child. The cost of this component of the measure is estimated at \$400,000 in 1998-99.

These measures are being delivered by the Departments of Finance and Administration and Transport and Regional Services.

Reduction in the Department of Finance and Administration's price of outputs

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Finance and Administration	-0.6	-	-	-

Explanation

A minor reduction in the price of the Department of Finance and Administration's outputs in 1999-2000 will be used to finance capital for Internet access for Senators' and Members' of Parliament electorate offices. See also the related capital measure under the Finance and Administration portfolio titled *Internet access for Senators' and Members' of Parliament electorate offices to improve service delivery to the community*.

HEALTH AND AGED CARE

National Illicit Drug Strategy - early intervention and diversion

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Attorney-General's Department	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
Australian Transactions Reports and Analysis Centre	3.0	2.2	2.1	2.1
National Crime Authority	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9
Australian Federal Police	6.5	5.5	5.7	5.6
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	2.9	3.9	1.8	0.7
Department of Family and Community Services	2.0	3.1	3.1	3.2
Department of Finance and Administration	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3
Department of Health and Aged Care	21.7	33.0	42.9	60.6
Total	38.6	49.9	58.0	74.7

Explanation

The Government's package of measures to fight illicit drug use in the community provides funding for the diversion, by police, of illicit drug users from the criminal justice system into treatment. The package also includes funding for prevention, early intervention, education, including school based drug education, and supply control measures. The package was agreed at the Council of Australian Governments on 9 April 1999 and will cost \$221 million over four years. This is in addition to:

- \$215 million provided for the National Illicit Drug Strategy (NIDS) in the 1997-98 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook and the 1998-99 Budget; and
- \$80 million for other illicit drug related measures in this Budget.

Tough on Drugs in the Community

This initiative will support the diversion of illicit drug users by police into counselling or treatment by creating an increased assessment and referral capacity; providing additional funding for a range of community-based education, assessment and treatment services; and increasing capacity for education and training of health workers in the assessment and management of people with drug problems.

Supporting measures

These include initiatives which focus on improving community awareness of the harm caused by illicit drugs, for example, by building on the existing education and information campaign on illicit drugs. Also included are initiatives to expand community involvement in strategies to respond to the harm caused by illicit drugs and strengthen and support community capacity to cope with illicit drug problems.

Tough on Drugs in Schools

Tough on Drugs in Schools supports the efforts of principals, teachers, parents and school communities in strengthening the attack on drug pushers and rejecting illicit drugs in schools. This will be achieved through the development of enhanced protocols, education and resource materials, and local summits to help school communities develop better ways of handling drug use in the school environment on a national basis. The Government has described this as a zero tolerance approach.

Tough on the Supply of Drugs

The Commonwealth will build on the National Illicit Drug Strategy to expand Australia's capacity to intercept drugs before they reach Australia and to attack distribution networks in Australia. Initiatives include expanding the Law Enforcement Cooperation Programme and the overseas liaison network of the Australian Federal Police, research on the links between drugs and crime, and enhancement of law enforcement agencies' technological capacity and their capacity to use financial intelligence. A further \$0.4 million is also provided for related equipment purchases.

The measure also includes resourcing for an evaluation of this phase of the National Illicit Drug Strategy, which will be undertaken by the Department of Finance and Administration. The evaluation will examine the effectiveness of each of the above initiatives in achieving their intended objectives and outcomes, and assess the overall effectiveness of the strategy in addressing the problem of illicit drugs.

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

Further Information

See also the following related NIDS expense measures:

- *National Illicit Drug Strategy - Additional funding for drug treatment* 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:

- *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.

Assisting rural medical students through their studies

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Explanation

The Government will establish a Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarships scheme. The measure will provide financial assistance to undergraduate medical students who have completed their secondary education in a rural area to help meet accommodation, living and travel costs incurred while studying at tertiary level.

This is one of a number of long term strategies that aim to increase the general practice workforce in rural and remote communities. The undersupply of doctors in these areas is well documented. Evidence suggests that medical graduates that have a rural origin are more likely to return to rural areas to practice once they have completed their training. However, there are a number of barriers that prevent rural students from considering tertiary education, particularly the financial burden associated with travelling to, and living, in the city. The Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarships Scheme aims to reduce these financial barriers. It is envisaged that up to 100 scholarships could be funded each year.

