

APPENDIX A: POLICY DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE 2005-06 BUDGET

SUMMARY OF POLICY DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE 2005-06 BUDGET

Table A1: Revenue measures since the 2005-06 Budget^(a)

Page		2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY					
<i>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</i>					
65	Fishing structural adjustment package – Australian Fisheries Management Authority levy reduction	-	-7.0	-5.0	-3.0
	Portfolio total	-	-7.0	-5.0	-3.0
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S					
<i>Australian Customs Service</i>					
66	Customs duty – alignment of import entry level thresholds for courier and postal imports	-8.0	-12.0	-13.0	-13.0
66	Indirect tax – customs duty concession for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games	-1.0	-	-	-
67	Tariff concessions – abolishing the three per cent tariff on certain machinery	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0
67	Taxation of imported wine-based beverages – alignment with locally produced wine based beverages	..	..	..	..
	Portfolio total	-11.0	-14.0	-15.0	-15.0
COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS					
<i>Australian Communications and Media Authority</i>					
111	Connect Australia – consumer safeguards(b)	-	1.8	2.4	1.8
113	Telecommunications competition including operational separation of Telstra(b)	-	5.1	4.9	3.9
	Portfolio total	-	6.9	7.3	5.7
EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING					
<i>Department of Education, Science and Training</i>					
119	Higher Education – extension of FEE-HELP and OS-HELP(b)	-	..	..	..
	Portfolio total	-	-	-	-
HEALTH AND AGEING					
<i>Department of Health and Ageing</i>					
<i>Medical indemnity</i>					
68	– competitive neutrality charge	9.3	9.1	8.7	8.3
68	– reduction in United Medical Protection support payments	-12.9	-11.9	-21.5	-19.2
<i>Private Health Insurance Ombudsman</i>					
170	Private Health Insurance Ombudsman – increased powers(b)	-	0.2	0.2	0.2
	Portfolio total	-3.6	-2.6	-12.6	-10.7

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Table A1: Revenue measures since the 2005-06 Budget^(a) (continued)

Page		2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
	PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET				
	<i>Australian National Audit Office</i>				
180	Auditing of Australian Government entities(b)	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.9
	Portfolio total	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.9
	TREASURY				
	<i>Australian Taxation Office</i>				
	Capital gains tax				
70	– automatic roll-over of Public Sector Superannuation Fund	-	-	-	-
70	– treatment of options	*	*	*	*
70	Changes to Prescribed Private Funds	-26.5	-12.9	-11.6	-12.3
71	Company loss recoupment rules – modified continuity of ownership test	*	*	*	*
	Consolidation				
71	– clarifying the interaction with the demerger rules	-	-20.0	-5.0	-5.0
72	– treatment of pre-capital gains tax membership interests and improvements to clarify the operation of the consolidation regime	*	*	*	*
72	Deductibility of certain gifts	-0.4	-3.5	-2.1	-1.3
73	Employee share schemes – further relief for employee share scheme participants in the event of a corporate restructure	*	*	*	*
74	Excise and customs duty – no increase in rates	-6.0	-12.0	-6.0	-
74	Exemption from foreign currency provisions for securitisation vehicles	..	..	..	..
74	Expanded taxation treatment of business ‘blackhole’ expenditures	-	-2.0	-3.0	-9.0
75	Foreign Investment Fund rules – listing of the Bermuda Stock Exchange as an approved stock exchange	..	..	..	..
75	Foreign residents’ income with an underlying foreign source – conduit foreign income	-	-10.0	-10.0	-25.0
	Fringe benefits tax				
76	– exclusion from reporting for certain personal security services	-	..	..	..
76	– extension of transitional arrangements for payments to worker entitlement funds	-	-	-	-
76	– rebatable employer status of certain government institutions	-	-	-	-
	Income tax				
77	– extension of mutuality principle	..	..	..	..
77	– taxation status of Operation AZURE	-	..	-	-
78	Indirect tax concession scheme – extension	..	..	..	..
	Personal income tax				
78	– amendments to preserve eligibility for the 30 per cent child care tax rebate	-	-	-	-
78	– modifying the foreign employment exemption	..	..	..	..
79	– tax exemption for lump sum payments to F-111 personnel	-6.0	-	-	-
79	Political Donations – raising the tax deductible threshold	-	-	-4.9	-6.5
80	Related party at-call loans – deemed debt treatment for small companies	-11.0	-12.0	-13.0	-13.0

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Table A1: Revenue measures since the 2005-06 Budget^(a) (continued)

Page	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
TREASURY (CONTINUED)				
Superannuation				
80 – extension of transitional relief for small funds	*	*	*	*
81 – modification of allocated pension drawdown factors	-1.5	-5.0	-8.5	-12.0
82 – modification of market linked and other life expectancy income streams	-3.5	-11.0	-18.5	-26.0
83 – removing restriction on portability of accounts	-	-	-	-
83 – temporary residents working on the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games	0.3	0.1	-	-
83 Superannuation contributions splitting	-	-1.4	-2.3	-1.6
84 Superannuation guarantee – extension of lodgement date for superannuation guarantee statements	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
84 Tax exempt asset financing – changes to tax treatment	..	..	..	..
85 Tax treatment of foreign governments and their investment bodies – clarification of tax exemption for certain investments	-	-	-	-
Taxation of Financial Arrangements				
85 – extension of transitional arrangements for Upper Tier 2 instruments	*	*	*	*
85 – treatment of term subordinated notes containing a solvency clause	-	-	-	-
Portfolio total	-54.7	-89.8	-85.0	-111.8
Decisions taken but not yet announced	-13.0	-23.0	-17.0	-7.0
Total impact of revenue measures(c)	-81.2	-128.7	-126.4	-140.9

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

.. Not zero, but rounded to zero.

- Nil.

nfp Not for publication.

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

(b) Details of these measures can be found in Appendix A under Expense measures.

(c) Measures may not add due to rounding.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Table A2: Expense measures since the 2005-06 Budget^(a)

Page	2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY				
<i>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</i>				
Citrus canker eradication in Queensland				
87	– assistance to growers	4.6	-	-
87	– recovery assistance	-	-	-
Drought assistance				
88	– Country Women's Association Emergency Aid Fund	3.0	-	-
88	– Exceptional Circumstances assistance	507.4	95.7	-
89	– interim income support	1.1	-	-
89	– Rural Financial Counselling Service	2.2	-	-
90	Exports and infrastructure taskforce – establishment	-	-	-
Fishing structural adjustment package				
90	– business exit assistance	104.4	45.1	0.1
91	– Fishing Communities Grants Programme	-	8.2	12.2
91	– onshore and related assistance	6.2	16.1	7.3
92	– science, compliance and data collection	-	2.0	2.0
102	Illegal foreign fishing in Australia's northern waters – increased enforcement	0.7	2.5	2.5
Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement				
92	– alternatives to 1080 poison baits	1.5	2.5	-
93	– communications programme	2.2	-	-
93	– intensive forest management	18.0	18.0	19.1
94	– measures to support reductions in old growth clearfelling	2.0	-	-
94	– payment to the Tasmanian Government for the implementation of the agreement	-	-	-
94	– pulp mill	2.4	-	-
95	– softwood industry	2.1	6.1	2.1
95	– support for country sawmills	2.0	2.0	-
96	– support for the hardwood timber industry	20.7	17.6	5.6
96	Torres Strait fisheries – resource sharing arrangements	nfp	nfp	-
Portfolio total		680.6	215.8	50.9
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S				
<i>Attorney-General's Department</i>				
97	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation 2007 – security	18.1	4.6	-
97	Australia United States Free Trade Agreement – copyright obligations	0.3	-	-
194	Australia-Turkey Bilateral Relations and Cooperation	0.4	0.9	0.9
98	Aviation security – ensuring availability of information	0.4	-	-
101	Bali bombing 1 October 2005 – evacuation funding	..	-	-
102	National Community Crime Prevention Programme – additional funding	2.0	2.0	2.0
National security				
103	– centralised background checking	2.0	9.1	0.5
104	– enhancing the counter-terrorism exercise regime	-	2.3	2.3
105	– increasing public awareness with a national media campaign	8.4	-	-
105	– promoting public understanding of Australia's counter-terrorism arrangements	0.6	0.3	0.2

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Table A2: Expense measures since the 2005-06 Budget^(a) (continued)

Page		2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
	ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S (CONTINUED)				
107	United Nations Oil-For-Food Programme – establishing a Commission of Inquiry	6.8	-	-	-
107	Urban search and rescue – enhancing the national capability	11.0	4.0	-	-
	<i>Australian Crime Commission</i>				
184	Aviation security – improving security and crime information exchange	2.4	8.7	2.7	2.7
	<i>Australian Customs Service</i>				
	Aviation security				
98	– establishing Joint Airport Investigations Teams	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2
99	– improving closed circuit television at airports	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1
99	– increasing air-side Customs patrols	10.4	11.7	11.8	12.0
100	– providing additional closed circuit television cameras and upgrading capabilities	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.3
100	– strengthening international air cargo security arrangements in Australia	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1
66	Customs duty – alignment of import entry level thresholds for courier and postal imports	-2.0	-2.0	-2.1	-2.1
102	Illegal foreign fishing in Australia's northern waters – increased enforcement	13.5	13.0	13.1	14.1
178	National security – introducing a maritime crew visa	0.4	3.8	9.0	9.4
	<i>Australian Federal Police</i>				
194	Australia-Turkey Bilateral Relations and Cooperation	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
	Aviation security				
97	– Airport Police Commanders	5.5	5.0	5.1	5.1
98	– establishing Joint Airport Investigations Teams	9.2	9.0	9.1	9.2
	National security				
104	– establishing a Chemical Warfare Agent Laboratory Network	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
104	– establishing a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Data Centre	1.5	3.3	3.3	3.3
106	Sudan – providing an Australian Federal Police Contribution for the UN Mission in Sudan	1.2	2.4	-	-
	<i>Australian Security Intelligence Organisation</i>				
	National security				
178	– introducing a maritime crew visa	-	1.2	1.2	1.2
103	– enhancing the capability of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	*	*	*	*
106	– providing temporary accommodation for the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	1.0	4.3	5.6	6.1
	<i>Federal Court of Australia</i>				
107	Workplace Relations Reform – additional workloads arising from changes to jurisdiction	1.1	3.4	3.5	3.5
	<i>Federal Magistrates Court</i>				
107	Workplace Relations Reform – additional workloads arising from changes to jurisdiction	1.4	4.2	4.1	4.1
	<i>Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions</i>				
102	Illegal foreign fishing in Australia's northern waters – increased enforcement	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.7

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Page	2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S (CONTINUED)				
<i>Office of the Privacy Commissioner</i>				
185	Surface transport security – developing a national approach for closed circuit television	0.1	-	-
Portfolio total		102.4	98.4	79.4
COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS				
<i>Australian Communications and Media Authority</i>				
111	Connect Australia – consumer safeguards	1.4	1.9	1.8
<i>Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority</i>				
113	Sports anti-doping framework – enhancement	1.3	1.3	1.3
<i>Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts</i>				
<i>Connect Australia</i>				
109	– Backing Indigenous Ability	-	23.0	23.7
109	– Broadband Connect	147.4	236.3	244.1
110	– Clever Networks	-	22.8	36.0
110	– consumer information campaign	-	4.1	1.8
111	– consumer safeguards	-	0.4	0.4
111	– Mobile Connect	4.8	9.2	9.5
112	Higher Bandwidth Incentive Scheme (HiBIS) – additional funding	50.0	-	-
112	Jewish Museum of Australia – contribution	0.2	0.2	-
112	Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games – additional contribution	10.0	-	-
113	Telecommunications competition including operational separation of Telstra	0.6	0.7	0.6
Portfolio total		215.6	299.8	319.2
CROSS PORTFOLIO				
<i>Various Agencies</i>				
115	Australia-China Free Trade Agreement – funding for negotiations	5.6	6.0	-
115	Official Development Assistance – additional funding	*	*	*
Portfolio total		5.6	6.0	-
DEFENCE				
<i>Department of Defence</i>				
117	Afghanistan – providing a Special Forces Task Group	62.4	18.4	3.5
117	Australian Defence Force employee entitlements – extending conditions of service to members in interdependency relationships	-	-	-
118	Australian Defence Medal – expanded eligibility criteria	-	2.0	2.0
Portfolio total		62.4	20.4	5.5

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Page		2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING					
<i>Australian Research Council</i>					
119	Commercialisation Training Scheme – transfer of funds from Australian Research Council	-0.4	-5.5	-5.6	-5.7
<i>Department of Education, Science and Training</i>					
194	Australia-Turkey Bilateral Relations and Cooperation	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
119	Commercialisation Training Scheme – transfer of funds from Australian Research Council	0.4	5.5	5.6	5.7
88	Drought assistance – Exceptional Circumstances assistance	9.7	1.3	-	-
119	Higher Education – extension of FEE-HELP and OS-HELP	-	-	-	-
120	International education – Endeavour Malaysia Scholarships	0.5	0.5	0.5	-
120	Migration Programme – additional assessing authority for the child care profession	0.1	-	-	-
120	Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement – training and skills development for industry workers	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
121	Tools for Your Trade – additional funding	3.9	-	-	-
<i>Welfare to Work</i>					
127	– extended eligibility for Parenting Payment (Single)	-	-1.7	-5.6	-9.1
121	– extension to eligibility for Youth Disability Supplement	-	0.3	1.3	2.2
Portfolio total		15.7	1.9	-2.3	-5.5
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS					
<i>Australian Industrial Registry</i>					
131	Workplace Relations Reform – changes to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission	-0.2	1.2	-4.1	-6.3
<i>Comcare</i>					
124	<i>Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991</i> – enhanced enforcement capacity	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
<i>Department of Employment and Workplace Relations</i>					
<i>General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme</i>					
122	– continuation	-	-	-	-
122	– extended eligibility	2.0	20.3	20.4	19.6
123	Job Placement, Employment and Training Programme – maintain funding	-	-	-	-
124	Parenting Payment (Partnered) – extended eligibility for certain step-parents	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
125	Parenting Payment (Partnered) – extending advance payments	-	4.7	0.6	-0.1
125	South Australian automotive workers – labour adjustment fund	5.0	1.9	0.5	-
<i>Welfare to Work</i>					
147	– expanded eligibility for Carer Payment	-	-9.9	-15.1	-17.1
126	– expanded eligibility for Employment Entry Payment	1.9	5.0	3.5	3.0
126	– expanded eligibility for the higher rate of Mobility Allowance	-	0.3	0.3	0.4
127	– extended eligibility for Parenting Payment (Single)	-	8.0	24.9	43.3

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Table A2: Expense measures since the 2005-06 Budget^(a) (continued)

Page		2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
	EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS (CONTINUED)				
	Welfare to Work (continued)				
128	– higher rate of Newstart and Youth Allowance (Other) for certain sole parents	0.4	2.3	3.8	7.6
128	– modification to compliance regime	-	3.1	12.8	14.6
129	– Work for the Dole supplement – extension to Disability Support Pensioners	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3
	Workplace Relations Reform				
130	– agreement making	6.7	14.7	18.2	21.7
130	– Award Review Taskforce	7.3	1.6	-	-
131	– communications campaign	38.4	-	-	-
132	– compliance	13.2	46.2	41.7	39.6
132	– development and implementation	17.3	20.5	13.7	15.7
133	– establishing the Australian Fair Pay Commission	2.8	7.2	7.3	7.4
133	– information and education	7.4	-	-	-
134	– advice and education concerning termination of employment	3.3	11.3	6.6	6.4
134	– alternative dispute resolution	0.6	2.1	3.4	5.2
	<i>Indigenous Business Australia</i>				
123	Indigenous Land Reform – Home Ownership on Indigenous Land Programme	..	..	-	-
	Portfolio total	106.8	141.1	139.3	161.5
	ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE				
	<i>Department of the Environment and Heritage</i>				
136	Biofuels Taskforce – Australian Government response	*	*	*	*
136	HMAS SYDNEY II – search	1.3	-	-	-
	Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement				
137	– Forest Conservation Fund	nfp	nfp	nfp	nfp
137	– reservation of private forest at Mole Creek	1.4	1.4	0.7	-
138	– river catchment water quality auditing	0.5	0.5	-	-
138	– saving the Tasmanian Devil	1.0	1.0	-	-
138	– Tarkine bush walk	0.5	0.5	-	-
139	– tourism and recreation	1.0	1.0	-	-
	Portfolio total	5.8	4.4	0.7	-
	FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES				
	<i>Department of Family and Community Services</i>				
	Disability support				
140	– assistance for establishing private care arrangements for future care	..	1.6	1.7	2.2
140	– further consultation and research	-	1.1	0.1	-
141	– future care planning information package	-	2.4	1.1	1.1
141	– trusts and gifting exemption from assets test	0.9	19.7	69.7	104.1
142	Drought assistance – Family Relationships Services Programme	1.5	1.6	-	-
142	Family assistance – changes to arrangements for separated couples	3.2	1.3	1.3	1.4
143	Family Income Management Programme – additional funding	0.2	-	-	-

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Table A2: Expense measures since the 2005-06 Budget^(a) (continued)

Page		2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (CONTINUED)					
143	Family Tax Benefit – preventing duplicate Rent Assistance payments	-4.0	-4.1	-4.2	-4.3
144	Floods – ex-gratia assistance to affected households	0.1	-	-	-
144	Indigenous Land Reform – Home Ownership Incentive Programme	-	-	-	-
145	Institutional care – response to Senate Committee reports	-	-	-	-
145	London Bombings – ex-gratia assistance	0.4	0.2	..	-
146	Reconnecting People – assistance package for those adversely affected by inappropriate immigration detention	1.8	0.6	-	-
146	Stronger Families and Communities Strategy – additional funding for the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Children	3.1	0.9	2.4	1.0
	Superannuation				
81	– modification of allocated pension drawdown factors	1.0	2.1	3.2	4.5
82	– modification of market linked and other life expectancy income streams	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.9
147	Supported Accommodation Assistance Program – continuation of funding	-	-	-	-
	Welfare to Work				
147	– expanded eligibility for Carer Payment	0.3	21.5	33.0	37.6
127	– extended eligibility for Parenting Payment (Single)	-	-0.5	-1.6	-2.7
	Portfolio total	8.9	48.9	107.4	145.9
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION					
	<i>Australian Electoral Commission</i>				
149	Federal elections – improving the integrity of Australia's electoral system	-	7.9	8.2	2.9
	<i>Commonwealth Grants Commission</i>				
150	Goods and Services Tax relativity assessments – simplification and quality assurance	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.0
	<i>Department of Finance and Administration</i>				
150	Gateway Review Process™ – introduction	0.9	1.5	1.5	1.3
151	Menzies Research Centre, Chifley Research Centre and Page Research Centre – increased funding	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
151	Promoting global democracy	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
	Portfolio total	3.6	12.6	12.9	7.3
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE					
	<i>Australian Agency for International Development</i>				
	Avian influenza				
152	– assistance to Indonesia	-	-	-	-
152	– Pacific pandemic preparedness assistance	-	-	-	-
153	Hurricane Emily – donation	-	-	-	-
	Nauru				
154	– development assistance	nfp	nfp	nfp	nfp
154	– implementation of aid package	0.5	0.9	1.0	1.0
156	South Asia earthquake – assistance	-	-	-	-

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Page	2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE (CONTINUED)				
156	-	39.5	30.4	16.1
157	-	-	-	-
<i>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</i>				
194	1.3	1.9	1.8	2.0
183	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.3
Hurricane Katrina				
153	10.0	-	-	-
153	..	-	-	-
155	1.2	2.0	2.1	2.2
155	0.2	-	-	-
Portfolio total				
	13.7	45.3	35.9	21.6
HEALTH AND AGEING				
<i>Department of Health and Ageing</i>				
158	3.0	3.0	-	-
Addressing Indigenous Needs – combating petrol sniffing – additional funding				
Aged care				
158	-	-	-	-
– funding for improved information technology, financial reporting and training				
159	2.7	2.7	3.0	-
– new scheme to protect accommodation bonds and enhance prudential arrangements				
159	0.5	-	-	-
Assisted Reproductive Technologies Review Committee – funding				
160	-	-	-	-
Commonwealth Carelink Programme – continued funding				
160	-7.7	-63.9	-55.8	-65.6
Community Pharmacy Agreement				
161	-	-	-	-
Dementia and challenging behaviours initiative – continued funding				
88	10.0	1.4	-	-
Drought assistance – Exceptional Circumstances assistance				
Medical Indemnity				
68	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1
– competitive neutrality charge				
68	0.2	-	-	-
– reduction in United Medical Protection support payments				
161	5.4	3.2	3.4	3.3
Medicare Australia – additional funding				
162	10.9	16.7	17.6	18.8
Medicare Benefits Schedule – new and revised listings				
162	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
National Health and Medical Research Council – transition to a new governance structure				
163	1.2	0.5	0.2	0.2
National Immunisation Programme – new and revised vaccinations				
Pandemic influenza				
163	4.9	-	-	-
– fast tracking pandemic influenza vaccine production				
198	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.7
– purchase of Relenza				
Pandemic influenza preparedness				
164	6.6	2.7	1.8	1.6
– enhancement				
198	3.8	3.2	3.2	3.2
– national medical stockpile				
165	3.2	7.4	6.9	7.0
– Office of Health Protection				
Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme				
165	1.6	7.3	14.7	20.8
– extend the listing of Arimidex® (anastrozole)				
166	21.5	31.7	36.1	39.9
– extend the listing of Eloxatin® (oxaliplatin)				
167	35.5	85.2	97.3	111.3
– increased PBS subsidy for Lipitor® (atorvastatin)				

