

LEGAL AID COMMISSION (ACT)

Objectives

The Legal Aid Commission, established by the *Legal Aid Act 1977*, 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 lawyer, advice, community education and input on law reform.

1999-2000 Highlights

Strategic and operational issues to be pursued in 1999-2000 include:

- continuing to provide an effective and efficient means of legal services to the community within the terms of the Commonwealth/ACT funding agreement, while managing expenditure in the criminal law area given the anticipated continuation in growth of demand;
- working with the Commonwealth Government to establish an effective purchaser/provider funding regime;
- continuing to improve delivery of services through the introduction of electronic lodgement of grants of aid and electronic proforma 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.

Budget Summary	1999-00 Planned \$'000
Government Funding	
• Service Payments from General Government	4 770
Revenues	
• Interest and user charges	1 118
Services Provided	
• Solicitor services	5 798

Legal Aid Commission (ACT) Operating Statement

1998-99 Budget \$'000		1998-99 Est.Outcome \$'000	1999-00 Budget \$'000	Var %	2000-01 Estimate \$'000	2001-02 Estimate \$'000	2002-03 Estimate \$'000
Revenue							
725	User Charges - Non ACT Government	725	700	-3	500	500	513
4 801	User Charges - ACT Government	4 801	4 770	-1	4 903	5 027	5 155
445	Interest	445	418	-6	418	427	437
5 971	Total Revenue	5 971	5 888	-1	5 821	5 954	6 105
Expenses							
2 381	Employee Expenses	2 381	2 432	2	2 502	2 543	2 577
320	Superannuation Expenses	320	340	6	340	348	353
3 130	Administrative Expenses	3 130	2 941	-6	3 080	3 159	3 239
140	Depreciation and Amortisation	140	85	-39	60	54	54
5 971	Total Expenses	5 971	5 798	-3	5 982	6 104	6 223
0	Operating Result	0	90	-	-161	-150	-118
860	Accumulated Funds - Start of Period	308	308	-	398	237	87
859	Accumulated Funds - End of Period	308	398	29	237	87	-31

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

Budget as at 30/6/99		Est.Outcome as at 30/6/99	Planned as at 30/6/00	Var	Planned as at 30/6/01	Planned as at 30/6/02	Planned as at 30/6/03
\$'000		\$'000	\$'000	%	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Current Assets							
334	Cash	284	489	72	388	342	278
199	Receivables	396	396	-	396	396	396
429	Investments	279	150	-46	50	0	0
962	Total Current Assets	959	1 035	8	834	738	674
Non Current Assets							
113	Receivables	194	194	-	194	194	194
424	Property, Plant and Equipment	363	377	4	417	363	309
537	Total Non Current Assets	557	571	3	611	557	503
1 499	TOTAL ASSETS	1 516	1 606	6	1 445	1 295	1 177
Current Liabilities							
207	Creditors	403	403	-	403	403	403
296	Employee Entitlements	303	303	-	303	303	303
503	Total Current Liabilities	706	706	-	706	706	706
Non Current Liabilities							
137	Employee Entitlements	202	202	-	202	202	202
137	Total Non Current Liabilities	202	202	-	202	202	202
640	TOTAL LIABILITIES	908	908	-	908	908	908
859	NET ASSETS	608	698	15	537	387	269
REPRESENTED BY FUNDS EMPLOYED							
859	Accumulated Funds	308	398	29	237	87	-31
0	Reserves	300	300	-	300	300	300
859	TOTAL FUNDS EMPLOYED	608	698	15	537	387	269

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

1998-99 Budget \$'000		1998-99 Est.Outcome \$'000	1999-00 Budget \$'000	Var %	2000-01 Estimate \$'000	2001-02 Estimate \$'000	2002-03 Estimate \$'000
394	CASH AT BEGINNING OF REPORTING PERIOD	323	284	-12	489	388	342
	CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
	Receipts						
5 508	User Charges	5 526	5 470	-1	5 403	5 527	5 668
445	Interest Received	445	418	-6	418	427	437
5 953	Operating Receipts	5 971	5 888	-1	5 821	5 954	6 105
	Payments						
2 701	Related to Employees	2 701	2 772	3	2 842	2 891	2 930
3 131	Related to Administration	3 131	2 941	-6	3 080	3 159	3 239
5 832	Operating Payments	5 832	5 713	-2	5 922	6 050	6 169
121	NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	139	175	26	-101	-96	-64
	CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES						
	Receipts						
21	Proceeds from Sale/Maturities of Investments	21	129	514	100	50	0
21	Investing Receipts	21	129	514	100	50	0
	Payments						
199	Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment	199	99	-50	100	0	0
199	Investing Payments	199	99	-50	100	0	0
-178	NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	-178	30	117	0	50	0
-57	NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD	-39	205	626	-101	-46	-64
336	CASH AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD	284	489	72	388	342	278

Notes to the Budget Statements

Operating Statement

The anticipated improvement in the operating result in 1999-2000 will be as a result of the finalisation of a large inquest during the 1998-99 financial year.

Significant variations are as follows:

- user charges - non ACT Government: the decrease of \$0.025m is a continuing decrease in recovered costs from civil cases and reduced contributions from Commonwealth cases; and
- administrative expenses: the decrease of \$0.189m in 1999-2000 relates to the large inquest as mentioned above which occurred during 1998-99, as such, the level of expenses incurred during the case will not continue into the forward years.