Further Information

The Rural Workforce Agencies located in each State would have responsibility for administering the scholarship scheme.

International Year of Older Persons - celebration to mark the start of cultural change

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	5.0	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will contribute \$5 million towards an improved quality of life for older Australians through the implementation of the second stage of a targeted communication strategy aimed at changing perceptions about ageing. The strategy will:

- enhance awareness of the changing age demographics in Australia and related issues;
- begin a lasting cultural change to improve Australians' perceptions of older people;
- foster intergenerational harmony;
- promote better planning by individuals for their older age;
- encourage community and business groups to respond to issues that are raised; and
- improve awareness of the International Year of Older Persons and inform the community about associated Commonwealth activities and initiatives.

This measure builds on the first stage of the communication strategy, undertaken during 1998-99.

Health and medical research boost

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Health and Aged Care	16.7	51.0	86.4	119.9

Explanation

The Government will provide an additional \$613.7 million over six years to strengthen the capacity of the health and medical research sector and increase Australia's investment in national research priorities. The funding will more than double the base research funding (\$165 million in 1998-99) of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) by the year 2005.

One of the focuses of this investment will be the enhancement of Australia's expertise in medical genomics and other leading edge technologies. The additional funding will also allow increased investment in a broad range of high impact research undertaken through the NHMRC. An additional focus will be placed on identifying and addressing research priorities, with a strategic emphasis on those areas in need of further research and the development of improved health care interventions.

Further Information

The increased funding will enable the provision of improved research facilities and an increased level of research activity, which will be complemented by other initiatives to provide additional career and training opportunities for health and medical researchers.

In addition, a full time leader will be appointed to the NHMRC. This will enable the NHMRC to play an enhanced role in ensuring research investment in areas of national priority, and that the increased investment is ultimately translated into improved health outcomes.

Increase funding for the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Private Health Insurance Ombudsman	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3

Explanation

The Government will increase funding for the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman to allow it to meet with a growing workload flowing from the increase in health fund membership, and rising consumer awareness about initiatives being undertaken by the Government.

The additional funding will be paid for by the collection of increased levies from health funds as identified in the related revenue measure in Part II titled *Increase Private Health Insurance Levy*.

Further Information

The Private Health Insurance Ombudsman is an independent body that deals with complaints about private health insurance. The Ombudsman deals mainly with complaints about private health insurance arrangements between funds, hospitals, the medical profession and fund contributors.

The Commonwealth recoups the expenses of the Ombudsman through a levy on registered health benefits organisations.

INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES

Contribute to construction of Maitland Federation Centre

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
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 meets the election commitment made by the Prime Minister.

Grant to Gum San Heritage Museum, Ararat, Victoria

Expense (\$m)

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

Strategy for tourism development, Burnie, Tasmania

Expense (\$m)

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

Inveresk Woodchopping Stadium

Expense (\$m)

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

PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Commonwealth contribution to the Crookwell bushfire appeal

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Finance and Administration	-	-	-	-
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

Explanation

The Commonwealth contributed \$50,000 in February 1999 to the Crookwell bushfire appeal to provide early assistance to the victims of the devastating fire that swept through the New South Wales Southern and Central Tablelands. The Crookwell Shire Council established the appeal, immediately after the fire, to which this funding was provided by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Additionally, the Department of Finance and Administration, through the Department of Family and Community Services and Centrelink provided ex-gratia payments to affected families in the district. These payments were at a rate equivalent to the Newstart Allowance. The total amount paid out is approximately \$70,000.

The total cost of this measure is estimated to be around \$120,000 in 1998-99.

TREASURY

A New Tax System - grants to balance State and Territory budgets

Expense (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the Treasury	-	-	365.3	345.5

Explanation

At the 1999 Premiers' Conference, the Commonwealth, States and Territories signed the *Intergovernmental Agreement on the Reform of Commonwealth-State Financial Arrangements*. The Agreement will facilitate the implementation of the reforms proposed in the Commonwealth's *A New Tax System*. The new arrangements will provide the States and Territories with all of the revenue from the GST, which will replace the existing financial assistance grants and allow them to remove a range of inefficient taxes.