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Page		2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
	HEALTH AND AGEING (CONTINUED)				
	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (continued)				
167	– listing of Inspra® (Eplerenone)	0.6	2.7	5.2	7.5
168	– minor new listings	3.2	3.7	4.0	4.3
168	– retain listing for calcium tablets	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.7
	Private Health Insurance				
169	– deferral of reinsurance reforms	-1.7	-4.5	-0.4	-0.3
169	– development of options to increase competitiveness and coverage	0.4	-	-	-
170	Ronald McDonald Beach House – contribution	0.2	-	-	-
170	Staying at home respite for carers – continued funding	-	-	-	-
171	Support for carers – continued funding	-	-	-	-
147	Welfare to Work – expanded eligibility for Carer Payment	-	1.2	1.9	2.1
	<i>National Health and Medical Research Council</i>				
162	National Health and Medical Research Council – transition to a new governance structure	0.3	-	-	-
	<i>Private Health Insurance Ombudsman</i>				
170	Private Health Insurance Ombudsman – increased powers	-	0.2	0.2	0.2
	Portfolio total	107.4	106.7	141.3	156.6
	HUMAN SERVICES				
	<i>Centrelink</i>				
172	Assurance of Support – additional funding	8.5	-	-	-
172	Child Care Tax Rebate – improved service delivery	3.7	1.4	1.1	1.1
141	Disability support – trusts and gifting exemption from assets test	-	5.4	2.4	2.6
88	Drought assistance – Exceptional Circumstances assistance	7.1	0.3		
142	Drought assistance – Family Relationships Services Programme	0.4	0.4	-	-
143	Family Tax Benefit – preventing duplicate Rent Assistance payments	3.7	2.8	0.8	0.7
145	London Bombings – ex-gratia assistance	0.3	-	-	-
146	Reconnecting People – assistance package for those adversely affected by inappropriate immigration detention	0.7	0.1	-	-
	Superannuation				
81	– modification of allocated pension drawdown factors	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1
82	– modification of market linked and other life expectancy income streams	1.7	0.1	0.1	0.1
147	Welfare to Work – expanded eligibility for Carer Payment	0.4	-0.2	-0.4	-0.5
	<i>Department of Human Services</i>				
173	Medicare – developing improved claiming arrangements	0.5	-	-	-
173	Smart technologies and services – funding for a business case	4.0	-	-	-
173	Social welfare and health services – information and education	4.0	-	-	-
174	Welfare to Work – Comprehensive Work Capacity Assessments – additional funding	2.3	0.9	1.5	0.9

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Table A2: Expense measures since the 2005-06 Budget^(a) (continued)

Page		2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
	HUMAN SERVICES (CONTINUED)				
	<i>Medicare Australia</i>				
160	Community Pharmacy Agreement	2.7	2.0	1.9	2.0
68	Medical indemnity – reduction in United Medical Protection support payments	0.1	-	-2.8	-4.8
	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme				
165	– extend the listing of Arimidex® (anastrozole)	..	..	..	..
166	– extend the listing of Eloxatin® (oxaliplatin)	..	..	..	..
167	– listing of Inspra® (Eplerenone)	..	..	..	..
168	– retain listing for calcium tablets	..	..	..	..
	Portfolio total	40.9	13.5	4.6	2.2
	IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS				
	<i>Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs</i>				
158	Addressing Indigenous Needs – combating petrol sniffing – additional funding	1.5	2.0	-	-
175	Child Migrants Trust – extension of funding	-	-	-	-
175	Counter-terrorism – developing a national action plan to address intolerance and the promotion of violence	5.9	-	-	-
102	Illegal foreign fishing in Australia's northern waters – increased enforcement	2.0	5.9	6.0	6.2
176	Indigenous Land Reform – Northern Territory township tenure	-	3.0	3.0	3.0
177	Migration legislation – amendments	9.3	-	-	-
178	National security – introducing a maritime crew visa	7.4	6.0	11.9	12.7
179	Palmer and Comrie Reports – implementation plan	35.7	51.8	36.1	35.6
	<i>Refugee Review Tribunal</i>				
177	Migration legislation – amendments	2.5	-	-	-
	Portfolio total	64.3	68.7	57.0	57.4
	INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES				
	<i>Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources</i>				
136	Biofuels Taskforce – Australian Government response	*	*	*	*
	Portfolio total	-	-	-	-
	PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET				
	<i>Australian National Audit Office</i>				
180	Auditing of Australian Government entities	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.9
	<i>Australian Public Service Commission</i>				
180	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees – employment and capability strategy	1.2	2.6	2.6	-
	<i>Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</i>				
181	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet – funding for taskforces and increased capacity	5.6	5.2	5.2	5.3
177	Migration legislation – amendments	0.6	-	-	-
181	National Australia Day Council – increased support	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.0
	<i>Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman</i>				
177	Migration legislation – amendments	1.6	1.6	-	-
179	Palmer and Comrie Reports – implementation plan	3.8	3.1	3.6	3.6
	Portfolio total	14.4	14.3	13.3	10.8

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Table A2: Expense measures since the 2005-06 Budget^(a) (continued)

Page		2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
	TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES				
	<i>Department of Transport and Regional Services</i>				
182	Australian Rail Track Corporation – increased funding in 2004-2005	-	-	-	-
	Aviation security				
182	– developing a national training framework	1.3	2.3	-	-
183	– improving international outreach	0.6	2.0	1.2	1.2
184	– improving security and crime information exchange	3.4	3.9	4.0	4.0
100	– strengthening international air cargo security arrangements in Australia	11.0	6.0	5.1	5.0
184	Eyre Peninsula – rail upgrade	-	-	-	-
	Surface transport security				
185	– assessing new technology	0.2	0.2	-	-
185	– developing a national approach for closed circuit television	0.7	-	-	-
186	– enhancement	0.2	0.5	0.3	-
	Portfolio total	17.4	14.8	10.5	10.2
	TREASURY				
	<i>Australian Competition and Consumer Commission</i>				
113	Telecommunications competition including operational separation of Telstra	4.0	4.7	3.8	3.9
	<i>Australian Securities and Investments Commission</i>				
192	Corporate Insolvency Law Reform – strengthening creditor protection and deterring misconduct by company officers	3.4	6.0	6.4	6.9
193	One.Tel – ongoing litigation and investigation	3.3	-	-	-
	<i>Australian Taxation Office</i>				
	Fuel Taxation and Credit Reform				
192	– eligibility of alternative fuels for a full credit when consumed in off-road business activities	-	-	-	-
193	– extension of alternative fuels grants until 1 July 2010	-	4.0	3.0	2.0
	<i>Department of the Treasury</i>				
	Budget Balancing Assistance				
187	– alignment of import entry thresholds for courier and postal imports	1.7	2.7	2.6	2.6
187	– changes to the vouchers provisions	..	..	..	..
188	– GST and representatives of incapacitated entities	..	..	..	..
188	– GST and the sale of real property – margin scheme	*	*	*	*
189	– GST and the sale of real property – deferral of integrity measure	*	*	*	*
189	– GST concession for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games	0.3	-	-	-
190	– Indirect Tax Concession Scheme – GST extension	..	..	..	..
191	– personal aquatic survival skills	-	0.4	0.5	0.5
191	– supplies of options and rights offshore – deregistration and change to start date	14.5	-	3.3	-
	<i>Productivity Commission</i>				
193	Taskforce on reducing the regulatory burden on business	0.2	-	-	-
	Portfolio total	27.5	17.9	19.7	15.9

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Table A2: Expense measures since the 2005-06 Budget^(a) (continued)

Page		2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
	VETERANS' AFFAIRS				
	<i>Department of Veterans' Affairs</i>				
194	Australia-Turkey Bilateral Relations and Cooperation	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.4
160	Community Pharmacy Agreement	3.0	-12.4	-12.5	-13.3
141	Disability support – trusts and gifting exemption from assets test	..	1.6	4.6	6.8
195	Gallipoli Peninsula – veterans' affairs coordination	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme				
165	– extend the listing of Arimidex® (anastrozole)	0.1	0.3	0.7	1.0
166	– extend the listing of Eloxatin® (oxaliplatin)	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.7
167	– increased PBS subsidy for Lipitor® (atorvastatin)	2.1	4.4	5.1	5.9
167	– listing of Inspra® (Eplerenone)	..	0.1	0.2	0.3
168	– retain listing for calcium tablets	..	0.1	0.1	0.1
	Superannuation				
81	– modification of allocated pension drawdown factors	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
82	– modification of market linked and other life expectancy income streams	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4
	Portfolio total	10.3	-0.4	4.2	7.3
	Decisions taken but not yet announced	8.0	78.3	77.7	96.3
	Depreciation expense(b)	13.4	20.5	21.5	19.7
	Total impact of expense measures(c)	1,524.6	1,228.7	1,098.5	1,114.9

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

.. Not zero, but rounded to zero.

- Nil.

nfp Not for publication.

(a) A minus sign before an estimate indicates a reduction in expenses, no sign before an estimate indicates increased expenses.

(b) Aggregate depreciation expenses in relation to capital measures.

(c) Measures may not add due to rounding.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Table A3: Capital measures since the 2005-06 Budget^(a)

Page		2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
	AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY				
	<i>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</i>				
102	Illegal foreign fishing in Australia's northern waters – increased enforcement	1.1	-	-	-
	Portfolio total	1.1	-	-	-
	ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S				
	<i>Attorney-General's Department</i>				
194	Australia-Turkey Bilateral Relations and Cooperation	0.1	-	-	-
	National security				
103	– centralised background checking	0.5	9.1	1.2	-
105	– promoting public understanding of Australia's counter-terrorism arrangements	..	-	-	-
	<i>Australian Crime Commission</i>				
184	Aviation security – improving security and crime information exchange	1.1	0.3	-	-
	<i>Australian Customs Service</i>				
	Aviation security				
99	– improving closed circuit television at airports	0.1	0.1	-	-
99	– increasing air-side Customs patrols	2.4	0.4	-	-
100	– providing additional closed circuit television cameras and upgrading capabilities	5.1	..	-	-
100	– strengthening international air cargo security arrangements in Australia	0.3	-	-	-
102	Illegal foreign fishing in Australia's northern waters – increased enforcement	3.1	0.4	-	-
178	National security – introducing a maritime crew visa	0.5	4.3	2.8	-
	<i>Australian Federal Police</i>				
97	Aviation security – Airport Police Commanders	0.4	-	-	-
104	National security – establishing a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Data Centre	1.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
106	Sudan – providing an Australian Federal Police Contribution for the UN Mission in Sudan	0.1	-	-	-
	<i>Australian Security Intelligence Organisation</i>				
	National security				
178	– introducing a maritime crew visa	-	0.4	0.3	-
106	– providing temporary accommodation for the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	11.4	8.5	-	-
	<i>Federal Court of Australia</i>				
107	Workplace Relations Reform – additional workloads arising from changes to jurisdiction	1.4	-	-	-
	<i>Federal Magistrates Court</i>				
107	Workplace Relations Reform – additional workloads arising from changes to jurisdiction	1.4	-	-	-
	Portfolio total	29.1	24.0	4.6	0.3
	COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS				
	<i>Australian Communications and Media Authority</i>				
111	Connect Australia – consumer safeguards	0.4	0.5	-	-

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Table A3: Capital measures since the 2005-06 Budget^(a) (continued)

Page		2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
	COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS (CONTINUED)				
	<i>Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts</i>				
196	Communications Fund to future proof telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote Australia	-	-	-	-
109	Connect Australia – Broadband Connect	0.6	-	-	-
	Portfolio total	1.0	0.5	-	-
	DEFENCE				
	<i>Department of Defence</i>				
117	Afghanistan – providing a Special Forces Task Group	6.5	-	-	-
	Portfolio total	6.5	-	-	-
	EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING				
	<i>Department of Education, Science and Training</i>				
119	Higher Education – extension of FEE-HELP and OS-HELP	-	-	-	-
	Portfolio total	-	-	-	-
	EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS				
	<i>Department of Employment and Workplace Relations</i>				
	Workplace Relations Reform				
131	– changes to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission	2.1	-	-	-
132	– development and implementation	35.8	3.4	0.7	0.7
133	– establishing the Australian Fair Pay Commission	2.5	-	-	-
134	– advice and education concerning termination of employment	0.5	-	-	-
	<i>Indigenous Business Australia</i>				
123	Indigenous Land Reform – Home Ownership on Indigenous Land Programme	-	-	-	-
	Portfolio total	41.0	3.4	0.7	0.7
	FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION				
	<i>Australian Electoral Commission</i>				
149	Federal elections – improving the integrity of Australia's electoral system	-	1.6	-	-
	<i>Department of Finance and Administration</i>				
150	Gateway Review Process™ – introduction	..	-	-	-
197	National Portrait Gallery – enhanced new premises	-	-	-	23.1
	Portfolio total	-	1.6	-	23.1
	FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE				
	<i>Australian Agency for International Development</i>				
155	Nauru – upgrade of Consulate-General	0.4	-	-	-
	<i>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</i>				
115	Australia-China Free Trade Agreement – funding for negotiations	0.1	-	-	-
194	Australia-Turkey Bilateral Relations and Cooperation	0.7	4.5	-	-
155	Nauru – upgrade of Consulate-General	2.4	-	-	-
	Portfolio total	3.5	4.5	-	-

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Table A3: Capital measures since the 2005-06 Budget^(a) (continued)

Page		2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
	HEALTH AND AGEING				
	<i>Department of Health and Ageing</i>				
159	Aged Care – new scheme to protect accommodation bonds and enhance prudential arrangements	0.2	-	-	-
198	Pandemic influenza – purchase of Relenza	15.5	41.1	-	-
	Pandemic influenza preparedness				
164	– enhancement	0.5	1.7	0.9	-
198	– national medical stockpile	115.5	-	-	-
165	– Office of Health Protection	2.9	-	-	-
	Portfolio total	134.6	42.8	0.9	-
	HUMAN SERVICES				
	<i>Centrelink</i>				
143	Family Tax Benefit – preventing duplicate Rent Assistance payments	1.5	-	-	-
128	Welfare to Work – higher rate of Newstart and Youth Allowance (Other) for certain sole parents	0.6	-	-	-
	<i>Medicare Australia</i>				
160	Community Pharmacy Agreement	0.8	-	-	-
	Portfolio total	2.9	-	-	-
	IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS				
	<i>Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs</i>				
178	National security – introducing a maritime crew visa	4.7	-	-	-
179	Palmer and Comrie Reports – implementation plan	8.8	2.6	0.1	0.1
	<i>Refugee Review Tribunal</i>				
177	Migration legislation – amendments	0.3	-	-	-
	Portfolio total	13.8	2.6	0.1	0.1
	PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET				
	<i>Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman</i>				
177	Migration legislation – amendments	0.4	-	-	-
179	Palmer and Comrie Reports – implementation plan	0.7	-	-	-
	Portfolio total	1.0	-	-	-
	TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES				
	<i>Department of Transport and Regional Services</i>				
	Aviation security				
182	– developing a national training framework	0.3	-	-	-
184	– improving security and crime information exchange	4.1	-	-	-
100	– strengthening international air cargo security arrangements in Australia	2.5	-	-	-
	Portfolio total	6.8	-	-	-

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Table A3: Capital measures since the 2005-06 Budget^(a) (continued)

Page		2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m	2007-08 \$m	2008-09 \$m
	TREASURY				
	<i>Australian Competition and Consumer Commission</i>				
113	Telecommunications competition including operational separation of Telstra	1.0	-	-	-
	<i>Australian Securities and Investments Commission</i>				
192	Corporate insolvency law reform – strengthening creditor protection and deterring misconduct by company officers	0.3	-	-	-
	Portfolio total	1.3	-	-	-
	VETERANS' AFFAIRS				
	<i>Department of Veterans' Affairs</i>				
194	Australia-Turkey Bilateral Relations and Cooperation	0.3	-	-	-
141	Disability support – trusts and gifting exemption from assets test	0.1	0.1	-	-
195	Gallipoli Peninsula – veterans' affairs coordination	0.2	-	-	-
	Superannuation				
81	– modification of allocated pension drawdown factors	..	-	-	-
82	– modification of market linked and other life expectancy income streams	..	-	-	-
	Portfolio total	0.5	0.1	-	-
	Depreciation expense(b)	-13.4	-20.5	-21.5	-19.7
	Total capital measures(c)	229.7	59.0	-15.2	4.4

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

.. Not zero, but rounded to zero.

- Nil.

nfp Not for publication.

(a) A minus sign before an estimate indicates a reduction in capital, no sign before an estimate indicates a capital increase.

(b) Net capital investment is reduced by depreciation expenses.

(c) Measures may not add due to rounding

Revenue measures

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Fishing structural adjustment package — Australian Fisheries Management Authority levy reduction

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	-7.0	-5.0	-3.0

The Government will reduce the Australian Fisheries Management Authority industry fishing levies by \$15.0 million over three years from 2006-07 as part of the structural adjustment package for the fishing industry.

Further information can be found in the press release of 23 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S

Customs duty — alignment of import entry level thresholds for courier and postal imports

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Customs Service	-8.0	-12.0	-13.0	-13.0
Related expense (\$m)				
Australian Customs Service	-2.0	-2.0	-2.1	-2.1

The Government has aligned the import entry level threshold for postal and courier imports at \$1,000, with effect from 12 October 2005.

Previously, the threshold for air and sea consignments and postal consignments carried by private couriers was \$250, while the threshold for postal consignments carried by Australia Post was \$1,000.

The alignment of these thresholds at \$1,000 will promote competitive neutrality and simplify the customs clearance process for a large number of importers.

The Australian Customs Service's administration costs will be reduced by \$8.2 million over four years as a result of the lower number of declared items being assessed.

Further information can be found in Australian Customs Notice No. 2005/57 of 7 October 2005.

Indirect tax — customs duty concession for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Customs Service	-1.0	-	-	-

The Government has agreed to allow certain goods of a non-commercial nature to be imported free of customs duty by 'Commonwealth Games Family' members for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. The concession will take effect from 1 January 2006 and run until 30 June 2006.

A similar concession was provided for the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Tariff concessions — abolishing the three per cent tariff on certain machinery

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Customs Service	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0

The Government will remove the three per cent tariff applying to machinery imported as part of a complete package where the main component is eligible for a Tariff Concession Order (TCO), but the package includes items which would otherwise make the package ineligible for a TCO, with effect from 11 May 2005.

Removing the tariff will ensure consistency with the Government's decision, announced in the 2005-06 Budget, to remove the three per cent tariff on business inputs imported under a TCO.

Taxation of imported wine-based beverages — alignment with locally produced wine based beverages

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Customs Service	..	..	..	..

The Government has aligned the tax treatment of certain imported wine-based beverages with that of equivalent locally made product, with effect from 23 June 2005.

Previously, certain imported wine-based beverages were subject to customs duty at an excise equivalent rate. The measure is a technical correction to ensure that these wine-based beverages are subject to wine equalisation tax when imported.

HEALTH AND AGEING

Medical indemnity — competitive neutrality charge

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	9.3	9.1	8.7	8.3
<i>Related expense (\$m)</i>				
<i>Department of Health and Ageing</i>	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1

The Government will impose an annual competitive neutrality charge on medical indemnity insurers benefiting from the Government's incurred but not reported indemnity scheme. The charge will be imposed from 2005 to 2015.

The Government will use the funds from this measure to reduce doctors' contributions under the UMP support scheme. This is reflected in the associated measure *Medical indemnity – reduction in United Medical Protection support payments*.

Further information can be found in the joint press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Minister for Health and Ageing and the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Medical indemnity — reduction in United Medical Protection support payments

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	-12.9	-11.9	-21.5	-19.2
<i>Related expense (\$m)</i>				
<i>Department of Health and Ageing</i>	0.2	..	..	..
<i>Medicare Australia</i>	0.1	-	-2.8	-4.8
<i>Total</i>	0.2	..	-2.8	-4.7

The Government will reduce doctors' contributions to the cost of the United Medical Protection (UMP) support scheme by \$1,000 in both 2005-06 and 2006-07 for all doctors making these payments, and reduce the duration of the scheme by two years to terminate in 2006-07.

The reduction in revenue is to be offset by the introduction of a competitive neutrality charge in the associated measure *Medical indemnity – competitive neutrality charge*.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Further information can be found in the joint press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Minister for Health and Ageing and the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

TREASURY

Capital gains tax — automatic roll-over of Public Sector Superannuation Fund

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-	-	-	-

The Government has provided an automatic capital gains tax (CGT) roll-over for the transfer of CGT assets from the Public Sector Superannuation Board to the trustee of the PSS Investments Trust, with effect from 1 July 2005. This will help to establish the Public Sector Superannuation Accumulation Plan as a separate scheme from the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme.

Capital gains tax — treatment of options

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	*	*	*	*

The Government will amend the capital gains tax (CGT) provisions relating to options and the related capital proceeds rules to allow amounts payable in respect of options over created assets to be included in the CGT cost base of those assets, with effect to options exercised on or after 27 May 2005.

The amendments will ensure that the CGT provisions apply to the renewing or extending of options in the same way as they apply to the granting of options.

Further information can be found in the press release of 27 May 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Changes to Prescribed Private Funds

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-26.5	-12.9	-11.6	-12.3

Since the 2005-06 Budget there have been 74 funds approved for prescription as Prescribed Private Funds (PPF), and one declaration that a fund is no longer a PPF. Prescribed private funds allow businesses, families and individuals to establish and donate to a charitable trust of their own, for the purposes of disbursing funds to a range of other deductible gift recipients.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Company loss recoupment rules — modified continuity of ownership test

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	*	*	*	*

The Government will alter the modified continuity of ownership test that is available to listed public companies to remove the proposed 'known change of ownership' test, to introduce specific testing times and to introduce a same-share/same-interest rule, with effect from 1 July 2002.

A company can deduct losses incurred in earlier income years if it satisfies the continuity of ownership test or the same business test. The continuity of ownership test is being modified to make it easier for listed public companies to apply the test.

Further information can be found in the press release of 14 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Consolidation — clarifying the interaction with the demerger rules

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-	-20.0	-5.0	-5.0

The Government will modify the consolidation tax cost setting rules to ensure they apply appropriately where a joining entity has been demerged prior to consolidating, with effect from 1 July 2002.

The measure will ensure that the tax cost setting integrity measure that causes certain CGT roll-overs to be ignored for tax cost setting purposes does not apply to a consolidated group or multiple entry consolidated (MEC) group that forms after a demerger, provided that the company with the rolled-over asset does not join the same consolidated group or MEC group as the company that originally held the asset.

Further information can be found in the press release of 1 December 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Consolidation — treatment of pre-capital gains tax membership interests and improvements to clarify the operation of the consolidation regime

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	*	*	*	*

The Government will ensure that the pre-capital gains tax (CGT) status of membership interests in subsidiary members is maintained post-consolidation and make other improvements to clarify the operation of the consolidation regime, with effect from 1 July 2002.

