

LEGAL AID COMMISSION (ACT)

Objectives

The Legal Aid Commission, established by the *Legal Aid Act 1977* (the Act), provides legal assistance in accordance with the Act. The assistance may be provided by private legal practitioners or the Commission's own officers. The Commission also represents regional residents whose legal proceedings take place in the ACT.

The main objective of the Commission is to maximise access to justice in the ACT by providing legal services to disadvantaged members of the community.

As well as legal representation, the Commission provides other services such as duty lawyers, advice, community education and input on law reform.

2001-02 Highlights

Strategic and operational issues to be pursued in 2001-02 include:

- ongoing management of a number of long-running cases with a number of high cost cases expected to arise in 2001-02;
- responding to a reducing number of private practitioner service deliverers;
- ongoing improvement in delivery of services through the introduction of electronic assessment of applications for legal aid and electronic pro-forma invoicing; and
- continuing to improve the community's access to justice through a proactive community legal education program which will provide information about legal services and the law. This program particularly targets special needs groups and their requirements and will maximise their use of the Commission's web-site.

**Legal Aid Commission (ACT)
Statement Of Financial Performance**

2000-01 Budget \$'000		2000-01 Est.Outcome \$'000	2001-02 Budget \$'000	Var %	2002-03 Estimate \$'000	2003-04 Estimate \$'000	2004-05 Estimate \$'000
	Revenue						
500	User Charges - Non ACT Government	500	500	-	513	526	539
4 936	User Charges - ACT Government	4 936	5 090	3	5 248	5 407	5 510
0	Grants from the Commonwealth	70	0	-100	0	0	0
418	Interest	500	465	-7	470	465	460
5 854	Total Ordinary Revenue	6 006	6 055	1	6 231	6 398	6 509
	Expenses						
2 502	Employee Expenses	2 502	2 543	2	2 577	2 610	2 644
340	Superannuation Expenses	340	348	2	353	358	363
3 113	Administrative Expenses	2 973	3 222	8	3 332	3 466	3 550
60	Depreciation and Amortisation	120	92	-23	46	0	0
6 015	Total Ordinary Expenses	5 935	6 205	5	6 308	6 434	6 557
-161	Operating Result	71	-150	-311	-77	-36	-48
1 079	Total Equity From Start of Period	616	687	12	537	460	424
918	Total Equity At The End of Period	687	537	-22	460	424	376

**Legal Aid Commission (ACT)
Statement Of Financial Position**

Budget as at 30/6/01 \$'000		Est.Outcome as at 30/6/01 \$'000	Planned as at 30/6/02 \$'000	Var %	Planned as at 30/6/03 \$'000	Planned as at 30/6/04 \$'000	Planned as at 30/6/05 \$'000
Current Assets							
941	Cash	865	856	-1	824	787	738
107	Receivables	279	280	..	281	282	283
71	Investments	71	21	-70	21	21	21
1 119	Total Current Assets	1 215	1 157	-5	1 126	1 090	1 042
Non Current Assets							
384	Receivables	224	224	-	224	224	224
282	Property, Plant and Equipment	138	46	-67	0	0	0
666	Total Non Current Assets	362	270	-25	224	224	224
1 785	TOTAL ASSETS	1 577	1 427	-10	1 350	1 314	1 266
Current Liabilities							
368	Creditors	362	362	-	362	362	362
334	Employee Entitlements	409	409	-	409	409	409
702	Total Current Liabilities	771	771	-	771	771	771
Non Current Liabilities							
165	Employee Entitlements	119	119	-	119	119	119
165	Total Non Current Liabilities	119	119	-	119	119	119
867	TOTAL LIABILITIES	890	890	-	890	890	890
918	NET ASSETS	687	537	-22	460	424	376
REPRESENTED BY FUNDS EMPLOYED							
418	Accumulated Funds	387	237	-39	160	124	76
500	Reserves	300	300	-	300	300	300
918	TOTAL FUNDS EMPLOYED	687	537	-22	460	424	376

**Legal Aid Commission (ACT)
Cashflow Statement**

2000-01 Budget \$'000		2000-01 Est.Outcome \$'000	2001-02 Budget \$'000	Var %	2002-03 Estimate \$'000	2003-04 Estimate \$'000	2004-05 Estimate \$'000
1 042	CASH AT BEGINNING OF REPORTING PERIOD	712	865	21	856	824	787
	CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
	Receipts						
5 436	User Charges	5 436	5 590	3	5 761	5 933	6 049
418	Interest Received	500	465	-7	470	465	460
0	Grants Received from the Commonwealth	70	0	-100	0	0	0
20	Other Revenue	122	163	34	167	171	176
5 874	Operating Receipts	6 128	6 218	1	6 398	6 569	6 685
	Payments						
2 842	Related to Employees	2 842	2 891	2	2 930	2 968	3 007
3 113	Related to Administration	2 973	3 222	8	3 332	3 466	3 550
20	Other	160	164	3	168	172	177
5 975	Operating Payments	5 975	6 277	5	6 430	6 606	6 734
-101	NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	153	-59	-139	-32	-37	-49
	CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES						
	Receipts						
100	Proceeds from Sale/Maturities of Investments	100	50	-50	0	0	0
100	Investing Receipts	100	50	-50	0	0	0
	Payments						
100	Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment	100	0	-100	0	0	0
100	Investing Payments	100	0	-100	0	0	0
0	NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	0	50	#	0	0	0
-101	NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD	153	-9	-106	-32	-37	-49
941	CASH AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD	865	856	-1	824	787	738

Notes to the Budget Statements

Significant variations are as follows:

Statement of Financial Performance

- grants from the Commonwealth: a one-off increase of \$0.070m was received in 2000-01 to cover the additional costs associated with some Commonwealth law cases;
- employee expenses: the increase of \$0.041m in 2001-02 from the 2000-01 estimated outcome is due to the new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement; and
- administrative expenses: the decrease of \$0.140m in 2000-01 compared to the original budget is due to lower case expenditure than initially anticipated. The increase of \$0.249m in 2001-02 from the 2000-01 estimated outcome is due to an expected additional demand for legal assistance. The increase is also affected by the rise in fees paid to private practitioners and an increase in the number of long-running cases.