As foreshadowed previously by the Commonwealth, the Agreement provides for transitional financial assistance to be paid to the States and Territories, in the form of a

loan in the first year of reform and grants thereafter, to meet the Commonwealth's guarantee that the budgetary position of each State and Territory will be no worse off in the initial years following the introduction of the GST.

At the Premiers' Conference on 9 April, the Commonwealth agreed to allocate additional funding for its guarantee to the States and Territories in relation to:

- the impact on State and Territory budgets over the first three years of reform of the abolition of Wholesales Sales Tax equivalent payments by Government business enterprises; and
- ensuring that the States and Territories will not be disadvantaged over the first three years of reform by the Commonwealth's undertaking that local government will benefit from the impact of changes to indirect taxes through lower prices on their purchases.

The Commonwealth also agreed to more generous arrangements for guarantee grants in the third year of reform, so that States and Territories with gains to their budgets in that year may retain all of those gains and the Commonwealth will fund those States and Territories with budget shortfalls.

Further to the additional assistance to be provided by way of the grants to balance State and Territory budgets, the Commonwealth agreed at the Premiers' Conference to separately provide extra funding to the States and Territories to meet higher State public housing costs resulting from tax reform (subject to the resolution of the new Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement).

Part III: Capital Measures

Table 5: Capital Measures since MYEFO^(a)

	1999-00 \$m	2000-01 \$m	2001-02 \$m	2002-03 \$m
Measures introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget				
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S				
<i>Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission</i>				
Data Protection in the Private Sector	0.1	0.1	-	-
<i>Australian Customs Service</i>				
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	-	-
	7.1	2.5	-	-
COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS				
<i>Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts</i>				
Building Repairs and Exhibitions - National Science and Technology Centre	1.9	1.7	1.1	-
<i>Australian National Maritime Museum</i>				
Building repair and exhibition development	1.0	-	-	-
	2.9	1.7	1.1	-
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS				
<i>Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs</i>				
Phasing out of the Higher Education Equity Merit Scholarship Scheme	2.9	2.2	3.2	3.0
	2.9	2.2	3.2	3.0
ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE				
<i>National Parks and Wildlife</i>				
Flood Damage Repairs Norfolk Island	3.5	-	-	-
	3.5	-	-	-
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES				
<i>Department of Family and Community Services</i>				
Equity – Family and Community Services	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Tax Reform Package*	0.1	..	..	-
<i>Centrelink</i>				
Tax Reform Package*	10.7	14.8	7.6	7.4
Equity - Centrelink	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
	11.3	15.2	7.9	7.7

Table 5: Capital Measures since MYEFO^(a) (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION				
<i>Department of Finance and Administration</i>				
Commercialisation of Property Portfolio - Equity Injection	32.7	23.9	16.8	73.8
Commercialisation of Property Portfolio - Equity Repayment	-	-	-	-
	294.9	229.7	121.3	-71.8
Return of surplus cash from Business Services Reserve and Removals Australia	-58.8	-	-	-
Commercialisation of Property Portfolio - payment of notional tax and dividends	-0.5	-37.3	-53.8	-60.0
Equity - Sale of Removals Australia	Nfp	nfp	nfp	nfp
	-321.5	-243.0	-158.4	-58.0
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE				
<i>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</i>				
Opening of an Australian Consulate-General in East Timor and an Australian Policy liaison Office in Lisbon*	3.1	..	..	0.4
Opening of Australian Embassy in Zagreb *	2.0	..	..	0.1
<i>AusAID</i>				
Opening of an Australian Consulate-General in East Timor and an Australian Policy liaison Office in Lisbon*	0.2	-	-	-
<i>Australian Trade Commission</i>				
Opening of Australian Embassy in Zagreb *	0.2	-	-	0.1
	5.5	..	..	0.6
IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS				
<i>Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs</i>				
Establish an immigration presence at the Australian Consulate General in East Timor	0.3	-	-	-
	0.3	-	-	-
INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES				
<i>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</i>				
Sale of Australian Industry Development Corporation shares in Optus	-20.0	-	-	-
	-20.0	-	-	-
TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES				
<i>Civil Aviation Safety Authority</i>				
Civil Aviation Safety Authority restructuring	8.0	-	-	-
	8.0	-	-	-
TREASURY				
<i>Department of the Treasury</i>				
Establishment of the Australian Office of Financial Management	2.9	0.5	-	-
<i>Australian Taxation Office</i>				
Business taxation reform	4.5	-	-	-
Equity injection for A New Tax System initiatives	57.9	44.7	27.2	20.9
Tax Reform Package*	-	0.5	0.1	0.1
	65.3	45.7	27.3	21.0