This measure will assist small to medium sized groups that wish to consolidate by ensuring that the pre-CGT status of membership interests in subsidiary members is maintained post-consolidation. The measure will also clarify the operation of various aspects of the consolidation regime and improve interactions with other parts of the income tax law.

Further information can be found in the press release of 1 December 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Deductibility of certain gifts

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-0.4	-3.5	-2.1	-1.3

Since the 2005-06 Budget, the Government has extended gift deductibility for gifts of \$2 and more to the following organisations:

- International Specialised Skills Institute;
- Yachad Accelerated Learning Project;
- Chifley Research Centre Limited;
- Rotary Club of Katoomba Inc — Convict Roadbuilders and Pioneer Memorial Wall Fund;
- Xanana Vocational Education Trust (for a period of two years);
- Australian Red Cross US 2005 Hurricane Relief Appeal;
- Salvation Army Australia Hurricane Katrina Relief Appeal;
- City of Onkaparinga Memorial Gardens Association (extension for two months);
and

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

- C E W Bean Foundation (for a period of two years).

In addition, since the 2005-06 Budget there have been:

- 48 additions to the Register of Cultural Organisations and 26 deletions;
- 36 additions to the Register of Environmental Organisations and 14 deletions; and
- three funds declared relief funds for people in developing countries (overseas aid funds).

The Register of Cultural Organisations can be found on the Department of Communications, Information and Technology and the Arts website at www.dcita.gov.au. The Register of Environmental Organisations can be found on the Department of Environment and Heritage website at www.ea.gov.au. The list of overseas aid funds can be found on the AusAid website at www.ausaid.gov.au. No changes have been made to the Register of Harm Prevention Charities since the 2005-06 Budget. The list of harm prevention charities can be found on the Department of Family and Community Services website at www.facs.gov.au.

Employee share schemes — further relief for employee share scheme participants in the event of a corporate restructure

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	*	*	*	*

The Government will provide further relief in the event of a corporate restructure for employees who participate in employee share schemes, with effect from 1 July 2004.

Under this measure, when an employee is issued new shares or rights as the result of a corporate restructure, the employee will be able treat their new shares or rights as a continuation of their old shares or rights.

This measure ensures that a taxing point does not arise for the employee, regardless of whether they have paid tax upfront or deferred their tax liability under section 26AAC or Division 13A of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*.

Further information can be found in the press release of 14 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Excise and customs duty — no increase in rates

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-6.0	-12.0	-6.0	-

The Government will not go ahead with planned increases in petrol excise and customs duty rates as announced in the 2003-04 Budget. These increases were intended to apply between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2007 to fund a grant of 1.1 cents per litre to encourage the early introduction of premium unleaded petrol with 50 parts per million or less sulphur content for supply into the domestic market. This grant will proceed without any increase in excise or customs duty on unleaded petrol.

Further information can be found in the press release of 20 September 2005, issued by the Treasurer and Minister for the Environment and Heritage, and the Government's announcement of the measure entitled *Measures for a Better Environment – Cleaner Fuels* (see *Budget Measures 2003-04 Budget Paper No. 2*, pages 41 and 223).

Exemption from foreign currency provisions for securitisation vehicles

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	..	..	..	..

The Government will extend the exemption from foreign currency rules introduced in 2003 to include securitisation vehicles, with effect from 1 July 2003.

This exemption currently applies to Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions (ADIs) and non-ADI financial institutions. The exemption will apply until the commencement of the proposed retranslation and hedging regimes in the income tax law. These regimes are to be introduced as part of Stages 3 and 4 of the Taxation of Financial Arrangements reforms.

Expanded taxation treatment of business 'blackhole' expenditures

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-	-2.0	-3.0	-9.0

The Government will increase the range of deductions available to business under the systematic tax treatment for business 'blackhole' expenditures announced in the 2005-06 Budget. The measure will apply to expenditures incurred on or after 1 July 2005.

The measure broadens the scope of the Budget measure in response to issues raised in consultations.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

- A deduction over five years for certain business-related payments to terminate an operating lease or license will be provided.
- An original proposal to limit access to the blackholes measure for certain pre-business expenditure will no longer proceed ensuring that all businesses are treated consistently.
- The Uniform Capital Allowances regime will be amended to ensure certain blackhole expenditures incurred to hold or dispose of a depreciating asset will be included in the cost of those depreciating assets.

Foreign Investment Fund rules — listing of the Bermuda Stock Exchange as an approved stock exchange

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	..	..	..	..

The Government has included the Bermuda Stock Exchange on the list of approved stock exchanges for the purposes of Australia's Foreign Investment Fund (FIF) rules, with effect from 1 September 2005. This will reduce the costs of complying with the FIF rules for Australian taxpayers who invest in foreign companies or trusts listed on the Bermuda Stock Exchange.

This measure is an outcome of the recent conclusion of a tax information exchange agreement between Australia and Bermuda.

Foreign residents' income with an underlying foreign source — conduit foreign income

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-	-10.0	-10.0	-25.0

The Government will extend the circumstances under which foreign income can be distributed by an Australian corporate tax entity to its foreign owners free of Australian tax. These circumstances include allowing a greater range of entities to access the benefits of the measure and permitting foreign income to flow through on-shore companies to foreign owners free of Australian tax.

This measure builds on the foreign income account measure announced in the 2003-04 Budget to extend the existing exemption for foreign non-portfolio dividends. The measure will have effect from 1 July 2005, although amounts can only be declared to be conduit foreign income on or after the date of Royal Assent.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Fringe benefits tax — exclusion from reporting for certain personal security services

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-	..	..	..

The Government will ensure that employers who provide certain personal security services to employees who have received threats as a result of their work will not have to report these as fringe benefits on the employees' payment summaries. This exclusion will apply retrospectively from 1 April 2004.

Further information can be found in the press release of 8 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Fringe benefits tax — extension of transitional arrangements for payments to worker entitlement funds

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-	-	-	-

The Government has extended the fringe benefits tax (FBT) exemption for certain contributions made to existing worker entitlement funds during the FBT year beginning on 1 April 2005.

The purpose of the extension of the transitional arrangements is to provide certainty to employers making contributions to existing worker entitlement funds while they put in place new arrangements to comply with the requirements of the FBT exemption.

The FBT exemption for contributions to worker entitlement funds ensures that the contributions will not be taxed twice (once as a fringe benefit when paid into the fund and again as income when paid out of the fund).

Fringe benefits tax — rebatable employer status of certain government institutions

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-	-	-	-

The Government has amended the fringe benefits tax (FBT) law to ensure that government institutions that are charitable institutions at law will not be treated as FBT rebatable employers, with effect from 1 July 2005.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

FBT rebatable employers are certain non-government, non-profit organisations, which may include religious, educational, charitable or scientific institutions. FBT rebatable employers are eligible for a rebate of 48 per cent of the FBT amount that would otherwise be payable.

As a result of this measure, institutions of the Australian Government and the State and Territory Governments that are charitable institutions at law, will not be treated as FBT rebatable employers.

Income tax — extension of mutuality principle

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	..	..	..	..

The Government will amend the income tax law to restore the benefits of the mutuality principle for certain not-for-profit organisations, with effect from 1 July 2000.

This amendment will ensure that following the decision of the Full Federal Court in the case of *Coleambally Irrigation Mutual Cooperative v the Commissioner of Taxation* not-for-profit organisations will not be precluded from accessing the mutuality principle solely because they are precluded from distributing any surplus to members.

Further information can be found in the press release of 30 May 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Income tax — taxation status of Operation AZURE

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-	..	-	-

The Government has provided Operation AZURE with 'non-warlike' status for taxation purposes for a period of 12 months, with effect from 10 April 2005. This entitles Australian Defence Force members serving on this operation to access the Overseas Forces Tax Offset.

Operation AZURE is Australia's contribution to the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Sudan known as the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). 'Non-warlike' overseas localities are those that are deemed to be uncongenial or isolated.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Indirect tax concession scheme — extension

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	..	..	..	..

The Government has provided or upgraded refunds and exemptions for indirect taxes to certain countries' diplomatic and consular representation under the Indirect Tax Concession Scheme.

Twelve countries' missions and consulates are entitled to new or upgraded benefits as a result of this decision.

These enhanced concessions took effect from the time provided in the implementing instruments issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Personal income tax — amendments to preserve eligibility for the 30 per cent child care tax rebate

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-	-	-	-

The Government will ensure that parents who work less than fifteen hours a week will remain eligible for the child care tax rebate (CCTR) following changes to the Child Care Benefit (CCB) work/training/study test that are due to take effect from 1 July 2006.

For the purposes of the CCTR, both partners will be required to work/train/study at some time in the week.

Further information can be found in the press release of 24 June 2005 issued by the Treasurer.

Personal income tax — modifying the foreign employment exemption

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	..	..	..	..

The Government will extend the exemption that applies (subject to certain conditions) to the foreign employment income of Australian residents who are engaged in foreign service for a period of 91 days or more. The extension will mean that the exemption will also apply where a taxpayer dies during a period of foreign service, where the death occurred on or after 1 July 2004.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

This measure will allow the exemption to apply where an individual dies in foreign service before reaching the requisite 91 days if they would have otherwise continued to be engaged in foreign service for at least 91 continuous days.

Further information can be found in the press release of 18 August 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Personal income tax — tax exemption for lump sum payments to F-111 personnel

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-6.0	-	-	-

The Government will exempt from income tax certain lump sum payments made to F-111 service personnel, effective for the 2005-06 income year.

On 19 August 2005 the Minister for Defence and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs announced that the Government would provide a \$21 million lump sum payment package to personnel who participated in F-111 Deseal/Reseal work for the Australian Defence Force.

This measure ensures that the recipients of the lump sum payments will benefit from the full value of the payment.

Political Donations — raising the tax deductible threshold

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-	-	-4.9	-6.5

The Government will increase the tax deductible threshold for gifts and contributions to political parties and independents from \$100 to \$1,500 in an income year, with effect from the date of Royal Assent.

The Government will also allow donations from companies to either political parties or independents to be tax deductible, subject to the same \$1,500 threshold.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Related party at-call loans — deemed debt treatment for small companies

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-11.0	-12.0	-13.0	-13.0

The Government will allow the related party at-call loans of companies with an annual turnover of less than \$20 million at the end of an income year to be treated as debt for income tax purposes, with effect from 1 July 2005.

The Government will also allow companies that fail the turnover test at the end of an income year, and subsequently change their related party at-call loans into debt interests before lodgement of their tax return for that year, to elect debt treatment from the start of that income year. This will also have effect from 1 July 2005.

These measures will reduce the compliance costs of small business taxpayers as those businesses will not be required to keep special tax accounts in respect of such loans.

Further information can be found in the press release of 15 July 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Superannuation — extension of transitional relief for small funds

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	*	*	*	*

The Government has extended the transitional relief for small funds providing defined benefit pensions before 1 January 2006.

Previously, the transitional relief allowed people who were members of a small fund on 11 May 2004 and who retired before 1 July 2005 to commence a defined benefit pension. This measure now makes the relief available to persons who were members of a small fund on 11 May 2004, and who retire on or after age 55, or reach age 65, prior to 1 January 2006. The member must become entitled to the pension prior to 1 January 2006 with payments commencing within 12 months of the entitlement date.

The extension of the transitional relief gives retirees greater certainty about the range of income stream choices available to them. For details, see the related measures entitled *Superannuation – modification of allocated pension drawdown factors* and *Superannuation – modification of market linked and other life expectancy income streams*.

Further information can be found in the press release of 6 June 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Superannuation — modification of allocated pension drawdown factors

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-1.5	-5.0	-8.5	-12.0
<i>Related expense (\$m)</i>				
<i>Department of Family and Community Services</i>	1.0	2.1	3.2	4.5
<i>Centrelink</i>	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Department of Veterans' Affairs</i>	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
<i>Total</i>	1.9	2.3	3.4	4.8
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
<i>Department of Veterans' Affairs</i>	..	-	-	-

The Government will update the allocated pension drawdown factors in line with current life expectancy. The changes will apply to new allocated pensions from 1 January 2006.

The annual drawdown for an allocated pension or annuity must be within the range of specified minimum and maximum payment factors. These factors have not been updated since the product commenced in 1992. The updated factors will better enable retirees to draw down their capital over a longer period. Transitional provisions will enable income stream providers to use the old factors whilst they are still updating systems to cater for the new factors.

The Government will provide a total of \$12.4 million over four years to the Department of Family and Community Services, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Centrelink to implement the changes.

Further information can be found in the press release of 27 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Superannuation — modification of market linked and other life expectancy income streams

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-3.5	-11.0	-18.5	-26.0
<i>Related expense (\$m)</i>				
Centrelink	1.7	0.1	0.1	0.1
Department of Family and Community Services	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.9
Department of Veterans' Affairs	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4
Total	2.2	0.7	1.0	1.4
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Veterans' Affairs	..	-	-	-

The Government will provide more flexibility to the market linked income stream by:

- extending the maximum term for new income streams so that payments may continue until the recipient reaches age 100 (or until a person's spouse reaches age 100); and
- allowing annual payments of the market linked income stream to vary between plus or minus 10 per cent of what would otherwise be calculated under the usual payment rules.

The extended term and smoothing mechanism will apply to market linked income streams from 1 January 2006.

This will provide retirees with smoother and more stable income payments and a greater degree of certainty with respect to pension planning.

Similarly, the Government will extend the maximum term applying to other life expectancy income streams products from 1 January 2006.

The Government will provide a total of \$5.2 million over four years to the Department of Family and Community Services, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Centrelink to implement the changes.

Further information can be found in the press release of 27 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Superannuation — removing restriction on portability of accounts

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-	-	-	-

The Government has removed the six-month restriction on portability of superannuation accounts, with effect from 1 July 2005.

Compulsory portability of superannuation accounts came into effect on 1 July 2004 but generally only applied in relation to 'inactive' accounts (broadly, accounts where no employer contributions have been made for six months). Since 1 July 2005, portability has not been restricted to 'inactive' superannuation accounts.

This measure gives people greater control over who manages their superannuation benefits. It also makes it easier for superannuation fund members to consolidate multiple accounts and so helps to reduce the impact of fees and charges.

Further information can be found in the press release of 16 June 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Superannuation — temporary residents working on the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	0.3	0.1	-	-

Temporary residents working on the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games under a special visa class will be able to access their superannuation on permanent departure from Australia. This is consistent with the treatment of most other temporary residents who accumulate superannuation in Australia.

Superannuation contributions splitting

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-	-1.4	-2.3	-1.6

The Government has brought forward the commencement date for the splitting of superannuation contributions between couples. Contributions made on or after 1 January 2006 will now be eligible for splitting. The Government had previously announced a 1 July 2006 commencement date.

Eligible fund members will be able to split up to 85 per cent of taxable contributions with their spouse (compared with the 60 per cent cap imposed in earlier versions of this policy).

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Superannuation guarantee — extension of lodgement date for superannuation guarantee statements

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1

The Government will extend the due date for lodgement of superannuation guarantee statements by employers, with effect from 1 January 2006. This measure will make the system easier for employers to understand and simplify administration of the late contribution offset rule announced in the 2005-06 Budget for the Australian Taxation Office.

Currently, superannuation guarantee statements are required to be lodged with the Australian Taxation Office no later than the 14th day of the second month after the end of the quarter. This measure will extend the due date to the 28th day of the second month after the end of the quarter and will align the statement due dates with the end of the offset period.

Tax exempt asset financing — changes to tax treatment

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	..	..	..	..

The Government will apply a 'lease, use or control of use of the asset' test to determine arrangements that will fall within the scope of the tax exempt asset financing provisions, with effect from the date of Royal Assent of the enabling legislation.

The new test will determine which financing arrangements are subject to the tax exempt asset financing rules. Certain short-term and low-value arrangements will be specifically excluded in order to reduce compliance costs and provide greater certainty to the parties involved.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Tax treatment of foreign governments and their investment bodies — clarification of tax exemption for certain investments

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-	-	-	-

The Government will clarify and codify the exemption currently provided to foreign governments and their investment bodies for dividend and interest income from passive investment in Australia. The measure will have effect from the date of Royal Assent of the enabling legislation.

Further information can be found in the press release of 4 November 2005 issued by the Treasurer.

Taxation of Financial Arrangements — extension of transitional arrangements for Upper Tier 2 instruments

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	*	*	*	*

The Government will extend, until 1 July 2007, the debt/equity transitional provisions applying to certain capital raising hybrid instruments known as Upper Tier 2 instruments for prudential purposes. This will allow further time for consultation and development of an Upper Tier 2 regulation. Under this transitional provision, the pre-1 July 2001 law will continue to apply to these instruments.

When implemented, the regulation will apply to certain Upper Tier 2 and similar instruments issued by banks and non-mutual building societies (which are authorised deposit taking institutions) or their subsidiaries. It will also apply to entities that have undertaken to comply with the capital adequacy requirements issued by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority.

Taxation of Financial Arrangements — treatment of term subordinated notes containing a solvency clause

Revenue (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-	-	-	-

The Government will ensure that the presence of a solvency clause in certain term subordinated notes will not preclude the instrument qualifying as a debt interest for tax purposes, with effect from 1 July 2001.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Without this measure, the solvency clause may mean that the instrument would have constituted an equity interest for tax purposes. This would have meant that the issuer, such as a bank, would not have been able to claim a deduction for any distributions paid.

Expense measures

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Citrus canker eradication in Queensland — assistance to growers

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	4.6	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$4.6 million in 2005-06 to assist citrus growers in the Pest Quarantine Area at Emerald in Queensland who lose their orchards as part of the citrus canker eradication programme despite having no confirmed evidence of citrus canker within their properties. This funding is in addition to the \$8 million previously allocated for the eradication of citrus canker over three years from 2004-05 to 2006-07.

The Government's contribution represents 40 per cent of the total agreed costs. This is in line with the plant pest disease eradication cost-sharing arrangements currently being negotiated between the Australian, State and Territory governments and the citrus industry.

See also the related measure titled *Citrus canker eradication in Queensland – recovery assistance* in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio.

Further information can be found in a press release dated 10 August 2005 issued by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Citrus canker eradication in Queensland — recovery assistance

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	-	-	-

The Government will provide up to \$1.5 million over two years to fund income support, interest rate subsidies and assistance to recover lost markets for citrus growers within the Pest Quarantine Area at Emerald in Queensland. This assistance will also be available to other affected growers and nurseries in Queensland.

The cost of this measure will be met fully from within the existing resources of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

See also the related measure title *Citrus canker eradication in Queensland – assistance to growers* in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio.

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Further information can be found in a press release dated 11 February 2005 issued by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Drought assistance — Country Women's Association Emergency Aid Fund

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	3.0	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$3 million in 2005-06 to the Country Women's Association Emergency Aid Fund. This will allow the Country Women's Association to help meet the immediate household needs of those farmers and their families who may otherwise be reluctant to apply for assistance.

Further information can be found in a press release dated 30 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Drought assistance — Exceptional Circumstances assistance

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	507.4	95.7	-	-
Department of Education, Science and Training	9.7	1.3	-	-
Department of Health and Ageing	10.0	1.4	-	-
Centrelink	7.1	0.3	-	-
Total	534.2	98.7	-	-

The Government will provide an additional \$632.8 million over two years to support primary producers in regions that have been declared eligible for Exceptional Circumstances assistance.

Exceptional Circumstances assistance comprises interest rate subsidies and income support to assist viable farm businesses and farm families who have been adversely affected by exceptional climatic events, such as drought. Eligible recipients are also provided with a health care concession card and access to Youth Allowance. Farmers who have not experienced a break in drought over the past 18 months can have Exceptional Circumstances drought declarations rolled over for a 12-month extension.

This measure includes a higher interest rate subsidy and relaxed off-farm assets and income tests.

Further information can be found in a press release dated 30 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

This measure includes a higher interest rate subsidy and relaxed off-farm assets and income tests. Further information can be found in a press release dated 30 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Drought assistance — interim income support

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	1.1	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$1.1 million in 2005-06 to support primary producers in regions that have been declared eligible for interim income support.

Once a fully completed drought application for a region is received by the Australian Government and is deemed to show a *prima facie* case for an Exceptional Circumstances declaration, interim income support is made available to eligible primary producers on conditions equivalent to the Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment.

Access to interim income support is available for up to six months while the Exceptional Circumstances application is assessed by the National Rural Advisory Council. Should the Government declare Exceptional Circumstances in that region, interim income support ceases and standard Exceptional Circumstances assistance arrangements commence.

Further information can be found in the press release of 14 September 2005 issued by Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Drought assistance — Rural Financial Counselling Service

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	2.2	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$2.2 million in 2005-06 to the Rural Financial Counselling Service, in recognition of the increased workload and additional costs resulting from the prolonged drought. Of this funding, \$1.2 million will be provided to appoint ten additional counsellors in key areas affected by the drought.

Further information can be found in the press release dated 30 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister and in the press release dated 12 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Exports and infrastructure taskforce — establishment

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	-	-	-

The Government provided \$0.2 million in 2004-05 to establish a taskforce to identify bottlenecks of a physical or regulatory kind in the operation of Australia's infrastructure which may impede the full realisation of export opportunities. The taskforce, which was chaired by Dr Brian Fisher, delivered its report to the Prime Minister on 20 May 2005.

Further information can be found in the press release of 18 March 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Fishing structural adjustment package — business exit assistance

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	104.4	45.1	0.1	-

The Government will provide \$149.6 million over three years to deliver one-off business exit assistance to support the sustainability of Australian Government managed fisheries that are subject to over-fishing or are at significant risk of over-fishing in the future. Individual fishing businesses in affected fisheries seeking to leave the industry will be encouraged to apply for exit assistance via a capped, competitive, voluntary tender process.

This measure recognises that significant reductions in allowable catch levels and effort for 2006 and beyond are needed to address the sustainability of some fisheries. The measure also addresses the displaced fishing effort arising from the creation of Marine Protected Areas in the southeast marine region.

Further information can be found in the press release of 23 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation and in the joint press release with the Minister for the Environment and Heritage of 24 November 2005.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Fishing structural adjustment package — Fishing Communities Grants Programme

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	8.2	12.2	-

The Government will provide \$20.4 million over two years from 2006-07 for the Fishing Communities Grants Programme. This programme will fund projects capable of generating local economic activity and employment opportunities in communities that have been affected by the reduction in fishing activity.

