

PART II: FUNCTION OUTLAYS

1. GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES

This category covers outlays on a number of general public services and activities concerned with the organisation and operation of government. General Public Services is an aggregate of six functions: legislative and executive affairs; financial and fiscal affairs; foreign economic aid, general research; general services; and government superannuation benefits.

1A. LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE AFFAIRS

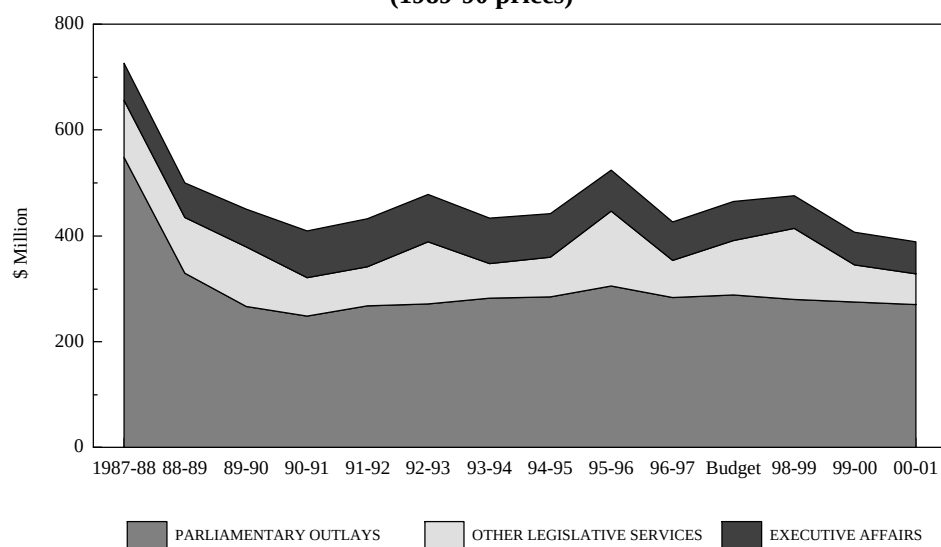
NATURE OF OUTLAYS

Outlays cover services provided by the Parliamentary Departments (the Senate, House of Representatives, Parliamentary Library, Parliamentary Reporting Staff and Joint House), the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), and Ministerial and Parliamentary Services.

This function includes outlays of the following portfolios:

- Administrative Services;
- Attorney-General's; and
- Prime Minister and Cabinet.

**Chart 1. Overview of Commonwealth Outlays on
Legislative and Executive Affairs
(1989-90 prices)**



TRENDS IN LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE AFFAIRS OUTLAYS

Trends over the period to 1987-88 were dominated by outlays toward completion of the new Parliament House, which was occupied in 1988. Subsequently, parliamentary outlays have stabilised to reflect ongoing running costs, capital and provision of remuneration and services to Members and Senators.

The Other Legislative Services trend reflects the impact on outlays of Federal elections. The 1997-98 Budget figure includes funding for the election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention. Provision for the next election is included in the Forward Estimates in 1998-99.

Commonwealth outlays on Executive Affairs remain largely stable after 1997-98 at a level which reflects the ongoing impact of the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio savings announced in last year's Budget. The higher level of outlays in 1997-98 compared to the forward years is the result of one-off funding in 1997-98 for the Constitutional Convention and carryovers from 1996-97 into 1997-98.

1997-98 AND FORWARD ESTIMATES

		1996-97 Estimate	1997-98 Budget	1998-99 Estimate	1999-00 Estimate	2000-01 Estimate
1A.1 Parliamentary Outlays	\$m	328.2	340.5	338.0	340.8	343.7
	%		3.7	-0.7	0.8	0.9
1A.2 Other Legislative Services	\$m	81.5	121.6	162.8	87.8	74.1
	%		49.2	33.9	-46.1	-15.6
1A.3 Executive Affairs	\$m	82.8	86.8	75.9	75.8	76.4
	%		4.8	-12.6	-0.1	0.8
TOTAL	\$m	492.5	548.9	576.6	504.4	494.1
	%		11.5	5.0	-12.5	-2.0

1A.1 PARLIAMENTARY OUTLAYS

Parliamentary outlays cover services to Senators and Members by the Parliamentary Departments and the Department of Administrative Services. These include: Hansard; advisory, procedural, research and administrative support; library; communications support; building and facilities management; Members' and Ministers' staff salaries; electorate office costs; and travel within Australia and overseas. The costs of superannuation benefits for Senators and Members of Parliament appear in *1F.2 Civilian Schemes*.

1A.2 OTHER LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

Other Legislative Services covers the funding of elections, the cost of the AEC and drafting of Bills by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, within the Attorney-General's portfolio.

1A.3 EXECUTIVE AFFAIRS

The Executive Affairs subfunction covers the running costs and other outlays of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (including support services for former Governors-General and the Prime Minister's official residences), the Office of the Commonwealth and Defence Force Ombudsman, the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General, and the Public Service and Merit Protection Commission.