Table 5: Capital Measures since MYEFO^(a) (continued)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
VETERANS' AFFAIRS				
<i>Department of Veterans' Affairs</i>				
Centenary Project - Outstanding Rolls for Overseas and Peacekeeping Services and Related Mortality/Health Studies	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.0
	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.0
Measures introduced up to the 1999-2000 Budget				
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S				
<i>Australian Federal Police</i>				
National Illicit Drug Strategy - early intervention and diversion	0.4	-	-	-
	0.4	-	-	-
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION				
<i>Department of Finance and Administration</i>				
Internet access for Senators' and Members' of Parliament electorate offices to improve service delivery to the community	0.6	-	-	-
	0.6	-	-	-
TREASURY				
<i>Department of the Treasury</i>				
A New Tax System - advances to balance State and Territory budgets	-	182.7	182.7	-
	-	182.7	-182.7	-
Total impact of capital measures	-232.7	8.1	-300.4	-24.8

Totals may not add due to rounding.

* Measure affects more than one portfolio.

Measures Introduced in the 1999-2000 Budget

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S

Data Protection in the Private Sector

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission	0.1	0.1	-	-

Explanation

As an integral part of its decision to provide national privacy protection in the private sector, the Government will provide an equity injection to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC).

This equity injection into HREOC will be funded from a reduction in the price of outputs in the Attorney-General's Department and is, therefore, budget neutral. It will be used for the essential property fitout to accommodate the staff undertaking this role.

See also the related expense measure under the Attorney-General's portfolio titled *Data Protection in the Private Sector*.

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

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Customs Service	7.0	2.4	-	-

Explanation

The Government has decided to provide an equity injection to invest in latest x-ray technology to improve illicit drug detection, extending the capacity of Customs to examine full shipping containers.

An enhanced x-ray search capacity will allow Customs 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.

See also the related expense measure under the Attorney-General's portfolio titled *Tough on drugs - increased search capacity and purchase of x-ray technology to enhance capacity for drug detection at the nation's borders*.

COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

Building Repairs and Exhibitions - National Science and Technology Centre

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	1.9	1.7	1.1	-

Explanation

The Government will provide an equity injection to the National Science and Technology Centre to fund essential building repairs and maintenance necessary to halt the deterioration in its structural assets and for the repairs and maintenance of exhibitions which, in their current state, have passed their useful life.

Building repair and exhibition development

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian National Maritime Museum	1.0	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide an equity injection to the Australian National Maritime Museum to fund essential building maintenance necessary to halt deterioration in structural assets and for the replacement of exhibitions which are past their useful life.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

Phasing out of the Higher Education Equity Merit Scholarship Scheme

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs	2.9	2.2	3.2	3.0

Explanation

The Government has decided to phase out the Higher Education Equity Merit Scholarship Scheme from the 2000 academic year. To ensure current scholarship holders are not disadvantaged, the Government has decided that the measure will not affect scholarships already awarded.

Students who may otherwise have received a scholarship are expected to participate in the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS). The income-contingent, interest free, deferred payment arrangements available under HECS are an appropriate means of ensuring that disadvantaged students are not discouraged from participating in higher education.

Further Information

Deferral of HECS debts by these students represents an increase in receivables by the Commonwealth. It is shown in financial statements as a capital appropriation, as set out in the above table.

See also the related revenue and expense measures under the Education, Training and Youth Affairs portfolio titled *Phasing out of the Higher Education Equity Merit Scholarship Scheme*.