Further information can be found in the press release of 23 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation.

Fishing structural adjustment package — onshore and related assistance

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	6.2	16.1	7.3	-

The Government will provide \$29.6 million over three years for grants to assist onshore and fishing businesses affected by reduced fishing activity as a result of past over-fishing.

This measure will include grants to assist businesses directly related to the fishing industry (such as fish processors and ship chandlers) who are severely affected by the reduction in fishing activity. Skippers and crew who lose employment will have access to grants of \$5,000 and \$3,000 respectively, to help offset the costs of job seeking, retraining and/or relocation. Grants of up to \$1,500 will be available to fishing businesses and directly affected onshore businesses to offset the cost of obtaining professional business advice.

Further information can be found in the press release of 23 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Fishing structural adjustment package — science, compliance and data collection

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	2.0	2.0	2.0

The Government will provide \$6.0 million over three years from 2006-07 to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority for new science, compliance and data collection activities. These activities, in conjunction with significant structural adjustment of the fisheries, are needed to ensure improved fisheries management outcomes. These activities would otherwise have required an increase in the Australian Fisheries Management Authority's cost recovery based levy at the same time the industry is adjusting to new management arrangements.

See also the related revenue measure titled *Fishing structural adjustment package – Australian Fisheries Management Authority levy subsidy* in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio.

Further information can be found in the press release of 23 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation.

Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement — alternatives to 1080 poison baits

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	1.5	2.5	-	-

The Government will provide \$4.0 million over two years to fast track current Tasmanian Government research, trials and adoption of safe alternatives to the use of 1080 poison baits. This will include work on alternative environmentally sound methods of controlling grazing animals that can be used by Tasmanian forestry companies and land managers.

The Tasmanian Government has agreed to ban the use of 1080 poison baits in State forests by the end of 2005.

This measure was announced on 6 October 2004 as part of the Government's election commitment *A Sustainable Future for Tasmania*, and confirmed in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement — communications programme

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	2.2	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$2.2 million in 2005-06 to increase community awareness about the preservation and conservation needs of our environment, and the Government's forest management policies, both in relation to the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement and more broadly.

This measure was announced on 6 October 2004 as part of the Government's election commitment *A Sustainable Future for Tasmania*, and confirmed in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement — intensive forest management

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	18.0	18.0	19.1	-

The Government will provide \$66.1 million over four years (including \$11.0 million in 2004-05) to fund additional plantation establishment and productivity improvements in existing plantations and native forests, with the aim of ensuring long term supply of sawlogs and veneer logs.

This measure was announced on 6 October 2004 as part of the Government's election commitment *A Sustainable Future for Tasmania*, and confirmed in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement — measures to support reductions in old growth clearfelling

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	2.0	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$2.0 million in 2005-06 to study alternatives to clearfell harvesting of old growth forests in Tasmania to help increase forest yields and provide sustainable forest jobs.

This measure was announced on 6 October 2004 as part of the Government's election commitment *A Sustainable Future for Tasmania*, and confirmed in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement — payment to the Tasmanian Government for the implementation of the agreement

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	-	-	-

The Government provided \$13.0 million in 2004-05 to the Tasmanian Government to assist in the administration of the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement — pulp mill

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	2.4	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$2.4 million in 2005-06 to assist with project costs associated with the development of a chlorine-free pulp mill in Tasmania by Gunns Limited.

This measure was announced on 6 October 2004 as part of the Government's election commitment *A Sustainable Future for Tasmania*, and confirmed in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement — softwood industry

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	2.1	6.1	2.1	-

The Government will provide \$10.4 million over three years to assist the Tasmanian softwood industry establish a facility for the environmentally friendly preservation of pine and to phase out the use of Copper Chrome Arsonate within two years.

This measure was announced on 6 October 2004 as part of the Government's election commitment *A Sustainable Future for Tasmania*, and confirmed in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement — support for country sawmills

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	2.0	2.0	-	-

The Government will provide \$4.0 million over two years to assist country sawmills to introduce new equipment, technologies and product lines, and to develop new markets.

This measure was announced on 6 October 2004 as part of the Government's election commitment *A Sustainable Future for Tasmania*, and confirmed in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement — support for the hardwood timber industry

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	20.7	17.6	5.6	-

The Government will provide \$43.8 million over three years to support the Tasmanian hardwood timber industry to adapt their production to alternative logging areas and tree species.

This measure was announced on 6 October 2004 as part of the Government's election commitment *A Sustainable Future for Tasmania*, and confirmed in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Torres Strait fisheries — resource sharing arrangements

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	nfp	nfp	-	-

The Government will provide funding over two years from 2005-06 to reform resource sharing arrangements with Papua New Guinea and Torres Strait Islanders in Torres Strait fisheries subject to the *Torres Strait Treaty*.

Estimates of the impact of the measure are unable to be disclosed, as this would be likely to affect negotiations. Funding for this measure has been placed in the contingency reserve.

Further information can be found in the press releases of 27 July 005 issued jointly by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade and of 9 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation 2007 — security

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Attorney-General's Department	18.1	4.6	-	-

The Government will provide an additional \$22.7 million over two years to the Attorney-General's Department to meet security costs for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' week meetings in Sydney in 2007. Subject to finalisation of capability requirements, it is expected that funding will be provided principally to the New South Wales Government in order to meet APEC specific security costs.

Australia United States Free Trade Agreement — copyright obligations

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Attorney-General's Department	0.3	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$0.3 million to implement Australia's obligations under the Australia United States Free Trade Agreement relating to technological protection measures for copyright material. Australia agreed to implement a new liability scheme for circumventing technological protection measures by 1 January 2007.

Aviation security — Airport Police Commanders

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Federal Police	5.5	5.0	5.1	5.1
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Australian Federal Police	0.4	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$21.3 million over four years (including \$435,000 in capital funding in 2005-06) to further enhance the security of Australian airports. The initiative will improve security by appointing Airport Police Commanders at all major airports to provide operational coordination of security and law enforcement activities.

This measure forms part of the Government's response to the Wheeler Report into airport security and policing arrangements.

Further information can be found in the press release of 21 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Aviation security — ensuring availability of information

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Attorney-General's Department	0.4	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$0.4 million in 2005-06 to undertake a review of relevant legislation and regulations to ensure information is available to the necessary authorities to counter crime or terrorism that threatens aviation security.

This measure forms part of the Government's response to the Wheeler Report into airport security and policing arrangements.

Further information can be found in the press release of 21 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Aviation security — establishing Joint Airport Investigations Teams

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Federal Police	9.2	9.0	9.1	9.2
Australian Customs Service	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2
Total	10.2	10.1	10.2	10.4

The Government will provide \$40.9 million over four years to establish Joint Airport Investigation Teams comprising Australian Federal Police officers, Customs officers and State and Territory police. The initiative will improve security at Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth airports through the increased investigation and gathering of intelligence on organised crime.

This measure forms part of the Government's response to the Wheeler Report into airport security and policing arrangements.

Futher information can be found in the press release of 21 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Aviation security — improving closed circuit television at airports

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Customs Service	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
<i>Australian Customs Service</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>	-	-

The Government will provide \$6.0 million (including \$1.1 million in 2009-10) over five years to improve closed circuit television (CCTV) systems at Australian airports. The initiative will establish an advice service for airports on CCTV systems, conduct a study of current airport CCTV systems, and develop national standards and frameworks. This measure includes \$0.2 million in capital funding for office accommodation fit-out.

This measure forms part of the Government's response to the Wheeler Report into airport security and policing arrangements.

See also the related expense measures titled *Aviation security – providing additional closed circuit television cameras and upgrading capabilities* in the Attorney-General's portfolio and *Surface transport security – developing a national approach for closed circuit television* in the Transport and Regional Services portfolio.

Further information can be found in the press release of 21 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Aviation security — increasing air-side Customs patrols

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Customs Service	10.4	11.7	11.8	12.0
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
<i>Australian Customs Service</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>0.4</i>	-	-

The Government will provide \$48.7 million over four years to enhance the integrity of the Australian border. The initiative will improve security by providing a more visible presence to deter and respond to criminal activity at Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Darwin and Cairns airports.

This measure includes \$2.8 million of capital funding in 2005-06 and 2006-07 for office accommodation fit-out.

This measure forms part of the Government's response to the Wheeler Report into airport security and policing arrangements.

Further information can be found in the press release of 21 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Aviation security — providing additional closed circuit television cameras and upgrading capabilities

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Customs Service	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.3
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
<i>Australian Customs Service</i>	<i>5.1</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>

The Government will provide \$14.0 million over four years to further enhance Customs' closed circuit television (CCTV) capability at airports. The initiative will improve security by providing increased coverage through the CCTV network at the airports including in basements, in baggage handling areas, on the tarmac and in baggage halls.

This measure includes \$5.1 million of capital funding in 2005-06 and 2006-07 for cameras and other operating equipment.

See also the related expense measures titled *Aviation security – improving closed circuit television at airports* in the Attorney-General's portfolio and *Surface transport security – developing a national approach for closed circuit television* in the Transport and Regional Services portfolio.

This measure forms part of the Government's response to the Wheeler Report into airport security and policing arrangements.

Further information can be found in the press release of 21 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Aviation security — strengthening international air cargo security arrangements in Australia

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Transport and Regional Services	11.0	6.0	5.1	5.0
Australian Customs Service	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1
Total	12.1	7.1	6.1	6.1
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
<i>Department of Transport and Regional Services</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Australian Customs Service</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>2.7</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>

The Government will provide \$40.2 million over five years (including \$6.1 million in 2009-10) to improve security of international passenger aircraft through increased inspection of air cargo.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

The measure will provide funding for explosives trace detection equipment and training in the use of the equipment at licensed depots and cargo terminals. Increased auditing of Regulated Air Cargo Agents to ensure compliance with security requirements will occur and the Department of Transport and Regional Services will work with industry to assess the need for background checks of employees in the airfreight sector.

Capital funding of \$2.7 million will be provided in 2005-06 for office accommodation fit-out.

This measure forms part of the Government's response to the Wheeler Report into airport security and policing arrangements.

Further information can be found in the press release of 21 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Bali bombing 1 October 2005 — evacuation funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Attorney-General's Department	..	-	-	-

The Government provided \$45,000 to cover the costs incurred by Emergency Management Australia in activating the Overseas Mass Casualty Plan after the Bali bombings on 1 October 2005. The funding covered the cost of evacuating a person with serious injuries to Sydney's Prince of Wales Hospital.

Further information can be found in the press release of 5 October 2005 issued by the Attorney-General.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Illegal foreign fishing in Australia's northern waters — increased enforcement

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Customs Service	13.5	13.0	13.1	14.1
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	2.0	5.9	6.0	6.2
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	0.7	2.5	2.5	2.5
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.7
Total	16.4	22.1	22.3	23.4
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Australian Customs Service	3.1	0.4	-	-
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	1.1	-	-	-
Total	4.2	0.4	-	-

The Government will provide \$88.8 million over four years to increase the apprehension, detention and prosecution of illegal foreign fishers operating in Australia's northern waters and for the appropriate disposal of an increased number of illegal fishing vessels.

This measure includes capital funding of \$3.5 million for Customs to purchase four Tactical Response vessels and \$1.1 million for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, to be used by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, for additional construction costs for the Horn Island transitional accommodation facility.

Further information can be found in the press release of 11 October 2005 jointly issued by the Minister for Justice and Customs and the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation.

National Community Crime Prevention Programme — additional funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Attorney-General's Department	2.0	2.0	2.0	-

The Government will provide \$6.0 million over three years from 2005-06 to expand the National Community Crime Prevention Programme. This measure will increase the level of funding to community organisations for security related infrastructure including closed circuit television projects. The additional support will bring the total funding committed to this programme to \$64 million.

Further information may be found in the press release of 30 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

National security — centralised background checking

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Attorney-General's Department	2.0	9.1	0.5	-
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
<i>Attorney-General's Department</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>-</i>

The Government will provide \$22.3 million over three years to establish a new division within the Attorney General's Department to coordinate background checks on people working in the secure areas of air and sea ports.

The measure forms part of the Government's response to the Wheeler Report into airport security and policing arrangements.

The measure includes \$10.7 million in capital funding to the Attorney-General's Department for equipment and fit-out costs.

Further information can be found in the press release of 6 December 2005 issued by the Attorney-General.

National security — enhancing the capability of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	*	*	*	*

The Government will provide a significant increase in resourcing for the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), including a target increase in the organisation's establishment to 1,860 staff by 2010-11. The increase follows the recommendations of the *Review of ASIO's Resourcing* undertaken by Mr Allan Taylor AM in mid-2005.

A provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for additional funding, with specific details to be determined and announced in the future.

Further information can be found in the press release of 16 October 2005 issued by the Attorney-General

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

National security — enhancing the counter-terrorism exercise regime

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Attorney-General's Department	-	2.3	2.3	2.3

The Government will provide \$9.3 million over four years from 2006-07 (including \$2.3 million in 2009-10) to enhance the counter-terrorism exercise regime. The measure provides funding for additional exercises each year to be coordinated by the Attorney-General's Department. The measure was agreed by the States and Territories at the Council of Australian Governments meeting in September 2005.

Further information can be found in the press release of 27 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

National security — establishing a Chemical Warfare Agent Laboratory Network

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Federal Police	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5

The Government will provide \$2.5 million over five years (including \$0.5 million in 2009-10) to establish a Chemical Warfare Agent Laboratory Network in capital cities capable of analysing chemical warfare agents. It will provide an integrated and coordinated national response capability, building on the existing national analysis capability of the Defence Science and Technology Organisation.

Further information can be found in the press release of 27 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

National security — establishing a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Data Centre

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Federal Police	1.5	3.3	3.3	3.3
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
<i>Australian Federal Police</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>0.3</i>

The Government will provide \$17.3 million over five years (including \$3.6 million in 2009-10) to establish a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Data Centre. This measure includes \$2.7 million of capital funding.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

The centre will operate on a 24 hour, 7 days per week basis, be administered by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and co-located with the AFP Bomb Data Centre. The centre will be a contact point for CBRN technical issues and provide a mechanism for access to the expertise which presently exists within Australian Government agencies and State and Territory facilities.

Further information can be found in the press release of 27 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

National security — increasing public awareness with a national media campaign

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Attorney-General's Department	8.4	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$8.4 million in 2005-06 to increase public awareness of national security issues and the National Security Hotline. This funding purchases television, radio, newspaper and outdoor advertisements and builds on funding already allocated in the 2005-06 Budget. The campaign also targets industries that are vulnerable to the threat of terrorism, including critical infrastructure sectors, through industry-specific publications.

Further information can be found in the press release of 14 July 2005 issued by the Attorney-General.

National security — promoting public understanding of Australia's counter-terrorism arrangements

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Attorney-General's Department	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.2
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Attorney-General's Department	..	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$1.3 million over four years (including \$34,000 in capital funding) to help promote a better public understanding of the national counter-terrorism arrangements. The measure will ensure arrangements are in place for the dissemination of public information during a crisis. This proposal was agreed by the States and Territories at the Council of Australian Governments meeting in September 2005.

Further information can be found in the press release of 27 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

National security — providing temporary accommodation for the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	1.0	4.3	5.6	6.1
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	11.4	8.5	-	-

The Government will provide \$50.7 million over six years, including \$9.1 million in 2009-10 and \$4.7 million in 2010-11 for temporary accommodation for the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, pending completion of permanent accommodation.

This measure includes \$19.9 million in capital funding.

Sudan — providing an Australian Federal Police Contribution for the UN Mission in Sudan

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Federal Police	1.2	2.4	-	-
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Australian Federal Police	0.1	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$3.7 million over two years from 2005-06 to contribute police to the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Ten civilian policing personnel will be deployed for an initial period of 18 months in advisory and training roles to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that was signed to end the North-South civil war.

This measure includes \$65,000 of capital funding in 2005-06 for communications and computer equipment for the deployed personnel.

Further information can be found in the press release of 9 November 2005 jointly issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Justice and Customs.

United Nations Oil-For-Food Programme — establishing a Commission of Inquiry

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Attorney-General's Department	6.8	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$6.8 million in 2005-06 to establish a Commission of Inquiry to ascertain whether certain Australian companies, or any person associated with those companies, might have breached any law of the Commonwealth or a State or Territory in relation to the United Nations Oil-For-Food Programme.

Further information can be found in the press release of 10 November 2005 issued by the Attorney-General.

Urban search and rescue — enhancing the national capability

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Attorney-General's Department	11.0	4.0	-	-

The Government will provide \$15.0 million over two years commencing in 2005-06 for the enhancement of the national urban search and rescue capability. The funding will assist all States and Territories to improve their capabilities by establishing consistent approaches and methods throughout all jurisdictions. The programme will be coordinated and administered by Emergency Management Australia.

Further information can be found in the press release of 18 May 2004 issued by the Attorney-General.

Workplace Relations Reform — additional workloads arising from changes to jurisdiction

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Federal Magistrates Court	1.4	4.2	4.1	4.1
Federal Court of Australia	1.1	3.4	3.5	3.5
Total	2.6	7.6	7.5	7.5
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Federal Magistrates Court	1.4	-	-	-
Federal Court of Australia	1.4	-	-	-
Total	2.8	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$12.8 million to the Federal Court of Australia and \$15.1 million to the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia over four years to meet additional workload arising from jurisdictional changes resulting from amendments to the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

This measure includes \$1.4 million in capital funding to the Federal Court of Australia and \$1.4 million to the Federal Magistrates Court for equipment and fit-out costs.

Further information can be found in the press release of 9 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

Connect Australia — Backing Indigenous Ability

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-	23.0	23.7	23.5

The Government will provide \$89.9 million over four years (including \$19.7 million in 2009-10) to improve access to communications services for remote Indigenous communities. This measure involves \$48.5 million for the provision of an Indigenous television service, \$11.9 million for the provision of community phones, \$10.4 million for the provision of internet access, \$9.5 million for the provision of community support and \$3.3 million to replace ageing radio infrastructure.

Further information can be found in the press release of 17 August 2005 issued by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

Connect Australia — Broadband Connect

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	147.4	236.3	244.1	249.6
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
<i>Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>

The Government will provide \$878.0 million over four years for Broadband Connect, an enhancement of the existing Higher Bandwidth Incentive Scheme (HiBIS). This funding will subsidise the cost of providing access to broadband for customers in regional Australia. The funding will help to promote competition among broadband service providers by stimulating demand for broadband services in regional Australia. These services will be delivered on a competitive and technologically neutral basis, and may include wireless, satellite, fibre and high speed copper broadband infrastructure solutions.

Further information can be found in the press release of 17 August 2005 issued by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Connect Australia — Clever Networks

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-	22.8	36.0	38.5

The Government will provide \$113.4 million over four years from 2006-07 (including \$16.2 million in 2009-10) to improve access to infrastructure and broadband for health, education and government services in rural and regional areas.

Further information can be found in the press release of 17 August 2005 issued by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

Connect Australia — consumer information campaign

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-	4.1	1.8	-

The Government will provide \$5.9 million over two years, 2006-07 and 2007-08, to raise awareness among regional, rural and remote consumers of their telecommunication rights and legislated safeguards and ways to access them.

Further information can be found in the press release of 17 August 2005 issued by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Connect Australia — consumer safeguards

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Communications and Media Authority	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.8
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-	0.4	0.4	-
Total	1.4	2.3	2.2	1.8
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Australian Communications and Media Authority	0.4	0.5	-	-
<i>Related revenue (\$m)</i>				
Australian Communications and Media Authority	-	1.8	2.4	1.8

The Government will provide \$7.0 million over four years, followed by \$1.6 million per year ongoing funding, to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to strengthen consumer safeguards, support Telstra's local presence plan and undertake regular reviews of regional telecommunications. Funding of \$0.9 million will also be provided for related capital purchases of information technology equipment. This will be offset by an increase in the annual carrier licence charge collected by ACMA of \$6.0 million over four years followed by \$1.8 million in 2009-10 and \$1.6 million per year thereafter. This revenue is collected in arrears.

The Government will also provide \$0.4 million in each of 2006-07 and 2007-08 to the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts for its role in strengthening consumer safeguards.

Further information can be found in the press release of 17 August 2005 issued by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

Connect Australia — Mobile Connect

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	4.8	9.2	9.5	5.9

The Government will provide \$29.5 million over four years to extend terrestrial mobile coverage and continue satellite handset subsidies for more remote areas of Australia.

Further information can be found in the press release of 17 August 2005 issued by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Higher Bandwidth Incentive Scheme (HiBIS) — additional funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	50.0	-	-	-

The Government will provide an additional \$50.0 million in 2005-06 to extend the Higher Bandwidth Incentive Scheme (HiBIS). HiBIS provides incentive payments to Internet service providers for each eligible broadband service connected. Additional funding for the programme will enable the Government to meet strong increases in demand and provide certainty to HiBIS providers.

Further information can be found in the press release of 7 July 2005 issued by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

Jewish Museum of Australia — contribution

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	0.2	0.2	-	-

The Government will provide \$480,000 over two years towards the renovation and refurbishment of the Jewish Museum of Australia in St Kilda, Victoria.

The Jewish Museum of Australia is a community museum, which aims to explore and share the Jewish experience in Australia and benefit Australia's diverse society.

Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games — additional contribution

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	10.0	-	-	-

The Government will contribute up to an additional \$10.0 million to enhance and extend the scope of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games opening ceremony.

This funding is subject to the successful conclusion of the funding agreement between the Australian and Victorian governments. These funds are in addition to the package of \$275.5 million of assistance provided by the Australian Government to contribute to the staging of the Games, which are to be held in March 2006.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Sports anti-doping framework — enhancement

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.9

The Government will provide \$5.9 million over four years to investigate and prosecute violations of the World Anti-Doping Code.

The Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority, a new statutory authority, will also assume the existing drug testing, education, advocacy and other functions of the Australian Sports Drug Agency.

Further information can be found in the press release of 23 June 2005 issued by the Minister for the Arts and Sport.

Telecommunications competition including operational separation of Telstra

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	4.0	4.7	3.8	3.9
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6
Total	4.6	5.4	4.4	4.5
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	1.0	-	-	-
<i>Related revenue (\$m)</i>				
Australian Communications and Media Authority	-	5.1	4.9	3.9

The Government will provide \$29.3 million over six years from 2005-06 (including \$4.7 million in 2009-10 and \$4.7 million in 2010-11) for the implementation and management of operational separation within Telstra.