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Flood Damage Repairs Norfolk Island

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
National Parks and Wildlife	3.5	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide a \$3.5 million equity injection in 1999-2000 to repair the main access and other associated roads to Norfolk Island National Park so it can be

reopened to the public. Major flood damage in August 1998 forced the permanent closure of the roads.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Equity - Family and Community Services

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Family and Community Services	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Explanation

The Government is providing an equity injection to the Department of Family and Community Services for the purchase of computer and office equipment, and software requirements, to support the implementation of certain approved measures.

Tax Reform Package

Capital (\$m)

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

Explanation

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*.

Equity - Centrelink

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Centrelink	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2

Explanation

The Government is providing an equity injection to Centrelink for capital purchases to support the implementation of certain approved measures.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Commercialisation of Property Portfolio - Equity Injection

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Finance and Administration	32.7	23.9	16.8	73.8

Explanation

The Government has decided to provide an equity injection of \$37.5 million to fund the refurbishment of the Treasury Building in the Parliamentary Triangle in Canberra. In addition, a \$4.5 million equity injection for the Treasury Building is being provided in 1998-99. An equity injection of \$36 million has also been provided to meet essential remediation, including Year 2000 compliance and Occupational Health and Safety works necessary to maintain and prepare a large number of Special Purpose and Industrial and Public Interest Estate properties for commercialisation, including sale in some instances.

The Government has also agreed to an equity injection of \$73.7 million to fund the construction of a new law court in Adelaide to house the Federal Court, High Court and Family Court.

Further Information

The refurbishment of the Treasury Building was to have been funded through instalment purchase financing. Subsequent analysis of the net present value of the costs of the refurbishment showed that the use of an equity injection is more cost effective than the instalment purchase arrangement previously proposed.

Adelaide is the only State capital without a purpose built Commonwealth courts building. Pursuant to the Commonwealth property principles, ownership of court buildings is in the public interest. This project will provide increased employment opportunities in South Australia and contribute to accessibility to justice.

See the related capital measures under the Finance and Administration portfolio titled *Commercialisation of Property Portfolio – Equity Repayment* and *Commercialisation of Property Portfolio – Payment of Notional Tax and Dividends*, and the expense measure titled *Commercialisation of Property Portfolio – Reduction in price of outputs*.

Commercialisation of Property Portfolio - Equity Repayment

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Finance and Administration	-294.9	-229.7	-121.3	-71.8

Explanation

The Department of Finance and Administration will make an equity repayment to the Budget of some \$717.7 million net over the four years (1999-2000 to 2002-03) from its administration of the domestic and overseas property estates. This reflects the Government’s aim to achieve a commercial rate of return on its property portfolio. An additional \$10 million return will be made in 1998-99.

Further Information

These repayments will be funded in 1999-2000 to 2002-03 from:

- asset divestments of \$564.7 million; and
- surplus cash of \$153 million.

See also the related capital measures under the Finance and Administration portfolio titled *Commercialisation of Property Portfolio – Equity Injection* and *Commercialisation of Property Portfolio – Payment of Notional Tax and Dividends*, and the expense measure titled *Commercialisation of Property Portfolio – Reduction in price of outputs*.

**Return of surplus cash from Business Services Reserve and Removals
Australia**

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Finance and Administration	-58.8	-	-	-

Explanation

The Department of Finance and Administration will make an equity repayment to the Budget from surplus cash from the Business Services Reserve following the sales and wind up of residual issues from the former commercial business units of the former Department of Administrative Services. Removals Australia will also make an equity repayment from cash which is surplus to the amount necessary for its effective business operations and cash management operations.

This measure has no impact on the operating result or the consolidated balance sheet; it is a transfer of equity back to the Commonwealth.

Further Information

The business units of the former Department of Administrative Services which comprise the Business Services Reserve were: Works Australia, the Department of Administrative Services Interiors Australia, the Department of Administrative Services Distribution, DASFLEET, Asset Services, the Australian Property Group, the Department of Administrative Services Centre for Environmental Management and Australian Operational Support Services.

Commercialisation of Property Portfolio - payment of notional tax and dividends

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Finance and Administration	-0.5	-37.3	-53.8	-60.0

Explanation

The adoption of commercial practices in the management of the Commonwealth's Property portfolio will allow the Department of Finance and Administration to make notional tax and dividend payments to the Budget. These payments will be made from the surplus thereby generated, and are classified as equity repayments rather than expenses.

This measure would be offset by the extent of supplementation to some agencies for the payment of commercial rents. Supplementation for those agencies would be by way of a variation of the estimates for the relevant agencies.

See also the related capital measures under the Finance and Administration portfolio titled *Commercialisation of Property Portfolio – Equity Repayment* and *Commercialisation of Property Portfolio – Equity Injection*, and the expense measure titled *Commercialisation of Property Portfolio – Reduction in price of outputs*.

Equity – Sale of Removals Australia

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Finance and Administration	nfp	nfp	nfp	nfp

Explanation

The Government recently announced that it has decided to sell the Commonwealth's removals and relocations business, Removals Australia.

In 1997-98, Removals Australia returned an operating profit of \$2.5 million and achieved an annual turnover of \$95 million.

The sale, which will occur by way of open tender, will be managed on behalf of the Commonwealth by the Office of Asset Sales and IT Outsourcing.

Financial details concerning the sale will not be disclosed in keeping with the Government's confidentiality provisions.

Further Information

Removals Australia, a business unit of the Department of Finance and Administration, is a relocations brokerage business servicing government acting purely as broker liaising between clients and service providers, rather than conducting removals itself.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

Opening of an Australian Consulate-General in East Timor and an Australian Policy liaison Office in Lisbon

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
AusAID	0.2	-	-	-
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	3.1	..	..	0.4
Total	3.4	..	..	0.4

Explanation

As an integral part of the decision to open an Australian Consulate-General, including an AusAID office, in Dili, East Timor, the Government has provided an equity injection for the acquisition of non-current assets for the mission and for the Australian policy liaison office to be established in Lisbon, Portugal. The main asset purchases will be office fitout, communications and office equipment, furniture (office and residential), and motor vehicles.

See the related expense measure in the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio titled *Opening of an Australian Consulate-General in East Timor and an Australian Policy liaison Office in Lisbon* and the capital and expense measures in the Immigration and Multicultural Affairs portfolio titled *Establish an immigration presence at the Australian Consulate-General in East Timor*.

Opening of Australian Embassy in Zagreb

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	2.0	..	..	0.1
Australian Trade Commission	0.2	-	-	0.1
Total	2.2	..	..	0.2

Explanation

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.

For further information see the related expense measure under the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio titled *Opening of Australian Embassy in Zagreb*.

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Establish an immigration presence at the Australian Consulate-General in East Timor

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs	0.3	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government has decided to open an Australian Consulate-General in Dili, East Timor. It is expected that, once the Consulate-General is open, a significant demand for immigration services will emerge. The Government has determined that an immigration presence is desirable to meet this anticipated demand.

Further Information

The equity injection will be used for set up costs (such as computers and IT equipment and residential furnishings).

See also the related expense and capital measures in the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio titled *Opening of an Australian Consulate-General in East Timor and an Australian Policy liaison Office in Lisbon*.

INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES

Sale of Australian Industry Development Corporation shares in Optus

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	-20.0	-	-	-

Explanation

The payment to the Commonwealth is a return of capital by the Australian Industry Development Corporation (AIDC) following the sale of shares held by the AIDC in Cable & Wireless Optus (CWO). When the listing of CWO was announced in November 1998, the proceeds from the sale of the CWO shares was estimated at \$70 million. The increase in share values will return some \$90 million from this sale. The Government has requested the AIDC to repay the additional \$20 million in 1999-2000 as a return of equity.

TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES

Civil Aviation Safety Authority restructuring

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Civil Aviation Safety Authority	8.0	-	-	-

Explanation

Funding of \$8.0 million is being provided in each of 1998-99 and 1999-2000 to finance a major organisational restructure. The restructure will improve CASA's performance through the establishment of clearer lines of accountability, transparency of responsibility and the introduction of new skills and capabilities. This funding is to be repaid from savings which will come from an anticipated reduction in overall establishment positions and improved productivity.

TREASURY

Establishment of the Australian Office of Financial Management

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the Treasury	2.9	0.5	-	-

Explanation

The Government will establish a new specialist agency, the Australian Office of Financial Management (AOFM), within the Treasury portfolio. The investment in specialist financial management computer software and hardware is necessary to support the operations of this new agency.