The measure includes \$3.8 million (including \$0.7 million in 2009-10 and \$0.6 million in 2010-11) for the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts to implement, in conjunction with Telstra and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), an operational separation framework within Telstra.

This measure also includes \$25.5 million (including \$4.0 million in 2009-10 and \$4.1 million in 2010-11) to enable the ACCC to establish, monitor and enforce the operational separation framework within Telstra. This also includes \$1.0 million in capital funding for the purchase of office related equipment and fit-out.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Funding provided to the ACCC will be offset by an increase in the annual carrier licence charge of \$26.3 million over six years from 2006-07 (including \$4.0 million in 2009-10, \$4.1 million in 2010-11 and \$4.2 million in 2011-12) collected by the Australian Communications and Media Authority. This revenue is collected in arrears.

Further information can be found in the press release of 17 August 2005, issued by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

CROSS PORTFOLIO

Australia-China Free Trade Agreement — funding for negotiations

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Various Agencies	5.6	6.0	-	-
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	0.1	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$11.7 million over two years to facilitate negotiation of the Australia-China Free Trade Agreement. In addition to supporting direct negotiations, the funding will enable further consultation with industry groups and allow for an exchange of information with Chinese representatives.

The negotiations follow the completion of the joint free trade agreement feasibility study. The successful conclusion of a free trade agreement will provide improved access for goods, services and investment. The timing of the decision to proceed to negotiations precluded consideration in the 2005-06 Budget process.

This amount includes \$80,000 in capital funding to establish a dedicated office within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Further information can be found in the press release of 18 April 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Official Development Assistance — additional funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Various Agencies	*	*	*	*

The Prime Minister announced the Government's goal to increase Official Development Assistance (ODA) to about \$4.0 billion per annum by 2010. This is consistent with Australia's long and proud record of assisting developing countries and reflects the Government's commitment to continuing to meet its share of the aid effort. This increase is conditional on the performance of partner governments and institutions, including strengthened governance arrangements and a reduction in corruption in recipient countries.

This increase will be delivered through a number of departments and agencies, including the overseas aid programme administered by AusAID. ODA will continue to be subject to annual review, taking into account the effectiveness of the application of the additional resources.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

A provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for the additional funding, with the details of specific commitments to be announced in the future. A White Paper on aid is currently being prepared and decisions about further aid allocations will take close account of the White Paper's conclusions.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan — providing a Special Forces Task Group

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Defence	62.4	18.4	3.5	-
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Defence	6.5	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$90.7 million for a one year Special Forces deployment to Afghanistan. The deployment commenced in September 2005 to assist in combat, patrolling, reconnaissance and surveillance operations as part of Australia's increased commitment in the fight against terrorism.

This measure includes \$6.5 million in capital funding in 2005-06 for rapid acquisition of required equipment.

Further information can be found in the press releases of 13 July 2005, 24 August 2005 and 26 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Defence.

Australian Defence Force employee entitlements — extending conditions of service to members in interdependency relationships

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Defence	-	-	-	-

The Government will extend certain Defence Conditions of Service entitlements to Australian Defence Force (ADF) members in interdependency relationships, including to same-sex partners of ADF members and other adult dependants resident with ADF members. This is estimated to cost \$15.0 million per annum.

The cost of this measure will be fully met from within the existing resourcing of the Department of Defence.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Australian Defence Medal — expanded eligibility criteria

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Defence	-	2.0	2.0	2.0

The Government will provide \$8.0 million over four years from 2006-07 to extend the eligibility criteria for the Australian Defence Medal to all those, including national servicemen, who completed an initial enlistment period or four years service, whichever was the lesser, in the Australian Defence Force since the end of World War II.

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

Commercialisation Training Scheme — transfer of funds from Australian Research Council

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Education, Science and Training	0.4	5.5	5.6	5.7
Australian Research Council	-0.4	-5.5	-5.6	-5.7
Total	-	-	-	-

The Government will transfer funding of \$22.8 million over five years, including \$5.8 million in 2009-10, from the Australian Research Council to the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST). The funding will assist DEST to deliver the Commercialisation Training Scheme which will provide around 250 new post-graduate research scholarships to develop skills in research commercialisation and intellectual property management.

Higher Education — extension of FEE-HELP and OS-HELP

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Education, Science and Training	-	-	-	-
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
<i>Department of Education, Science and Training</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>Related revenue (\$m)</i>				
<i>Department of Education, Science and Training</i>	-	..	..	..

The Government will provide \$2.6 million in loans over four years from 2005-06 to enable full fee paying Australian students attending foreign-owned universities in Australia to access income-contingent loans available through FEE-HELP and OS-HELP. Students will be able to borrow up to \$50,000 through FEE-HELP and up to \$10,000 through OS-HELP.

Amounts loaned to students under the Higher Education Loans Programme (HELP) are treated as financial assets and a provision for doubtful debts has been included in the statement of other economic flows, therefore these elements do not impact on the fiscal balance. Payments by students of the indexation component of their HELP loan are treated as interest revenue and will impact on the fiscal balance from 2006-07.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

International education — Endeavour Malaysia Scholarships

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Education, Science and Training	0.5	0.5	0.5	-

The Government will provide \$1.4 million over three years from 2005-06 for six Endeavour Malaysia Awards and four Endeavour Malaysia Research Fellowships to be granted to Australian and Malaysian students.

Of the awards, three Malaysia Awards and two Research Fellowships will be made available to Malaysian students to study in Australia and the same number will also be available to Australian students to study in Malaysia.

Further information can be found in the press release of 8 July 2005 issued by the Minister for Education, Science and Training.

Migration Programme — additional assessing authority for the child care profession

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Education, Science and Training	0.1	-	-	-

The Government will provide an additional \$0.1 million in 2005-06 to the Department of Education, Science and Training for an additional assessing authority for the child care profession. Assessing authorities certify that the overseas qualifications of migrants seeking to work in their sector meet equivalent Australian standards.

Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement — training and skills development for industry workers

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Education, Science and Training	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

The Government will provide \$4.0 million over four years to enhance training and skills development opportunities for workers in the Tasmanian forest industries.

This measure was announced on 6 October 2004 as part of the Government's election commitment *A sustainable future for Tasmania* and confirmed in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Tools for Your Trade — additional funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Education, Science and Training	3.9	-	-	-

The Government will provide a further \$3.9 million in 2005-06 to facilitate implementation of the Tools for Your Trade initiative. This additional funding is to provide for costs associated with the delivery of tool kits worth up to \$800 to eligible New Apprentices in the first year of their New Apprenticeship.

Welfare to Work — extension to eligibility for Youth Disability Supplement

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Education, Science and Training	-	0.3	1.3	2.2

The Government will extend eligibility for the Youth Disability Supplement to people under the age of 21 with a part-time work capacity who elect to study full-time and receive a student assistance payment. This measure will be implemented from 1 July 2006 at a cost of \$3.8 million over three years and builds on the assistance provided to people with disabilities in the *Welfare to Work* package announced in the 2005-06 Budget.

Further information can be found in the press release of 9 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme — continuation

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	-	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$215.2 million over three years from 2006-07 to continue funding for the General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS). GEERS provides assistance to employees who lose their entitlements due to their employer becoming insolvent or bankrupt.

This measure involves funding of \$70.5 million in 2006-07, \$71.5 million in 2007-08, and \$73.2 million in 2008-09. Provision for this funding has already been included in the forward estimates.

Further information can be found in the press release of 12 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme — extended eligibility

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	2.0	20.3	20.4	19.6

The Government will increase the range of entitlements available under the General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS) at an estimated cost of \$62.3 million over four years. Employees who lose their entitlements due to their employer becoming insolvent or bankrupt will be eligible to seek an enhanced range of assistance from GEERS. The enhanced entitlements include:

- assistance for underpaid wages in the three month period prior to the date of employer insolvency;
- assistance that recognises claimants' entitlement to notice of termination under their terms of employment or industrial instrument;
- coverage of employees who resigned or were terminated up to six months prior to the date of employer insolvency; and

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

- provision of limited assistance for previously ineligible claimants resulting from aligning the definition of 'excluded employees' under GEERS with the definition contained in section 556(1) of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Further information can be found in the press release of 12 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Indigenous Land Reform — Home Ownership on Indigenous Land Programme

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Indigenous Business Australia	..	..	-	-
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
<i>Indigenous Business Australia</i>	-	-	-	-

Funding of \$7.3 million over two years will be redirected to pilot a flexible grant and loan financing programme to assist Indigenous people to purchase a home on Indigenous land.

Total funding of \$7.3 million comprises \$60,000 over two years in additional resources, with the remaining \$7.2 million to be contributed from existing funding (\$1.7 million from Indigenous Business Australia, \$3.0 million from the Indigenous Land Corporation and \$2.5 million from the Aboriginals Benefit Account).

The pilot will promote Indigenous home ownership on Indigenous land through the provision of discounted interest rates, low deposit requirements, up-front grants and ongoing periodic grants.

See also the related expense measures titled *Indigenous Land Reform – Home Ownership Incentive Scheme* in the Family and Community Services portfolio and *Indigenous Land Reform – Northern Territory township tenure* in the Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs portfolio.

Further information can be found in the press release of 5 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

Job Placement, Employment and Training Programme — maintain funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	-	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$62.5 million over three years to extend the Job Placement, Employment and Training (JPET) Programme.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

The JPET Programme assists highly disadvantaged young people aged 15-21 years who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, to overcome their barriers so they can move into employment, education or training.

This measure involves funding of \$20.3 million in 2006-07, \$20.6 million in 2007-08 and \$21.6 million in 2008-09. Provision for this funding has already been included in the forward estimates.

Further information can be found in the press release of 27 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Workforce Participation.

Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991 — enhanced enforcement capacity

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Comcare	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

The Government will provide \$200,000 per annum on an ongoing basis from 2005-06 to enhance Comcare's capacity to undertake regulatory activities under the *Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991*. This measure will allow Comcare to enforce expanded compliance provisions that aim to reduce workplace injuries to Commonwealth employees by promoting adherence to occupational health and safety requirements by both Commonwealth employers and employees.

Parenting Payment (Partnered) — extended eligibility for certain step-parents

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

The Government will extend eligibility for Parenting Payment (Partnered) to step-parents with primary care for their step-children at a cost of \$0.7 million over four years, including \$0.3 million for Centrelink to implement the change.

This measure will extend eligibility for Parenting Payment (Partnered) from 1 July 2006 to a number of step-parents who are currently ineligible because their step-children do not meet the definition of 'dependent child' under the *Social Security Act 1991*.

Further information can be found in the press release of 25 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Parenting Payment (Partnered) — extending advance payments

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	-	4.7	0.6	-0.1

The Government will provide \$5.2 million over three years to extend access to advance payments to Parenting Payment (Partnered) recipients. This will provide low income partnered parents with access to interest-free loans of up to \$500 in a 12 month period to meet large or bulky expenditures and will ensure consistency with other income support recipients.

Further information can be found in the press release of 25 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

South Australian automotive workers — labour adjustment fund

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	5.0	1.9	0.5	-

The Government will provide funding of \$7.5 million over three years for a labour adjustment fund to ameliorate the impact of the decision by General Motors Holden to scale back its operations in South Australia.

The funding is for labour market assistance to workers made redundant as a result of General Motors Holden's restructure, including workers of relevant suppliers. This funding will provide accelerated access to a range of labour market assistance services provided by the Job Network, including job search training, enhanced access to the job seeker account and relocation assistance.

Further information can be found in the press release of 26 August 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Welfare to Work — expanded eligibility for Employment Entry Payment

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	1.9	5.0	3.5	3.0

The Government will expand eligibility to the Employment Entry Payment to certain income support recipients who find sustained part time work at a cost of \$13.4 million over four years. The following individuals will be eligible for the payment if they have been receiving income support for at least 12 months and find work of 15 hours or more per week for a period of at least four weeks:

- recipients of Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) with a 15-29 hour capacity to work will have access to a \$312 payment; and
- recipients of Parenting Payment and parents receiving Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (Other) with a requirement to seek work of 15 hours or more per week will have access to a \$104 payment.

This measure will begin on 1 July 2006 and builds on the significant assistance provided to parents and people with disabilities in the *Welfare to Work* package announced in the 2005-06 Budget.

Further information can be found in the press release of 21 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Welfare to Work — expanded eligibility for the higher rate of Mobility Allowance

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	-	0.3	0.3	0.4

The Government will extend eligibility for the higher rate of Mobility Allowance to certain Newstart and Youth Allowance (Other) recipients at a cost of \$1.0 million over three years from 1 July 2006. Those income support recipients with an assessed work capacity of 30 hours a week or more, who are working or seeking work of 30 hours or more with an employment services provider and are unable to use public transport without assistance, will receive the higher rate of Mobility Allowance.

The introduction of the higher rate of Mobility Allowance was announced as part of the *Welfare to Work* package in the 2005-06 Budget and will be \$100 per fortnight from 1 July 2006.

Further information can be found in the press release of 21 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

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Welfare to Work — extended eligibility for Parenting Payment (Single)

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	-	8.0	24.9	43.3
Department of Family and Community Services	-	-0.5	-1.6	-2.7
Department of Education, Science and Training	-	-1.7	-5.6	-9.1
Total	-	5.9	17.8	31.5

The Government will extend the eligibility for Parenting Payment (Single) to recipients until their youngest child turns eight years of age at a cost of \$55.2 million over three years.

Parents applying for Parenting Payment (Single) on or after 1 July 2006 will receive Parenting Payment while their youngest child is less than eight years old. Once their youngest child turns six, this group will be subject to an obligation to seek work of at least 15 hours per week.

This measure builds on the significant assistance provided to parents in the Welfare to Work package announced in the 2005-06 Budget.

See also the related expense measures titled *Welfare to Work — increasing participation of parents* and *Welfare to Work — higher rate of Newstart and Youth Allowance (Other) for certain sole parents*.

Further information can be found in the press release of 8 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Welfare to Work — higher rate of Newstart and Youth Allowance (Other) for certain sole parents

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	0.4	2.3	3.8	7.6
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Centrelink	0.6	-	-	-

The Government will provide sole parents receiving Newstart or Youth Allowance (Other) with exemptions from participation requirements where they have four or more children aged between six and fifteen, or are either a registered and active foster carer, providing home schooling or facilitating distance education. These parents will also be eligible to receive total payments equal to the payment under Parenting Payment (Single) for the period of the exemption at an estimated cost of \$14.7 million over three years. Parents with children aged over six years receiving Parenting Payment will also be eligible for these exemptions. This includes Centrelink funding of \$1.2 million over four years including \$0.6 million in capital funding in 2005-06 to implement this measure.

This measure will begin on 1 July 2006 and will build on the significant assistance provided to parents in the Welfare to Work package announced in the 2005-06 Budget.

See also the related expense measure *Welfare to Work – Changes to eligibility for Parenting Payment (Single)* and the 2005-06 Budget expense measure titled *Welfare to Work – increasing participation of parents*.

Further information can be found in the press release of 8 November 2005 issued jointly by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations and the Minister for Workforce Participation and the press release of 5 December 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Welfare to Work — modification to compliance regime

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	-	3.1	12.8	14.6

The Government will provide an additional \$30.5 million over three years from 2006-07 to reinforce its commitment to a strong and fair compliance regime for people on welfare with a requirement to participate in the workforce. These modifications to the compliance system announced in the 2005-06 Budget will make the following improvements:

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

- no job seeker will lose payment without having been given a formal warning or the chance to have personal contact with Centrelink;
- job seekers will be given an opportunity to avoid a penalty through immediate re-engagement, except in the case of repeated or serious non-compliance;
- a job seeker who persists in their non-compliance, despite being warned and provided with an opportunity to re-engage, will lose payment until they do comply; and
- an eight week non-payment period will apply as a deterrent to repeated participation failures or more serious failures, such as refusing a reasonable job offer.

Further information can be found in the press release of 21 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Welfare to Work — Work for the Dole supplement — extension to Disability Support Pensioners

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3

The Government will extend eligibility for the Work for the Dole supplement to Disability Support Pension recipients who volunteer for Work for the Dole at a cost of \$0.8 million over four years. This includes \$104,000 in 2005-06 for implementation by Centrelink. The Work for the Dole supplement provides participants with an additional payment of \$20.80 per fortnight to assist with the costs of participation.

This measure will begin on 1 July 2006 and will build on the significant assistance provided to individuals with disabilities in the *Welfare to Work* package announced in the 2005-06 Budget.

Further information can be found in the press release of 21 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

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Workplace Relations Reform — agreement making

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	6.7	14.7	18.2	21.7

The Government will provide \$61.2 million over four years to enhance the capacity of the Office of the Employment Advocate (OEA) to meet the increased workload associated with the expanded coverage of the federal workplace relations system and its additional responsibility for certified agreements. OEA will administer a simplified lodgement-only process for both collective and individual agreements. Employers, employees and their representatives will also be assisted by OEA to recognise the benefits of agreement making and to develop and implement specific workplace agreements.

Further information can be found in the press release of 2 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Workplace Relations Reform — Award Review Taskforce

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	7.3	1.6	-	-

The Government will provide \$9.0 million over two years from 2005-06 for the Award Review Taskforce. The Taskforce will examine and report to Government on wage classification structures in awards, with a view to providing a more accessible and easily understood list of classifications and pay rates, and on the rationalisation of federal awards.

The Taskforce will be supported by a Secretariat located in the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Further information can be found in the press release of 9 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Workplace Relations Reform — changes to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Industrial Registry	-0.2	1.2	-4.1	-6.3
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	2.1	-	-	-

Changes to the role of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) in the new workplace relations system will result in savings of \$7.3 million over four years. The AIRC will no longer have responsibility for the setting and adjustment of minimum wages; the setting and adjustment of key minimum conditions determined by Government in legislation; or certifying workplace agreements.

The AIRC will have responsibility for simplifying awards, regulating industrial action and registered organisations and a continued ongoing role in relation to unlawful termination of employment.

This measure includes \$2.1 million in capital funding for leasehold improvements and information technology infrastructure.

Further information can be found in the press release of 9 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Workplace Relations Reform — communications campaign

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	38.4	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$38.4 million in 2005-06 for a communications campaign to explain the Government's workplace relations reform package.

The campaign includes newspaper, television, radio, magazine and internet advertising with targeted strategies for persons who are non-English speaking, Indigenous and print handicapped. It will explain why reforms are needed and intended outcomes of the reforms. The package also includes funding for research on awareness of the reforms.

Further information can be found in the press release of 9 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Workplace Relations Reform — compliance

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	13.2	46.2	41.7	39.6

The Government will provide \$140.7 million over four years to support an increase in the Office of Workplace Services' compliance, enforcement and education resources. The Fair Pay and Conditions Standard, federal awards and agreements, and state awards and agreements brought into the new federal workplace relations system will fall under the compliance regime.

The funding will allow additional staff to be employed in compliance and enforcement activity, including auditing of workplaces to ensure they meet the Fair Pay and Conditions standard and award conditions, and answering enquiries on workplace relations issues.

Further information can be found in the press release of 2 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Workplace Relations Reform — development and implementation

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	17.3	20.5	13.7	15.7
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	35.8	3.4	0.7	0.7

The Government will provide \$107.9 million over four years for the development and implementation of policy and legislation for workplace relations reforms.

This measure includes funding for:

- policy and legislation development and initial implementation of reforms by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations;
- the refurbishment and expansion of the premises of the Office of Workplace Services;
- an expansion of the Office of the Employment Advocate's premises to undertake its extended role in agreement making; and
- information technology infrastructure at the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

This measure includes \$40.7 million in capital funding for office fit-out and information technology infrastructure.

Further information can be found in the press release of 9 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Workplace Relations Reform — establishing the Australian Fair Pay Commission

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	2.8	7.2	7.3	7.4
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	2.5	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$27.2 million over four years to establish the Australian Fair Pay Commission. The Commission will have independent authority to set and adjust minimum and award classification rates of pay, minimum wages for juniors, trainees, apprentices and employees with disabilities, minimum wages for piece workers and casual loadings.

A Secretariat will assist the five member Australian Fair Pay Commission in the performance of its functions.

This measure includes \$2.5 million in capital funding for property and information technology infrastructure.

Further information can be found in the press release of 2 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Workplace Relations Reform — information and education

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	7.4	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$7.4 million in 2005-06 for communication and education activities to support the Government's workplace relations reforms.

The measure will include \$4.7 million for call centre services to answer preliminary enquiries and requests for information on the workplace relations reforms. It will also include \$2.7 million for printing and distribution of a range of information products to educate people about the reforms.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Further information can be found in the press release of 9 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Workplace Relations Reforms — advice and education concerning termination of employment

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	3.3	11.3	6.6	6.4
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
<i>Department of Employment and Workplace Relations</i>	0.5	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$28.1 million over four years to help advise employees who believe their employment might have been terminated unlawfully and to educate employers on their obligations under the reformed termination of employment provisions. The programme includes:

- Funding of up to \$4,000 per claim to enable employees to seek independent legal advice where they believe their employment might have been terminated unlawfully and they have not been able to resolve their dispute through conciliation. The Office of Workplace Services in the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations will refer eligible employees to legal firms for advice; and
- Funding of \$5 million over two years for an education and training programme on fair and proper employment termination practices to assist employers understand their legal obligations. The programme will be delivered by the Office of Workplace Services and employer organisations.

This measure includes \$0.5 million in capital funding for information technology infrastructure.

Further information can be found in the press release of 2 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Workplace Relations Reforms — alternative dispute resolution

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	0.6	2.1	3.4	5.2

The Government will provide \$11.4 million over four years to establish an alternative dispute resolution scheme for parties in workplace disputes.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Funding will be made available to enable parties to access private alternative dispute resolution services if dispute resolution efforts in the workplace have been unsuccessful. The alternative dispute resolution scheme will provide an opportunity for parties to resolve disputes without having to seek conciliation or arbitration by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

Further information can be found in the press release of 9 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Biofuels Taskforce — Australian Government response

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Environment and Heritage	*	*	*	*
Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources	*	*	*	*
Total	*	*	*	*

The Government will provide funding to implement a range of measures to address market barriers and restore and build consumer confidence in biofuels. These measures form part of the Government's response to the Biofuels Taskforce Report.