The Government will make a capital injection to fund the acquisition of computer equipment for the AOFM.

Further Information

See also the related expense measure under the Treasury portfolio titled *Establishment of the Australian Office of Financial Management*.

Business taxation reform

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Taxation Office	4.5	-	-	-

Explanation

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*.

Equity injection for A New Tax System initiatives

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2002-03
	57.9	44.7	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*.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Centenary Project - Outstanding Rolls for Overseas and Peacekeeping Services and Related Mortality/Health Studies

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Veterans' Affairs	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.0

Explanation

The Government will fund the development of a database to ensure that information on those who have served in Australia's defence forces in wars and conflicts is accessible in electronic and printed forms. The database is to be completed by 2003.

Measures Introduced up to the 1999-2000 Budget

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S

National Illicit Drug Strategy - early intervention and diversion

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Australian Federal Police	0.4	-	-	-

Explanation

This measure provides an equity injection to the Australian Federal Police for the purchase of equipment required to implement initiatives to control the supply of illicit drugs. The initiatives are part of a cross-portfolio package totalling \$221 million.

See also the following related NIDS expense measures:

- *National Illicit Drug Strategy - early intervention and diversion* under the Health and Aged Care portfolio;
- *National Illicit Drug Strategy - Additional funding for drug treatment* 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 measure:

- *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.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Internet access for Senators' and Members' of Parliament electorate offices to improve service delivery to the community

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of Finance and Administration	0.6	-	-	-

Explanation

The Government will provide Senators' and Members' electorate offices with a research facility through the Internet that will give them better access to information on a local, national and international level. In addition, Internet access will improve the service delivery provided to electorate offices allowing:

- Senators, Members and their staff to lodge entitlement claims, such as leave, travel, overtime etc, electronically rather than through the current cumbersome paper-based process;
- Senators and Members to generate reports on their entitlements usage automatically at any time; and
- video and audio feeds from Parliament House to be distributed should this be required in the future.

This capital is being funded by a reduction in the price of the Department of Finance and Administration's outputs during 1999-2000.

See also the related expense measure under the Finance and Administration portfolio titled *Reduction in the Department of Finance and Administration's price of outputs*.

TREASURY

A New Tax System - advances to balance State and Territory budgets

Capital (\$m)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Department of the Treasury	-	182.7	-182.7	-

Explanation

At the 1999 Premiers' Conference, the Commonwealth, States and Territories signed the *Intergovernmental Agreement on the Reform of Commonwealth-State Financial Arrangements*. The Agreement will facilitate the implementation of the reforms proposed in the

Commonwealth's *A New Tax System*. The new arrangements will provide the States and Territories with all of the revenue from the GST, which will replace the existing financial assistance grants and allow them to remove a range of inefficient taxes.

As foreshadowed previously by the Commonwealth, the Agreement provides for transitional financial assistance to be paid to the States and Territories, in the form of a loan in the first year of reform and grants thereafter, to meet the Commonwealth's guarantee that the budgetary position of each State and Territory will be no worse off in the initial years following the introduction of the GST.

The loans to be paid to the States and Territories in 2000-01 will be on interest-free terms and repaid to the Commonwealth in the following year.

At the Premiers' Conference on 9 April, the Commonwealth agreed to allocate additional funding for its guarantee to the States and Territories in relation to:

- the impact on State and Territory budgets over the first three years of reform of the abolition of Wholesales Sales Tax equivalent payments by Government business enterprises; and
- ensuring that the States and Territories will not be disadvantaged over the first three years of reform by the Commonwealth's undertaking that local government will benefit from the impact of changes to indirect taxes through lower prices on their purchases.

The Commonwealth also agreed to more generous arrangements for guarantee grants in the third year of reform, so that States and Territories with gains to their budgets in that year may retain all of those gains and the Commonwealth will fund those States and Territories with budget shortfalls.

Further to the additional assistance described above, the Commonwealth agreed at the Premiers' Conference to provide separately extra funding to the States and Territories to meet higher State public housing costs resulting from tax reform (subject to the resolution of the new Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement).

See also the related expense measure under the Treasury portfolio titled *A New Tax System – grants to balance State and Territory budgets*.

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