The main elements of the biofuels package will include: increasing fuel quality compliance inspections to ensure ethanol blends meet fuel quality standards; undertaking testing of vehicles using ethanol blended fuel; and commissioning a study into the health impacts of ethanol use.

The implementation details of these measures (and associated funding) are currently being developed.

Further information can be found in the press release of 22 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

HMAS SYDNEY II — search

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Environment and Heritage	1.3	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$1.3 million in 2005-06 to HMAS Sydney Search Pty Ltd to help fund the search for the HMAS SYDNEY II, a cruiser lost off the West Australian coast in 1941. The commencement of the search coincides with the 60th Anniversary year of the end of World War II.

Further information can be found in the press release of 14 August 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement — Forest Conservation Fund

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Environment and Heritage	nfp	nfp	nfp	nfp

The Government will establish a new Forest Conservation Fund to reserve an additional 43,200 hectares of private forest through voluntary sale or protective covenant over the land. The cost of this measure is unable to be disclosed, as this would be likely to affect negotiations. Funding for this measure has been placed in the contingency reserve.

This measure was announced on 6 October 2004 as part of the Government's election commitment, *A Sustainable Future for Tasmania*, and confirmed in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement — reservation of private forest at Mole Creek

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Environment and Heritage	1.4	1.4	0.7	-

The Government will provide \$3.6 million over three years to reserve up to 2,400 hectares of private forest adjacent to the Mole Creek National Park through voluntary sale or protective covenant over the land.

This measure was announced on 6 October 2004 as part of the Government's election commitment, *A Sustainable Future for Tasmania*, and confirmed in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement — river catchment water quality auditing

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Environment and Heritage	0.5	0.5	-	-

The Government will provide \$1.0 million over two years from 2005-06 towards a study of the chemical residues from farming and forestry practices in Tasmanian river catchments, drawing on the expertise of the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation.

This measure was announced on 6 October 2004 as part of the Government's election commitment, *A Sustainable Future for Tasmania*, and confirmed in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement — saving the Tasmanian Devil

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Environment and Heritage	1.0	1.0	-	-

The Government will provide \$2.0 million over two years from 2005-06 to accelerate research efforts to find a cure for the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease.

This measure was announced on 6 October 2004 as part of the Government's election commitment, *A Sustainable Future for Tasmania*, and confirmed in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement — Tarkine bush walk

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Environment and Heritage	0.5	0.5	-	-

The Government will provide \$1.0 million over two years from 2005-06 to assist the development of bushwalking tracks and related infrastructure in the Tarkine area.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

This measure was announced on 6 October 2004 as part of the Government's election commitment, *A Sustainable Future for Tasmania*, and confirmed in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement — tourism and recreation

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Environment and Heritage	1.0	1.0	-	-

The Government will provide \$2.0 million over two years to improve visitor facilities in forest areas of Tasmania, focusing on the new reserves created under the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Disability support — assistance for establishing private care arrangements for future care

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Family and Community Services	..	1.6	1.7	2.2

The Government will provide \$5.5 million over four years to provide family mediation and counselling services to parents and their families who are establishing private arrangements to help meet the future financial needs of a son or daughter with a severe disability. These services could include, for example, counselling to help address family disagreements over gifting bequests.

These services will be provided through local family mediation and counselling services funded through the Family Relationships Services Programme.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Family and Community Services.

Disability support — further consultation and research

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Family and Community Services	-	1.1	0.1	-

The Government will provide funding of \$1.2 million over two years from 2006-07 to undertake research into the needs of carers in relation to the future care and support of sons and daughters with severe disabilities.

The measure will include consultation with parents and families that include people with severe disabilities and will explore ways that carers might make private provision for the future care of a person with a disability should they wish to do so.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Family and Community Services.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Disability support — future care planning information package

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Family and Community Services	-	2.4	1.1	1.1

The Government will provide \$4.6 million over three years from 2006-07 to publish an information package on future care arrangements to assist parents of sons and daughters with disabilities. The package will include a guide on various support options, including advice on accessing financial and legal advice, and establishing co-operative housing and care arrangements.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Family and Community Services.

Disability support — trusts and gifting exemption from assets test

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Family and Community Services	0.9	19.7	69.7	104.1
Centrelink	-	5.4	2.4	2.6
Department of Veterans' Affairs	..	1.6	4.6	6.8
Total	0.9	26.7	76.7	113.4
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Veterans' Affairs	0.1	0.1	-	-

The Government will exempt assets gifted to trusts established to help provide for the future care of people with a severe disability from the social security and veterans' assets test. This will apply for the first \$500,000 held by a trust and the exemption will only be available for parents, guardians or immediate relatives of the person with the disability. The Government will also exempt related trust income, for the person with a severe disability, from social security and veterans' affairs income tests. These changes are estimated to cost \$217.9 million over four years (including \$0.2 million in capital funding over two years from 2005-06). The measure will commence on 20 September 2006.

Further information can be found in the press release 13 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Family and Community Services.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Drought assistance — Family Relationships Services Programme

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Family and Community Services	1.5	1.6	-	-
Centrelink	0.4	0.4	-	-
Total	2.0	2.0	-	-

The Government will provide \$4.0 million from 2005-06 to 2006-07 for the Family Relationships Services Programme. Face-to-face and telephone counselling services will be provided to people in exceptional circumstances declared areas through Centrelink and the Department of Family and Community Services.

Further information can be found in the press release of 30 May 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Family assistance — changes to arrangements for separated couples

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Family and Community Services	3.2	1.3	1.3	1.4

The Government will amend the family assistance reconciliation arrangements to allow Family Tax Benefit (FTB) recipients to reconcile their FTB even if their ex-partner has not lodged a tax return. This measure will commence on 1 January 2006 and is expected to cost \$7.3 million over four years.

When parents separate, the current system enables a reconciliation of FTB payments in the year before separation even if one partner had not lodged a tax return for that year. However, it was not possible to reconcile the FTB entitlement in the second year before separation if either partner had not lodged their tax return for this year. This has prevented an FTB top-up payment in these situations where the recipient would have otherwise been entitled to such a payment.

This measure will also allow for those FTB and Child Care Benefit debts that exist solely because of the failure of an ex-partner to lodge a tax return to be written off.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Family Income Management Programme — additional funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Family and Community Services	0.2	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$0.2 million in additional funding for Family Income Management Programme centres in Aurukun, Coen and Mossman Gorge. This funding will enable their operation to continue until the end of the financial year while a review is undertaken to examine continued funding.

The Family Income Management Programme aims to develop the capacity of Indigenous Australians to manage their income effectively and achieve improved living standards.

Family Tax Benefit — preventing duplicate Rent Assistance payments

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Centrelink	3.7	2.8	0.8	0.7
Department of Family and Community Services	-4.0	-4.1	-4.2	-4.3
Total	-0.3	-1.3	-3.4	-3.6
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Centrelink	1.5	-	-	-

The Government has amended the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999*, the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999*, the *Social Security Act 1991* and the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* to ensure that Family Assistance recipients are only entitled to receive Rent Assistance once through the family assistance and social security systems.

By preventing duplicate rent assistance payments, this measure is estimated to reduce Rent Assistance outlays by \$16.6 million over four years, and will cost \$9.5 million over four years to administer.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Floods — ex-gratia assistance to affected households

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Family and Community Services	0.1	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$94,000 in 2005-06 to make ex-gratia payments to assist those affected by the floods, which occurred in Virginia and Two Wells in South Australia and the Central West of New South Wales. Payments will be made where a household member was killed in the floods or the principal place of residence has been destroyed or otherwise rendered uninhabitable.

Further information can be found in the press release of 9 November 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Indigenous Land Reform — Home Ownership Incentive Programme

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Family and Community Services	-	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$5.0 million in 2005-06 under the Community Housing and Infrastructure Programme (CHIP) for the Home Ownership Incentive Programme on community title land. The programme will give those long-term tenants of Indigenous Community Housing Organisations (ICHOs) who have a capacity to repay a housing loan the option to purchase their home.

This represents an extension of the Home Ownership Incentive Scheme currently operating under CHIP on non-community land. The cost of this measure will be met from existing resources for the CHIP.

See also the related expense measures titled *Indigenous Land Reform – Home Ownership on Indigenous Land Programme* and *Indigenous Land Reform – Northern Territory township tenure* in the Employment and Workplace Relations, and Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs portfolios, respectively.

Further information can be found in the press release of 5 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Institutional care — response to Senate Committee reports

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Family and Community Services	-	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$0.3 million over three years from 2005-06 to 2007-08 as part of its response to the two Senate Committee reports on children in institutional or foster care *Forgotten Australians: a report on Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children* and *Protecting Vulnerable Children: a national challenge*.

This measure will provide funding for a national conference of out-of-home care service providers and support organisations; organisations supporting children formerly in institutional care; suitable memorials commemorating people who were in institutional care; and a national conference on child protection.

In its response to the reports, the Government has also addressed issues relating to support for people who have left care, acknowledged what happened to children in institutional care and recognised State and Territory Governments', non-government agencies' and churches' responsibility for the well being of children in institutional care.

The cost of this measure will be met from within the existing resourcing of the Department of Family and Community Services.

Further information can be found in the press release of 10 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Family and Community Services.

London Bombings — ex-gratia assistance

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Family and Community Services	0.4	0.2	..	-
Centrelink	0.3	-	-	-
Total	0.7	0.2	-	-

The Government will provide \$1.0 million over three years to assist Australians affected by the 7 July 2005 bombings in London.

The Government will provide for reimbursement of reasonable costs not covered by insurance incurred in connection with the death or serious injury of an Australian as a result of the bombings. This will include funeral expenses, out-of-pocket medical costs, and the reasonable costs of counselling and psychological care for families of Australian victims and Australians who have lost non-Australian family members.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Further information can be found in the press release of 10 July 2005 issued by the Minister for Family and Community Services.

Reconnecting people — assistance package for those adversely affected by inappropriate immigration detention

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Family and Community Services	1.8	0.6	-	-
Centrelink	0.7	0.1	-	-
Total	2.5	0.7	-	-

The Government will provide \$3.1 million over two years from 2005-06 to help those adversely affected by inappropriate immigration detention re-establish themselves in the Australian community. The assistance package will provide affected people with support towards medical and accommodation costs, Centrelink case officers to help them access other programmes and services, personal assistance for essentials and travel costs to a permanent place of residence.

Further information can be found in the press release of 14 July 2005 issued by the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

Stronger Families and Communities Strategy — additional funding for the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Children

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Family and Community Services	3.1	0.9	2.4	1.0

The Government will provide an additional \$10.6 million over six years, including \$2.5 million in 2009-10 and \$0.6 million in 2010-11, to complete the second, third and fourth surveys that will form part of the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Children.

The survey is a comprehensive national study of children and their families. It will help to establish an evidence base for future family and child policy formulation.

The Government originally provided \$20.2 million over nine years for four waves of this survey as part of the *Stronger Families and Communities Strategy* in the 2000-01 Budget.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program — continuation of funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Family and Community Services	-	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$932.2 million over five years to the States and Territories as its contribution to the fifth Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP V).

The latest agreement, which commenced on 1 October 2005, governs the arrangements for the distribution of funding to the States and Territories to assist them to provide support for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The agreement includes the establishment of the Innovation and Investment Fund (the Fund) that will improve the delivery of services to homeless people. The costs of the Fund will be met jointly by the Australian Government and States and Territories.

This measure involves funding of \$178.5 million in 2005-06, \$182.5 million in 2006-07, \$186.5 million in 2007-08, \$190.4 million in 2008-09 and \$194.3 million in 2009-10. Provision for the conclusion of the SAAP V was already included in the forward estimates.

Further information can be found in the press release of 5 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Family and Community Services.

Welfare to Work — expanded eligibility for Carer Payment

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Centrelink	0.4	-0.2	-0.4	-0.5
Department of Family and Community Services	0.3	21.5	33.0	37.6
Department of Health and Ageing	-	1.2	1.9	2.1
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	-	-9.9	-15.1	-17.1
Total	0.7	12.8	19.4	22.1

The Government will expand eligibility for Carer Payment to those individuals caring for children with severe intellectual, psychiatric or behavioural disabilities.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

This measure, to be implemented on 1 July 2006, builds on the assistance provided to parents and people with disabilities in the *Welfare to Work* package announced in the 2005-06 Budget. It is expected to lead to additional expenses from the Department of Family and Community Services of \$92.4 million over four years, comprising \$92.0 million in Carer Payment and \$0.4 million in administrative costs. It will also reduce other income support payments by an expected \$36.8 million over four years as some recipients on other income support payments transfer to Carer Payment, and save \$0.7 million in Centrelink administration costs. This is expected to cost \$55.0 million over four years.

Further information can be found in the press release of 12 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Family and Community Services.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Federal elections — improving the integrity of Australia's electoral system

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Electoral Commission	-	7.9	8.2	2.9
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
<i>Australian Electoral Commission</i>	-	1.6	-	-

The Government will provide \$31.0 million over five years (including \$5.5 million in 2009-10) to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to implement a number of reforms to the Australian electoral system. The total funding includes \$4.9 million to be met from the existing resourcing of the AEC (including \$1.8 million in 2005-06). The total funding includes \$1.8 million in capital (including \$0.2 million in 2005-06) to allow the AEC to modify its existing information technology systems.

The funding largely relates to the introduction of a proof of identity requirement for enrolment or change of enrolment on the electoral roll. The other reforms which will be implemented include reducing the close of rolls period, establishing a proof of identity requirement for provisional voting, requiring certain third parties that incurred expenditure for a political purpose to complete annual disclosure returns, and removing voting rights for prisoners serving a sentence of full-time detention.

This measure implements some of the Government-supported recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters' report on the 2004 Federal Election, as well as other reforms considered a priority by the Government.

Further information can be found in the press release of 6 December 2005 issued by the Special Minister of State.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Gateway Review Process™ — introduction

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Finance and Administration	0.9	1.5	1.5	1.3
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Finance and Administration	..	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$5.2 million over four years (including \$44,000 in capital funding in 2005-06) to introduce a new evaluation process for major government projects utilising the Gateway Review Process™ (Gateway). The adoption of Gateway will improve the early detection of problems and risks associated with major information technology, procurement and infrastructure projects undertaken by Australian Government agencies and departments subject to the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*. It is also expected to improve the timeliness and cost effectiveness of these projects. Similar processes have also been adopted in the United Kingdom and Victoria.

Gateway will be introduced progressively, applying to a small cross-section of high risk projects arising in the 2006-07 Budget and expanding to encompass all high and medium risk projects commencing from 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

Further information can be found in the press release of 10 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration.

Goods and Services Tax relativity assessments — simplification and quality assurance

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Commonwealth Grants Commission	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.0

The Government will provide \$5.3 million over five years (including \$0.8 million in 2009-10) to assist the Commonwealth Grants Commission to meet the requirements of its 2010 Methodology Review Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference require the Commission to simplify its processes for assessing Goods and Services Tax relativities in a manner consistent with the principle of achieving horizontal fiscal equalisation between the States and Territories. The Commission is also required to report in 2006 on its progress in improving quality assurance processes.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Menzies Research Centre, Chifley Research Centre and Page Research Centre — increased funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Finance and Administration	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

The Government will provide an increase in annual funding for the Menzies Research Centre and the Chifley Research Centre of \$75,000 each and an increase in annual funding for the Page Research Centre of \$37,500. This will increase total annual funding for the Menzies Research Centre and the Chifley Research Centre to \$175,000 and total annual funding for the Page Research Centre to \$87,500.

Promoting global democracy

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Finance and Administration	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

The Government will make available up to \$1 million per year in grant funding to both the Australian Labor Party and the Liberal Party to support international activities to promote democracy within the region and in the rest of the world.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

Avian influenza — assistance to Indonesia

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Agency for International Development	-	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$10.0 million in 2005-06 to Indonesia to assist in addressing the threat of avian influenza. The funding will be targeted towards improving detection, diagnosis and containment of the virus in response to a potential outbreak, as well as increasing public awareness and information sharing.

The cost of this measure is being met fully from within AusAID's existing resourcing.

Further information can be found in the press releases of 26 September and 13 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Avian influenza — Pacific pandemic preparedness assistance

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Agency for International Development	-	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$8.0 million over four years to support the Pacific states to counter the threats posed by avian influenza and other infectious diseases. The package will increase regional and national capacity to respond rapidly to emerging diseases through stronger quarantine systems, infection prevention and control programmes, and animal health surveillance systems.

The cost of this measure is being met fully from within AusAID's existing resourcing.

Further information can be found in the press release of 26 October 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Hurricane Emily — donation

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Agency for International Development	-	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$0.3 million in 2005-06 to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to assist victims of Hurricane Emily in Grenada. The donation will assist the organisation to support the immediate humanitarian response and assist with the longer term reconstruction of facilities.

The cost of this measure is being fully met from within AusAID's existing resourcing.

Hurricane Katrina — contribution

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	10.0	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$10.0 million in 2005-06 to the American Red Cross as part of Australia's response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in the United States of America. The donation was given to the American Red Cross to assist in responding to the urgent needs of disaster victims, including through the provision of food, water and shelter, and counselling and other support services.

Further information can be found in the press releases of 2 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Hurricane Katrina — ex-gratia payments

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	..	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$25,000 in 2005-06 in ex-gratia payments to Australian victims of Hurricane Katrina. The payments are to reimburse Australian victims for costs including travel, accommodation and meals.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Nauru — development assistance

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Agency for International Development	nfp	nfp	nfp	nfp

The Government will provide additional funding for development assistance to Nauru. The funding will support the offshore immigration processing facilities; strengthen governance, development planning and infrastructure projects; and enable economy-wide reforms. In addition, the Australian Federal Police will provide assistance to the Nauru Police Force through its International Deployment Group (IDG) programme.

As funding provided under the Memorandum of Understanding is negotiated on an annual basis with the Government of Nauru, the funding details of the assistance package are not for publication.

See also the related expense measures titled *Nauru – implementation of aid package* and *Nauru – upgrade of Consulate-General* in the Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio.

Nauru — implementation of aid package

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Agency for International Development	0.5	0.9	1.0	1.0

The Government will provide \$3.4 million over four years to implement Australia's development assistance package for Nauru. The funding will be used to establish a dedicated office for managing the Nauru development package.

See also the related expense measures titled *Nauru – development assistance* and *Nauru – upgrade of Consulate-General* in the Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Nauru — upgrade of Consulate-General

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	1.2	2.0	2.1	2.2
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	2.4	-	-	-
Australian Agency for International Development	0.4	-	-	-
Total	2.7	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$10.1 million over four years to upgrade the current temporary Consulate-General in Nauru. The Consulate-General plays a key role in delivering Australia's continuing development assistance to Nauru.

This amount includes \$2.7 million in capital funding, which will provide for the upgrade and fit-out of leased premises, including communications and information technology.

See also the related expense measures titled *Nauru – implementation of aid package* and *Nauru – development assistance* in the Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio.

October 2005 Bali bombings — additional funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	0.2	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$0.2 million in 2005-06 to cover costs incurred by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in responding to the 1 October 2005 Bali bombings. The funding is for the additional costs of providing emergency consular support to Australian victims and their families, and managing the whole-of-government response to the crisis.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

South Asia earthquake — assistance

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Agency for International Development	-	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$64.3 million over four years to assist the South Asia earthquake relief and reconstruction effort. Funding of \$24.3 million will be provided, in 2005-06, to a number of organisations including United Nations' agencies, Australian non-government organisations, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The funding will assist in the provision of medical support, water and shelter for those affected by the earthquake and in the re-establishment of schools. The remaining \$40 million will be provided over four years to support the reconstruction effort in the region, with a focus on rebuilding schools and other education facilities, as well as health facilities.

The cost of this measure is being met fully from within AusAID's existing resourcing.

Further information can be found in the press releases of 10, 11 and 23 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the press release of 1 November 2005 issued by the Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and in the press release of 23 November 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Strengthening pandemic preparedness

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Agency for International Development	-	39.5	30.4	16.1

The Government will provide \$100.0 million over four years (including \$14.0 million in 2009-10) to strengthen the capacity and preparedness of the Asia-Pacific region to deal with future disease pandemics, including avian influenza. The funding will provide for technical assistance, training, equipment and essential medical supplies to improve surveillance, diagnostic and treatment capabilities and preparedness planning in developing countries of East Asia and the Pacific.

Further information can be found in the press release of 19 November 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

United Nations Democracy Fund — contribution

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Agency for International Development	-	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$10.0 million in 2005-06 to the United Nations Democracy Fund to facilitate projects that build and strengthen democratic institutions and facilitate governance in new, emerging and consolidated democracies.

The cost of this measure is being fully met within AusAID's existing resourcing.

Further information can be found in the press release of 14 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

HEALTH AND AGEING

Addressing Indigenous Needs — combating petrol sniffing — additional funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	3.0	3.0	-	-
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	1.5	2.0	-	-
Total	4.5	5.0	-	-

The Government will provide an additional \$9.5 million over two years to further reduce the incidence of petrol sniffing in Central Desert Indigenous communities in collaboration with State and Territory governments.

This funding includes \$6.0 million to the Department of Health and Ageing to support a wider roll-out of the non-sniffable OPAL petrol to all Indigenous communities, roadhouses and pastoral stations within the Central Desert area.

An additional \$0.5 million will be provided to the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs in 2005-06 to support incentives for States and Territories to crackdown on trafficking petrol into 'dry' communities and to implement effective legislation. A further \$3.0 million over two years will be provided to support diversionary and capacity building activities.

Further information can be found in the joint press release of 12 September 2005 issued by the Ministers for Health and Ageing, and Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

Aged care — funding for improved information technology, financial reporting and training

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	-	-	-	-

The Government provided \$152.0 million in 2004-05 to make a one-off payment of \$1,000 per resident to residential aged care providers. This funding will enable aged care providers to take advantage of new technologies, improve business practices, and increase staff training in areas such as dementia care. The enhanced use of new information technology will reduce the amount of time aged care staff spend on paper work, therefore increasing the amount of time able to be spent with residents.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Further information can be found in the press release of 27 June 2005 issued by the Minister for Ageing.

Aged Care — new scheme to protect accommodation bonds and enhance prudential arrangements

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	2.7	2.7	3.0	-
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Health and Ageing	0.2	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$8.5 million over three years to establish a new scheme to strengthen the protection of aged care residents' accommodation bonds and to enhance prudential regulatory arrangements. This measure includes \$0.2 million in capital funding in 2005-06 for the development of an IT system.

The new scheme will ensure that residents' outstanding bonds will be repaid in full in the event that a provider defaults as a result of bankruptcy or insolvency. While the Government will step in to repay bonds in the first instance, any payments will be recovered from the defaulting provider and, if necessary, through a levy on all aged care providers who hold bonds. Any possible Government payments under the guarantee scheme and subsequent levies are unquantifiable at this stage.

The Government will also enhance the prudential regulatory arrangements that currently apply to residential aged care providers holding bonds. The new standards will focus on providing a more comprehensive picture of the current bond holdings of providers and their ability to refund those bonds, and provide residents, prospective residents, and their families with improved information about the financial stability of a provider.

Further information can be found in the press release of 15 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Ageing.

Assisted Reproductive Technologies Review Committee — funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	0.5	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$0.5 million in 2005-06 for the Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) Review Committee to independently review the clinical and cost effectiveness of ART. The review process is expected to be completed by the end of 2005-06 and the findings of the review will help to inform future policy for ART.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Further information can be found in the press releases of 10 May and 4 July 2005 issued by the Minister for Health and Ageing.

Commonwealth Carelink Programme — continued funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	-	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$18.2 million in 2007-08 to continue the Commonwealth Carelink Programme, which provides a single point of contact for people to access information about community services including eligibility requirements.

The measure will align funding for this programme with other related community care and support programmes to enable the Government to enter into three-year funding agreements with service providers. This will allow for a comprehensive review of all the programmes in 2007-08. This approach is consistent with the 2004 report, *A New Strategy for Community Care – The Way Forward*.

Provision for this funding in 2007-08 has already been included in the forward estimates.

See also the related expense measures *Dementia and challenging behaviours initiative – continued funding*, *Staying at home respite for carers – continued funding* and *Support for carers – continued funding*.

Community Pharmacy Agreement

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Veterans' Affairs	3.0	-12.4	-12.5	-13.3
Medicare Australia	2.7	2.0	1.9	2.0
Department of Health and Ageing	-7.7	-63.9	-55.8	-65.6
Total	-2.0	-74.3	-66.4	-76.9
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Medicare Australia	0.8	-	-	-

The Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement, which will run from 1 December 2005 to 30 June 2010, is expected to achieve net savings of \$306.8 million over the life of the agreement (including savings of \$88.0 million in 2009-10).

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

The savings from changes to pharmacy and wholesaler remuneration are predominantly driven by reductions in the mark-up on the price of medicines for wholesalers. Part of these savings have been redirected into an increased dispensing fee for pharmacists and a Community Service Obligation funding pool which will help ensure access to the full range of PBS medicines in all parts of Australia.

Further information can be found in the press release of 8 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Health and Ageing.

Dementia and challenging behaviours initiative — continued funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	-	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$23.8 million in 2007-08 to continue the increased provision of respite care for carers of people with dementia and challenging behaviour.

The measure will align funding for this programme with other related community care and support programmes to enable the Government to enter into three-year funding agreements with service providers. This will allow for a comprehensive review of all the programmes in 2007-08. This approach is consistent with the 2004 report, *A New Strategy for Community Care – The Way Forward*.

This measure involves funding of \$23.8 million in 2007-08. Provision for this funding has already been included in the forward estimates.

See also the related expense measures *Commonwealth Carelink Programme – continued funding*, *Staying at home respite for carers – continued funding* and *Support for carers – continued funding*.

Medicare Australia — additional funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	5.4	3.2	3.4	3.3

The Government will provide \$15.3 million over four years to Medicare Australia to fund the maintenance of two Medicare offices in Rosebud and Fountaingate in Victoria, support the introduction of extended trading hours, and facilitate the organisation's transition from the Health Insurance Commission to Medicare Australia.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Medicare Benefits Schedule — new and revised listings

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	10.9	16.7	17.6	18.8

The Government will provide \$63.9 million over four years for new and revised listings on the Medicare Benefits Schedule added since the 2005-06 Budget.

The amendments to the schedule include:

- new items and a home visit loading for optometrists;
- new and revised items for pelvic floor surgery for prolapse in women;
- new items for sentinel node biopsy;
- revised items for intensive care surgery;
- a new item for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) serology testing; and
- new and revised items for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) testing.

Further information can be found in the summary of changes included in the 1 November 2005 Medicare Benefits Schedule issued by the Department of Health and Ageing.

National Health and Medical Research Council — transition to a new governance structure

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
National Health and Medical Research Council	0.3	-	-	-
Total	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5

The Government will provide \$2.1 million over four years for the establishment of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) as a statutory agency from 1 July 2006, in response to recent reviews of the NHMRC's operations.

This initiative will improve reporting and accountability of the NHMRC to the Government, and will provide the NHMRC with financial and operational autonomy, while allowing for the continuation of its key functions of research and advice on both health and ethical issues.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Further information can be found in the press release of 7 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Health and Ageing.

National Immunisation Programme — new and revised vaccinations

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	1.2	0.5	0.2	0.2

The Government will provide \$2.1 million over four years for changes to the National Immunisation Programme made since the 2005-06 Budget.

The adjustments to the National Immunisation Programme include the addition of a Hepatitis A vaccine for at risk Indigenous children from 1 November 2005 and a change to the delivery of the adolescent diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccination in South Australia.

Further information can be found in the press release of 28 June 2005 issued by the Minister for Health and Ageing.

Pandemic influenza — fast tracking pandemic influenza vaccine production

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	4.9	-	-	-

The Government will provide Australian pharmaceutical company CSL Ltd with \$4.9 million in 2005-06 to fast track production of pandemic influenza vaccine for Australia. This funding will assist in bringing forward the completion of the pandemic influenza vaccine development programme by 18 months to August 2006.

The funding will enable CSL Ltd to make necessary alterations to its existing manufacturing capacity and bring forward the commencement of clinical trials of a prototype pandemic influenza vaccine for the current H5N1 influenza strain.

Further information can be found in the press release of 22 July 2005 issued by the Minister for Health and Ageing.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Pandemic influenza preparedness — enhancement

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	6.6	2.7	1.8	1.6
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Health and Ageing	0.5	1.7	0.9	-

The Government will provide \$15.9 million over four years (including \$3.1 million of capital funding for information technology enhancements) to further enhance Australia's preparedness for a potential pandemic influenza.

The additional funding consists of:

- \$5.8 million for communications including consumer research, material development, stakeholder forums and continuation of the pandemic influenza hotline, for use prior to and during a pandemic;
- \$5.6 million for developing and strengthening Australia's influenza surveillance networks including extending the national sentinel surveillance system and the National Sentinel Influenza Coordinators Network of the State and Territory health departments;
- \$0.4 million for initiatives to monitor people who are home quarantined; and
- \$4.1 million for a major national simulation exercise in October 2006 to test health system and broader preparedness and response to a simulated pandemic influenza outbreak.

Further information can be found in the press release of 11 December 2005 issued by the Minister of Health and Ageing.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Pandemic influenza preparedness — Office of Health Protection

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	3.2	7.4	6.9	7.0
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Health and Ageing	2.9	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$27.3 million over four years (including \$2.9 million of capital funding for office fit-out costs) for the creation of the Office of Health Protection (OHP), a specialist division within the Department of Health and Ageing. The OHP's role will be to help ensure Australia's health system has coordinated arrangements to respond effectively to national health emergencies, including infectious disease outbreaks, terrorism and national disasters.

The funding will provide for strengthened biosecurity capacity, enhanced disease monitoring, stronger human security links within government and increased capacity to coordinate health related pandemic planning and action. Specific tasks of the OHP will include managing the national medical stockpile, upgrading the National Incident Room, and developing and improving business continuity planning, surveillance systems, laboratory capacity and communication strategies.

Further information can be found in the press release of 11 December 2005 issued by the Minister of Health and Ageing.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme — extend the listing of Arimidex® (anastrozole)

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	1.6	7.3	14.7	20.8
Department of Veterans' Affairs	0.1	0.3	0.7	1.0
Medicare Australia	..	..	..	..
Total	1.7	7.6	15.4	21.8

The Government will, from 1 December 2005, extend the listing of Arimidex® (anastrozole) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), at a cost of \$46.7 million over four years.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Anastrozole is a drug used in the treatment of post-menopausal women with hormone dependent breast cancer. The PBS listing of anastrozole was previously restricted to the treatment of advanced (metastatic) breast cancer and early (adjuvant) breast cancer in those women who cannot take tamoxifen. The extended listing will make anastrozole available for the treatment of early breast cancer in all post-menopausal women. This will help reduce the risk associated with tumour recurrence and the development of a new primary breast cancer.

The cost to the Government of providing Arimidex® will be \$200.19 per script. General consumers will pay a \$28.60 co-payment per script and concession card holders will pay a \$4.60 co-payment per script.

Further information can be found in the press release of 21 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Health and Ageing.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme — extend the listing of Eloxatin® (oxaliplatin)

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	21.5	31.7	36.1	39.9
Department of Veterans' Affairs	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.7
Medicare Australia	..	..	..	..
Total	22.3	33.0	37.6	41.6

The Government will extend the listing of Eloxatin® (oxaliplatin) from 1 October 2005 on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, at a cost of \$134.6 million over four years.

Oxaliplatin, a drug used in the treatment of colon cancer and previously restricted to stage IV (metastatic) colo-rectal cancer patients, will now be available for treatment of stage III (adjuvant) colon cancer. This will help reduce the risk of tumour recurrence and subsequent progression to stage IV colon cancer.

The cost to the Government of providing Eloxatin® will be approximately \$1,327 per cycle. On average, there are ten cycles per year. General consumers will pay a \$28.60 co-payment per cycle and concession card holders will pay a \$4.60 co-payment per cycle.

Further information can be found in the press release of 1 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Health and Ageing.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme — increased PBS subsidy for Lipitor® (atorvastatin)

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	35.5	85.2	97.3	111.3
Department of Veterans' Affairs	2.1	4.4	5.1	5.9
Total	37.6	89.6	102.5	117.2

The Government will pay an increased price for Lipitor® (atorvastatin) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) at a cost of \$346.9 million over four years. The Government has accepted the recommendation of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee that atorvastatin is more effective at lowering cholesterol than other available statins, warranting a higher price that needs to be met by a commensurately greater PBS subsidy. The cost to the Government of providing Lipitor® is \$63.57 per script. General consumers will pay a \$28.60 co-payment per script and concession card holders will pay a \$4.60 co-payment per script.

Further information can be found in the press release of 15 July 2005 issued by the Minister for Health and Ageing.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme — listing of Inspra® (Eplerenone)

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	0.6	2.7	5.2	7.5
Department of Veterans' Affairs	..	0.1	0.2	0.3
Medicare Australia	..	..	..	..
Total	0.6	2.8	5.4	7.9

The Government will, from 1 February 2006, list Inspra® on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, at an estimated cost of \$16.8 million over four years.

Inspra® is expected to reduce the chance of patients having a subsequent heart attack after an initial heart attack, decrease the number of hospital admissions for the treatment of heart failure, and lower the risk of death from a cardiovascular event.

The cost to the Government of providing Inspra® will be \$114.60 per script. General consumers will pay \$28.60 co-payment per script and concession card holders will pay a \$4.60 co-payment per script.

Further information can be found in the press release of 7 December 2005 issued by the Minister for Health and Ageing.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme — minor new listings

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	3.2	3.7	4.0	4.3

The Government will provide \$15.3 million over four years for minor new listings on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme since the 2005-06 Budget.

The minor new listings are a mix of drugs that have been listed at either no additional cost to the Budget (because they displace existing drugs) or at an estimated cost of less than \$10 million per annum. The drug listings that have a minor cost to the Government include Ritalin® for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and Modavigil® for the treatment of narcolepsy. However, the majority of new listings since the 2005-06 Budget are cost neutral as they simply increase the variety of brands or strengths of existing drugs. There was no financial impact from these new listings in the 2004-05 financial year.

Further information can be found in the press releases of 1 August 2005 issued by the Minister for Health and Ageing.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme — retain listing of calcium tablets

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.7
Department of Veterans' Affairs	..	0.1	0.1	0.1
Medicare Australia	..	..	..	..
Total	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.8

The Government will retain calcium tablets on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for patients with hyperphosphataemia due to chronic renal failure, at a cost of \$2.5 million over four years.

Further information can be found in the press release of 28 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Health and Ageing.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Private Health Insurance — deferral of reinsurance reforms

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	-1.7	-4.5	-0.4	-0.3

The Government will defer introduction of the 2003-04 Budget measure *Private Health Insurance Premiums – further measures to contain future increases*, leading to savings of \$7.0 million over four years.

Current reinsurance arrangements will be maintained pending the outcome of a review of the suitability of these reforms.

Further information can be found in the Private Health Insurance Circular of 26 September 2005 issued by the Department of Health and Ageing.

Private Health Insurance — development of options to increase competitiveness and coverage

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	0.4	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$0.4 million in 2005-06 to the Department of Health and Ageing to develop options for increasing the competitiveness of private health insurance products and coverage of private health insurance. This will include modelling the impact of these options on premiums, policy holders and costs to government, and identifying required changes to the current reinsurance arrangements.

Current reinsurance arrangements will be maintained pending the outcome of the development of options. Further information can be found in the measure *Private Health Insurance – deferral of reinsurance reforms*.

Further information can be found in the Private Health Insurance Circular of 26 September 2005 issued by the Department of Health and Ageing.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Private Health Insurance Ombudsman — increased powers

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Private Health Insurance Ombudsman	-	0.2	0.2	0.2
<i>Related revenue (\$m)</i>				
Private Health Insurance Ombudsman	-	0.2	0.2	0.2

Additional funding of \$0.6 million over three years will be provided to the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman to mediate complaints and contract disputes involving providers of privately insured health services as well as health funds, to ensure that consumer entitlements are protected.

This funding will be provided through an increase in the private health insurance complaints levy paid by private health insurance funds under the *Private Health Insurance Complaints Levy Act 1995*.

Further information can be found in the press release of 9 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Health and Ageing.

Ronald McDonald Beach House — contribution

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	0.2	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$150,000 in 2005-06 to help fund the establishment of a Ronald McDonald Beach House in Forster, New South Wales. Ronald McDonald Beach Houses provide free holiday accommodation for seriously ill or terminally ill children and their families or for families that have lost a child to serious illness.

Further information can be found in the press release of 22 August 2005 issued by the Federal Member for Paterson.

Staying at home respite for carers — continued funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	-	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$30.0 million over two years from 2006-07 to continue to provide respite care through Commonwealth Carer Respite Centres and through respite services for carers of people with dementia.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

The measure will align funding for this programme with other related community care and support programmes to enable the Government to enter into three-year funding agreements with service providers. This will allow for a comprehensive review of all programmes in 2007-08. This approach is consistent with the 2004 report, *A New Strategy for Community Care – The Way Forward*.

This measure involves funding of \$14.9 million in 2006-07 and \$15.2 million in 2007-08. Provision for this funding has already been included in the forward estimates.

See also the related expense measures *Commonwealth Carelink Programme – continued funding*, *Dementia and challenging behaviours initiative – continued funding* and *Support for carers – continued funding*.

Support for carers — continued funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	-	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$48.3 million over two years from 2006-07 to continue to provide support for carers through the Additional Support for Carers of Older Australians Programme, the More Support for Ageing Carers of People with Disabilities Programme and the More Support for Carers of People with Dementia Programme.

This measure provides support for carers of older Australians, including those with dementia, and for ageing carers of people with disabilities through the provision of respite care and other services to support them in their caring role.

The measure will align funding for these programmes with other related community care and support programmes to enable the Government to enter into three-year funding agreements with service providers. This will allow for a comprehensive review of all programmes in 2007-08. This approach is consistent with the 2004 report, *A New Strategy for Community Care – The Way Forward*.

This measure involves funding of \$23.9 million in 2006-07 and \$24.4 million in 2007-08. Provision for this funding has already been included in the forward estimates.

See also the related expense measures *Commonwealth Carelink Programme – continued funding*, *Dementia and challenging behaviours initiative – continued funding* and *Staying at home respite for carers – continued funding*.

HUMAN SERVICES

Assurance of Support — additional funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Centrelink	8.5	-	-	-

The Government will provide an additional \$8.5m in 2005-06 to meet the full costs of Assurance of Support assessments administered by Centrelink under its current delivery model.

Assurance of support seeks to verify support arrangements for migrants in order to protect the integrity of the welfare system. Assurers are required to support the immigrant, if required, for a period of two years from when they first arrive in Australia.

Child Care Tax Rebate — improved service delivery

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Centrelink	3.7	1.4	1.1	1.1

The Government will provide \$8.4 million over five years, including \$1.1 million in 2009-10, to improve service delivery of the Child Care Tax Rebate (the rebate). These arrangements will make the claiming process simpler for families and their tax agents. In addition, the measure will reduce compliance costs for child care providers.

Centrelink will collect the information required by families to claim the rebate and provide it electronically to the Australian Taxation Office. Families will have access to this information electronically through the Family Assistance Office website from 1 July 2006.

Centrelink will also be working with child care providers to improve data exchange, including electronic data transmission.

Further information can be found in the press release of 10 November 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Medicare — developing improved claiming arrangements

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Human Services	0.5	-	-	-

The government will provide \$0.5 million in 2005-06 to examine options for improving Medicare claiming arrangements. This will include seeking expressions of interest from private sector providers, on a no commitment basis, to enable further development of options.

The decision as to whether to proceed with any changes to existing arrangements will follow an analysis of options identified in the expression of interest process and discussions with key stakeholders to minimise impacts on doctors and patients.

Further information can be found in the press release of 13 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Human Services and the Minister for Health and Ageing.

Smart technologies and services — funding for a business case

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Human Services	4.0	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$4.0 million in 2005-06 for the production of a detailed business case for the introduction of smart technologies and services, including smart card-based solutions. The business case will examine business and technological solutions to replace the current Medicare card and potentially facilitate the provision of other social services. The Government will consider the case for introducing a smart card or similar technology on completion of the business case.

Social welfare and health services — information and education

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Human Services	4.0	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$4.0 million in 2005-06 to provide information and education about the various social welfare and health programmes available from the Australian Government. Under this measure an initial amount of \$1.0 million is earmarked for communications relating to drought relief and associated assistance. This will help ensure that farmers are aware of their entitlements under various drought relief programmes.

Further information can be found in the press release of 5 September 2005 issued jointly by the Minister for Human Services and the Minister for Workforce Participation and the press release of 5 September 2005 issued by Centrelink.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Welfare to Work — Comprehensive Work Capacity Assessments — additional funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Human Services	2.3	0.9	1.5	0.9

The Government will provide an additional \$5.6 million over four years to manage Comprehensive Work Capacity Assessments (CWCA) for people with disabilities. The CWCA programme will improve the matching of people to the income support payment and services that best reflect their capacity to work and their need for assistance in seeking work.

The CWCA will provide a holistic assessment of an individual's work capacity taking into account physical and mental disabilities or injuries, their current skills and any barriers they face in looking for work. This measure supplements the \$316.0 million funding provided in the *Welfare to Work – Comprehensive Work Capacity Assessments* measure in the 2005-06 Budget.

Further information can be found in the speech made to Parliament by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations titled, *Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Amendment (Welfare To Work And Other Measures) Bill 2005, Second Reading* (www.dewr.gov.au).

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Child Migrants Trust — extension of funding

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	-	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$0.5 million over three years to continue funding for the Child Migrants Trust in order to provide counselling and family tracing services for former child migrants from England and Malta who arrived in Australia post World War II. The cost of this measure will be fully met from within the existing resources of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

Further information can be found in the press release of 11 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs.

Counter-terrorism — developing a national action plan to address intolerance and the promotion of violence

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	5.9	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$5.9 million in 2005-06 to develop and implement a national action plan to address intolerance and the promotion of violence, as a component of its broader counter-terrorism strategy. The initiatives will include Muslim community liaison, community partnership projects, a national youth summit, and media and leadership training for Muslim leaders.

Further information can be found in the press release of 27 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Indigenous Land Reform — Northern Territory township tenure

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	-	3.0	3.0	3.0

The Government will provide up to \$15.0 million over five years (including \$3.0 million per annum in 2009-10 and 2010-11) to the Northern Territory Government to administer a new township tenure model following amendments to the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* and relevant Northern Territory legislation. The township tenure model will facilitate Indigenous home ownership and economic development on Indigenous land in the Northern Territory.

See also the related expense measures titled *Indigenous Land Reform – Home Ownership on Indigenous Land Programme* and *Indigenous Land Reform – Home Ownership Incentive Programme* in the Employment and Workplace Relations and the Family and Community Services portfolios, respectively.

Further information can be found in the press release of 5 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Migration legislation — amendments

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	9.3	-	-	-
Refugee Review Tribunal	2.5	-	-	-
Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman	1.6	1.6	-	-
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	0.6	-	-	-
Total	13.9	1.6	-	-
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman	0.4	-	-	-
Refugee Review Tribunal	0.3	-	-	-
Total	0.7	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$16.2 million over two years to implement more flexible and timely immigration detention arrangements arising from amendments to the *Migration Act 1958* through the *Migration Amendment (Detention Arrangements) Act 2005*. These changes will enable the detention of families with children to take place in the community and introduce processing time limits on the determination of primary protection visas and on reviews by the Refugee Review Tribunal. This measure includes \$0.7 million in capital funding in 2005-06 for information technology and office fit-out.

The changes will also provide the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman with a specific role in reviewing the cases of long-term detainees.

The funding for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet will enable it to oversee these changes.

Further information can be found in the press release of 17 June 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

National security — introducing a maritime crew visa

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	7.4	6.0	11.9	12.7
Australian Customs Service	0.4	3.8	9.0	9.4
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	-	1.2	1.2	1.2
Total	7.8	10.9	22.0	23.2
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	4.7	-	-	-
Australian Customs Service	0.5	4.3	2.8	-
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	-	0.4	0.3	-
Total	5.1	4.8	3.1	-

The Government will provide \$100.4 million over five years (including \$23.3 million in 2009-10) to implement a visa requirement for all maritime crew arriving in Australia. This measure will strengthen Australia's border control mechanisms through increased security checking of maritime crew.

The measure provides funding for the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) to implement and monitor the new visa sub-class, including increased compliance activity and improved information technology connectivity.

The measure also provides funding to enable the faster boarding of vessels by the Australian Customs Service (Customs) to conduct face-to-passport checking of sea crew arriving in Australia, and to enable Customs' data to be captured on DIMIA's movements record database.

The measure includes \$13.1 million in capital funding for the development and implementation of essential information technology systems and office fit-out.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Palmer and Comrie Reports — implementation plan

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	35.7	51.8	36.1	35.6
Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman	3.8	3.1	3.6	3.6
Total	39.6	54.9	39.7	39.2
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	8.8	2.6	0.1	0.1
Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman	0.7	-	-	-
Total	9.5	2.6	0.1	0.1

The Government will provide \$243.7 million over five years (including \$38.4 million in 2009-10) to implement its response to the *Inquiry into the Circumstances of the Immigration Detention of Cornelia Rau* (the Palmer Report) and the *Inquiry into the Circumstances of the Vivian Alvarez Matter* (the Comrie Report). This measure will improve training, accountability, culture, client focus, information management and quality assurance in the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, and case management and mental health services for detainees.

This measure will also provide the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman with an expanded role in handling and investigating immigration complaints and broader detention issues.

The measure includes \$12.2 million in capital funding over four years for information technology upgrades.

The cost of this measure will be partially offset by \$22.2 million provided from the existing resources of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

Further information can be found in the press release of 6 October 2005 issued by the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, the Palmer implementation plan, which is available on the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs' website (www.immi.gov.au) and the Comrie Report, which is available on the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman's website (www.ombudsman.gov.au).

PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees — employment and capability strategy

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Public Service Commission	1.2	2.6	2.6	-

The Government will provide \$6.4 million over three years to improve employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the Australian Public Service (APS).

This strategy, which involves increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the APS and enhancing their skills, will increase the APS's capacity in relation to Indigenous issues.

Further information can be found in the press release of 12 August 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Auditing of Australian Government entities

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian National Audit Office	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.9
<i>Related revenue (\$m)</i>				
<i>Australian National Audit Office</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>0.9</i>

The Australian National Audit Office will be provided with \$3.6 million over four years to meet the additional costs incurred for increased audit coverage of nine fee-paying Australian Government entities including Telstra Corporation, Australia Post and Medicare Australia. The funding will be fully recovered through an increase in audit fees.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet — funding for taskforces and increased capacity

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	5.6	5.2	5.2	5.3

The Government will provide \$21.4 million over four years to improve the capacity of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) to support the Prime Minister and the Government.

PM&C regularly hosts taskforces, particularly in relation to whole-of-government issues, which are staffed by officers of relevant departments and agencies. PM&C's workload is also increasing in relation to its role in coordinating government policies.

This funding will provide for the hosting of four taskforces by PM&C in 2005-06; overhead costs for hosting current and future taskforces; and an increased core staffing level.

National Australia Day Council — increased support

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.0

The Government will provide \$3.5 million over four years to the National Australia Day Council to enhance Australia Day celebrations and promote good citizenship and values through the Australian of the Year awards.

TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES

Australian Rail Track Corporation — increased funding in 2004-2005

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Transport and Regional Services	-	-	-	-

The Government provided a grant of \$100.0 million to the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) in 2004-05 to assist with investment in Australia's interstate rail network. The funding was allocated to the ARTC for the following projects on the Melbourne-Sydney-Brisbane rail corridor:

- \$44.0 million to increase railway track performance and reduce the frequency and severity of speed restrictions;
- \$40.0 million to improve railway clearances, allowing containers to be carried on standard deck-height wagons;
- \$15.0 million to provide a direct railway connection between the north-south and east-west railway corridors at Tottenham, Melbourne, which will provide transit time savings of around 30 minutes for through-trains; and
- \$1.0 million to undertake an alignment study to determine the benefits of eliminating the steep gradients in the Liverpool Range crossing.

These projects will improve track performance and reduce long-term maintenance costs on the rail corridor, increasing the competitiveness of freight rail.

Further information can be found in the press release of 5 July 2005 issued by the Minister for Transport and Regional Services.

Aviation security — developing a national training framework

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Transport and Regional Services	1.3	2.3	-	-
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Transport and Regional Services	0.3	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$3.8 million in 2005-06 and 2006-07 to develop a nationally consistent aviation security training framework, including nationally accredited security training modules.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Aviation industry employees will be able to develop nationally recognised skills and qualifications related to transport security. This will provide operators with competent staff to support the effective and secure operation of transport services to the public.

This measure includes \$0.3 million in capital funding in 2005-06 for the development of required computer systems.

This measure forms part of the Government's response to the Wheeler Report into airport security and policing arrangements.

Further information can be found in the press release of 21 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Aviation security — improving international outreach

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.3
Department of Transport and Regional Services	0.6	2.0	1.2	1.2
Total	1.2	2.9	1.8	1.5

The Government will provide \$8.5 million over five years (including \$1.1 million in 2009-10) to strengthen the international aviation security regime.

The Department of Transport and Regional Services will seek to conduct inspections and risk assessments of overseas airports that are last ports of call for flights to Australia. It will also develop and deliver aviation security capacity building activities for regional last port of call countries. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will undertake targeted outreach activities to help encourage an international regime, including stronger controls over man-portable air defence systems.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Aviation security — improving security and crime information exchange

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Transport and Regional Services	3.4	3.9	4.0	4.0
Australian Crime Commission	2.4	8.7	2.7	2.7
Total	5.8	12.6	6.7	6.7
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Transport and Regional Services	4.1	-	-	-
Australian Crime Commission	1.1	0.3	-	-
Total	5.2	0.3	-	-

The Government will provide \$43.9 million over five years (including \$6.8 million in 2009-10) for improved national aviation security and crime information exchange arrangements.

The Australian Crime Commission will establish a new unit to provide regular criminal intelligence assessments for the aviation sector. The Department of Transport and Regional Services will regularly disseminate operational and policy focused analysis on transport security threats to industry. This information will draw on Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and Australian Crime Commission threat assessments.

This measure includes \$5.4 million in capital funding in 2005-06 and 2006-07 for the development of required computer, information and communication systems.

This measure forms part of the Government's response to the Wheeler Report into airport security and policing arrangements.

Further information can be found in the press release of 21 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Eyre Peninsula — rail upgrade

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Transport and Regional Services	-	-	-	-

The Government committed \$15.0 million in 2004-05 towards the costs of upgrading the Eyre Peninsula rail network. The upgrade will improve transport of the region's grain harvest to port.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

The funding was conditional on the remainder of the project's estimated cost of \$30.0 million being funded by contributions from the South Australian Government, industry and local councils.

Further information can be found in the joint press release of 24 June 2005 issued by the Minister for Transport and Regional Services and the South Australian Minister for Transport.

Surface transport security — assessing new technology

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Transport and Regional Services	0.2	0.2	-	-

The Government will provide \$0.3 million over two years from 2005-06 for the Department of Transport and Regional Services to undertake an assessment of the potential of new technologies to improve the security of surface transport infrastructure.

Surface transport security — developing a national approach for closed circuit television

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Transport and Regional Services	0.7	-	-	-
Office of the Privacy Commissioner	0.1	-	-	-
Total	0.8	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$0.7 million in 2005-06 for the Department of Transport and Regional Services to coordinate the National Counter-Terrorism Committee review of closed circuit television (CCTV) capability and to participate in the development of a national code of practice for the mass passenger transport sector (the code). The Government will provide \$0.1 million in 2005-06 to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner to participate in the development of the code.

The code will set protocols and minimum requirements for the use of CCTV systems associated with mass passenger transport. The code will be developed with the States and Territories.

See also the related expense measures titled *Aviation security – improving closed circuit television at airports* and *Aviation security – providing additional closed circuit television cameras and upgrading capabilities* in the Attorney-General's portfolio.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Further information can be found in the press release of 27 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Surface transport security — enhancement

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Transport and Regional Services	0.2	0.5	0.3	-

The Government will provide \$1.0 million over three years from 2005-06, to implement the recommendations of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee for enhancing the security of surface-based mass passenger transport.

The Australian Government will work with the States and Territories and surface transport owners and operators in monitoring the effectiveness of screening in a mass transit environment, contributing to increased public and staff security awareness, incorporating land based transport requirements in counter-terrorism exercises and improving precinct security.

Further information can be found in the press release of 27 September 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

TREASURY

Budget Balancing Assistance — alignment of import entry thresholds for courier and postal imports

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Treasury	1.7	2.7	2.6	2.6

The Government has aligned the import entry level threshold for postal and courier imports at \$1,000, with effect from 12 October 2005.

Previously, the threshold for air and sea consignments and postal consignments carried by private couriers was \$250, while the threshold for postal consignments carried by Australia Post was \$1,000. The alignment will reduce GST revenue.

The alignment of these thresholds at \$1,000 will promote competitive neutrality and simplify the customs clearance process for a large number of importers.

For those States and Territories receiving Budget Balancing Assistance (BBA), the Government will adjust this assistance to compensate for the decrease in GST revenue resulting from this measure. Further information on BBA can be found in Budget Paper No. 3, *Federal Financial Relations 2005-06*.

See also the related revenue measure *Customs duty – alignment of import entry level thresholds for courier and postal imports* in the Attorney General's portfolio.

Further information can be found in Australian Customs Notice No. 2005/57 of 7 October 2005.

Budget Balancing Assistance — changes to the vouchers provisions

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Treasury	..	..	..	..

The Government will ensure that a simplified GST accounting arrangement is available for 'eligible vouchers' for GST purposes that are sold through a distribution chain. The measure will take effect from 1 July 2000.

The GST Act provides a simplified accounting arrangement for GST between principals and agents where the supplies are taxable supplies. This arrangement is not currently available for 'eligible vouchers' as these vouchers are not taxable supplies. The GST voucher provisions operate so that GST is remitted when the voucher is redeemed for goods and services and not on the sale of the voucher.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

The effect of a simplified accounting arrangement being available for 'eligible vouchers' is that retailers/distributors of the vouchers will not be required to remit GST on any commissions or similar payments and the supplier of the voucher will not claim an input tax credit.

For those States and Territories receiving Budget Balancing Assistance (BBA), the Government will adjust this assistance to compensate for the decrease in GST revenue resulting from this measure. Further information on BBA can be found in Budget Paper No. 3, *Federal Financial Relations 2005-06*.

Budget Balancing Assistance — GST and representatives of incapacitated entities

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Treasury	..	..	..	..

The Government will clarify the GST obligations for representatives that are appointed over entities that have become incapacitated. The measure will have effect from the first tax period after the date of Royal Assent of the enabling legislation.

Incapacitated entities include entities that are in liquidation or receivership.

This measure will ensure that these rules operate as intended and provide certainty to representatives of incapacitated entities.

For those States and Territories receiving Budget Balancing Assistance (BBA), the Government will adjust this assistance for any change in GST revenue resulting from this measure. Further information on BBA can be found in Budget Paper No. 3, *Federal Financial Relations 2005-06*.

Budget Balancing Assistance — GST and the sale of real property — margin scheme

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Treasury	*	*	*	*

The Government has changed the requirement to obtain written agreement for the use of the margin scheme so that it no longer affects contracts entered into before the date of Royal Assent.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

For those States and Territories receiving Budget Balancing Assistance (BBA), the Government will adjust this assistance accordingly. However, as the cost to GST revenue cannot be quantified, it is not possible to quantify the impact on BBA. Further information on BBA can be found in Budget Paper No. 3, *Federal Financial Relations 2005-06*.

Further information can be found in the press release of 7 June 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Budget Balancing Assistance — GST and the sale of real property — deferral of integrity measure

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Treasury	*	*	*	*

The Government has deferred the tax integrity measure concerning the interaction of the margin scheme with the GST free going concern and the GST free farm land provisions.

The Government is currently undertaking consultation with industry to ensure that the margin scheme applies appropriately to these supplies.

For those States and Territories receiving Budget Balancing Assistance (BBA), the Government will adjust this assistance accordingly. However, as the cost to GST revenue cannot be quantified, it is not possible to quantify the impact on BBA. Further information on BBA can be found in Budget Paper No. 3, *Federal Financial Relations 2005-06*.

Further information can be found in the press release of 7 June 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Budget Balancing Assistance — GST concession for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Treasury	0.3	-	-	-

The Government has agreed to allow certain goods of a non commercial nature to be imported free of GST by 'Commonwealth Games Family' members for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. The concession will take effect from 1 January 2006 and run until 30 June 2006.

A similar concession was provided for the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

For those States and Territories receiving Budget Balancing Assistance (BBA), the Government will adjust this assistance to compensate for the decrease in GST revenue resulting from this measure. Further information on BBA can be found in Budget Paper No. 3, *Federal Financial Relations 2005-06*.

Further information can be found in Australian Customs Notice No. 2005/67 of 7 October 2005.

See also the related revenue measure *Indirect tax – customs duty concession for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games* in the Attorney General's portfolio.

Budget Balancing Assistance — Indirect Tax Concession Scheme — GST extension

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Treasury	..	..	..	..

The Government has provided or upgraded refunds for GST to certain countries' diplomatic and consular representation under the Indirect Tax Concession Scheme.

Twelve countries' missions and consulates are entitled to new or upgraded benefits as a result of this decision.

These enhanced concessions took effect from the time provided in the implementing instruments issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

For those States and Territories receiving Budget Balancing Assistance (BBA), the Government will adjust this assistance to compensate for the decrease in GST revenue resulting from this measure. Further information on BBA can be found in Budget Paper No. 3, *Federal Financial Relations 2005-06*.

See also the related revenue measure *Indirect tax concession scheme – extension* in the Treasury portfolio.

Budget Balancing Assistance — personal aquatic survival skills

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Treasury	-	0.4	0.5	0.5

The Government has decided to issue regulations to allow a broader range of personal aquatic survival skills courses to be GST free with effect from a date to be specified in the enabling regulations. Broadly, if an instructor for a course holds a certificate in certain competencies in aquatic survival skills training, the courses provided by the instructor will be GST free. The certificate in the particular competencies will have been recognised under the Australian Quality Training Framework. The precise content of the regulations will be determined after consultation with the aquatic survival skills industry.

The introduction of this measure is subject to the unanimous approval of the States and Territories under the *Intergovernmental Agreement on the Reform of Commonwealth State Financial Relations*.

For those States and Territories receiving Budget Balancing Assistance (BBA), the Government will adjust this assistance to compensate for the decrease in GST revenue resulting from this measure. Further information on BBA can be found in Budget Paper No. 3, *Federal Financial Relations 2005-06*.

Budget Balancing Assistance — supplies of options and rights offshore — deregistration and change to start date

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of the Treasury	14.5	-	3.3	-

The Government has deferred the introduction of amendments to the goods and services tax (GST) law relating to the taxation of non-resident tour operators. The amended start date is 1 October 2005.

This amendment allowed affected enterprises time to adjust to the changes announced in the 2005-06 Budget and also allowed non resident tour operators to deregister for GST.

The revenue impact above represents a deferral of the collection of revenue from the original measure from 2004-05 to 2005-06.

For those States and Territories receiving Budget Balancing Assistance (BBA), the Government will adjust this assistance to compensate for the decrease in GST revenue resulting from this measure. Further information on BBA can be found in Budget Paper No. 3, *Federal Financial Relations 2005-06*.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Further information can be found in the press release of 20 June 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Corporate Insolvency Law Reform — strengthening creditor protection and deterring misconduct by company officers

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Securities and Investments Commission	3.4	6.0	6.4	6.9
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
<i>Australian Securities and Investments Commission</i>	0.3	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$23.1 million over four years to establish a fund to finance preliminary investigations of companies liquidated with little or no assets. Insolvency practitioners will conduct investigations where the Australian Securities and Investments Commission considers there is some possibility of misconduct.

The funding will also support an increased enforcement programme targeting matters identified by the investigations.

This amount includes \$0.3 million in capital funding for an electronic workflow system.

Further information can be found in the press release of 12 October 2005 issued by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer.

Fuel Taxation and Credit Reform — eligibility of alternative fuels for a full credit when consumed in off-road business activities

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-	-	-	-

The Government will bring forward its commitment to make alternative fuels used in off-road business activities eligible for a full fuel tax credit to apply from 1 July 2011. The start date when the measure was originally announced in June 2004 was 1 July 2012. Bringing forward the start date will make the tax treatment of all off-road uses of alternative fuels consistent and will result in an additional cost of \$5.0 million in 2011-12.

Further information can be found in the press release of 27 May 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Fuel Taxation and Credit Reform — extension of alternative fuels grants until 1 July 2010

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Taxation Office	-	4.0	3.0	2.0

The Government will continue alternative fuel grants under the *Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme Act 2003* until 1 July 2010, with the grant rates payable reducing to zero in five equal annual steps commencing on 1 July 2006 and concluding on 1 July 2010. The estimated cost is \$10.0 million over the five-year transition period from 2006 to 2010.

Further information can be found in the press release of 27 May 2005 issued by the Minister for Revenue and the Assistant Treasurer.

One.Tel — ongoing litigation and investigation

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Australian Securities and Investments Commission	3.3	-	-	-

The Government will provide additional funding of \$3.3 million in 2005-06 to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission to continue litigation arising from the collapse of One.Tel.

This funding is in addition to the \$2.6 million provided in the 2005-06 Budget for this matter.

Taskforce on reducing the regulatory burden on business

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Productivity Commission	0.2	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$0.2 million in 2005-06 to the Productivity Commission to support the Taskforce on Reducing the Regulatory Burden on Business. The Taskforce will examine and report to the Prime Minister on areas where appropriate regulatory reform can provide significant immediate gains to business. The Taskforce will report by 31 January 2006.

Further information can be found in the joint press release of 12 October 2005 issued by the Prime Minister and the Treasurer.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Australia-Turkey Bilateral Relations and Cooperation

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Veterans' Affairs	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.4
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	1.3	1.9	1.8	2.0
Australian Federal Police	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Department of Education, Science and Training	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Attorney-General's Department	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.9
Total	5.9	6.9	6.9	7.3
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	0.7	4.5	-	-
Department of Veterans' Affairs	0.3	-	-	-
Attorney-General's Department	0.1	..	-	-
Total	1.1	4.5	-	-

The Government will provide \$40.7 million over five years (including \$8.0 million in 2009-10) to broaden Australia's bilateral relationship with Turkey, including measures relating to the Gallipoli sites and commemorative services.

The funding will cover additional resources for a joint historical and archaeological review of the Anzac battlefield and associated maritime sites, the management of the annual Anzac Day commemoration events, the establishment of a consulate at Canakkale and the expansion of the Endeavour scholarship programme.

The funding includes \$5.6 million in capital to be provided to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Attorney-General's Department.

Further information can be found in the press release of 26 April 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Gallipoli Peninsula — veterans' affairs coordination

Expense (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Veterans' Affairs	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
<i>Related capital (\$m)</i>				
<i>Department of Veterans' Affairs</i>	0.2	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$3.2 million over four years (including \$160,000 in capital funding in 2005-06) to fund one Australian-based and one locally engaged staff member in Turkey, to coordinate veterans' affairs activities in relation to the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Further information can be found in the press release of 26 April 2005 issued by the Prime Minister.

Capital measures

COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

Communications Fund to future proof telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote Australia

Capital (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	-	-	-	-

The Government has established a \$2 billion Communications Fund. The \$2 billion has been invested in a term deposit with the Reserve Bank of Australia in the short term, while a detailed investment framework is developed and agreed by the Government.

Income earned from the Communications Fund will be used to implement the Australian Government's responses to recommendations made by the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee on the adequacy of telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote Australia. The first review will commence in 2008, with the time between subsequent reviews being no more than three and a half years.

As the establishment of the fund affects only the composition of the Australian Government's financial assets, there is no impact on the fiscal balance.

Further information can be found in the press release of 23 September 2005 issued by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

National Portrait Gallery — enhanced new premises

Capital (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Finance and Administration	-	-	-	23.1

The Government will provide \$23.1 million in 2008-09 to meet an escalation in building costs, as well as an increase in functionality, for new premises for the National Portrait Gallery and to increase its scope. The additional funding will ensure that the gallery, to be built in the Parliamentary Triangle, meets all functional, environmental, regulatory and planning requirements. In addition, a multi-purpose function room and a larger car park, which were not part of the initial planning, will now be included in the design.

The gallery will be transferred to the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts upon its completion.

This funding is in addition to capital funding of \$50.5 million for the construction of the gallery reported in the *Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2004-05*.

Further information can be found in the media release of 7 November 2005 issued by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration.

HEALTH AND AGEING

Pandemic influenza — purchase of Relenza

Capital (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	15.5	41.1	-	-
<i>Related expense (\$m)</i>				
<i>Department of Health and Ageing</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>0.7</i>

The Government will provide \$59.0 million over four years to further enhance Australia's preparedness for a possible pandemic influenza by increasing the nation's stockpile of Relenza, an antiviral medication. This funding includes \$56.7 million in capital funding to purchase Relenza, and \$2.4 million in storage expenses.

This funding will provide for the purchase of Relenza, an antiviral that is inhaled from a breath-activated device to target the site of influenza infection and has a similar clinical efficacy to the antiviral Tamiflu.

Pandemic influenza preparedness — national medical stockpile

Capital (\$m)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Department of Health and Ageing	115.5	-	-	-
<i>Related expense (\$m)</i>				
<i>Department of Health and Ageing</i>	<i>3.8</i>	<i>3.2</i>	<i>3.2</i>	<i>3.2</i>

The Government will provide \$128.9 million over four years to purchase and store antivirals, vaccines, intravenous antibiotics and protective equipment for the national medical stockpile, in preparation for a potential pandemic influenza. This funding includes \$115.5 million in capital to purchase these items, and \$13.4 million in storage and staff expenses.

The funding includes:

- \$79.2 million to purchase and store three million courses of the antiviral Tamiflu and 450,000 doses of antibiotics;
- \$16.5 million to develop and store five million doses of the H5N1 influenza vaccine currently being developed; and
- \$33.3 million to purchase and store gloves, masks, mask test kits and goggles for general practitioners, ambulance officers and emergency workers.

Appendix A: Policy decisions taken since the 2005-06 Budget

Further information can be found in the press release of 11 December 2005 issued by the Minister of Health and Ageing.

