

## **LEGAL AID COMMISSION (ACT)**

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### **Objectives**

The Legal Aid Commission (the 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. The Commission also provides other services such as duty lawyers, advice, community education and input on law reform.

### **2005-06 Highlights**

Strategic and operational issues to be pursued in 2005-06 include:

- implementing a new ACT/Commonwealth Government funding agreement;
- monitoring a partnering project with South-East Aboriginal Legal Services to address the family law needs of Indigenous Territorians;
- analysing and evaluating a potential new service for the provision of a family law duty lawyer service at the Family Law Courts; and
- continuing the improvement and implementation of web-based service delivery to both clients and practitioners enabling access to relevant information, the ability to lodge applications for aid and to process bills electronically.

## Legal Aid Commission Operating Statement

2004-05 Budget \$'000		2004-05 Est.Outcome \$'000	2005-06 Budget \$'000	Var %	2006-07 Estimate \$'000	2007-08 Estimate \$'000	2008-09 Estimate \$'000
<b>Income</b>							
<b>Revenue</b>							
180	User Charges - Non ACT Government	316	324	3	331	341	349
6 079	User Charges - ACT Government	6 143	6 384	4	6 555	6 717	6 883
0	Grants from the Commonwealth	310	96	-69	99	101	104
550	Interest	1 102	854	-23	825	781	750
<b>6 809</b>	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>7 871</b>	<b>7 658</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>7 810</b>	<b>7 940</b>	<b>8 086</b>
<b>Gains</b>							
<b>0</b>	<b>Total Gains</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>6 809</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7 871</b>	<b>7 658</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>7 810</b>	<b>7 940</b>	<b>8 086</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
2 834	Employee Expenses	3 160	3 261	3	3 368	3 451	3 501
518	Superannuation Expenses	508	528	4	546	559	567
3 609	Supplies and Services	4 703	4 485	-5	4 598	4 452	4 017
70	Depreciation and Amortisation	24	30	25	27	0	0
<b>7 031</b>	<b>Total Ordinary Expenses</b>	<b>8 395</b>	<b>8 304</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>8 539</b>	<b>8 462</b>	<b>8 085</b>
<b>-222</b>	<b>Operating Result</b>	<b>-524</b>	<b>-646</b>	<b>-23</b>	<b>-729</b>	<b>-522</b>	<b>1</b>

## Legal Aid Commission Balance Sheet

Budget as at 30/6/05 \$'000		Est.Outcome as at 30/6/05 \$'000	Planned as at 30/6/06 \$'000	Var %	Planned as at 30/6/07 \$'000	Planned as at 30/6/08 \$'000	Planned as at 30/6/09 \$'000
<b>Current Assets</b>							
1 527	Cash	409	0	-100	0	0	0
97	Receivables	230	231	-	232	233	234
50	Investments	1 421	1 226	-14	523	0	0
62	Other	62	62	-	62	62	62
<b>1 736</b>	<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2 122</b>	<b>1 519</b>	<b>-28</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>296</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>							
372	Receivables	340	340	-	340	340	340
157	Property, Plant and Equipment	57	27	-53	0	0	0
<b>529</b>	<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>340</b>
<b>2 265</b>	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2 519</b>	<b>1 886</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>1 157</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>636</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>							
576	Payables	470	470	-	470	470	470
663	Employee Benefits	715	726	2	726	726	726
<b>1 239</b>	<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1 185</b>	<b>1 196</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 196</b>	<b>1 196</b>	<b>1 196</b>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>							
71	Employee Benefits	67	69	3	69	69	69
<b>71</b>	<b>Total Non Current Liabilities</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>1 310</b>	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1 252</b>	<b>1 265</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 265</b>	<b>1 265</b>	<b>1 265</b>
<b>955</b>	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1 267</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>-51</b>	<b>-108</b>	<b>-630</b>	<b>-629</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY FUNDS EMPLOYED</b>							
855	Accumulated Funds	817	171	-79	-558	-1 080	-1 079
100	Reserves	450	450	-	450	450	450
<b>955</b>	<b>TOTAL FUNDS EMPLOYED</b>	<b>1 267</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>-51</b>	<b>-108</b>	<b>-630</b>	<b>-629</b>

## Legal Aid Commission Cash Flow Statement

2004-05 Budget \$'000		2004-05 Est.Outcome \$'000	2005-06 Budget \$'000	Var %	2006-07 Estimate \$'000	2007-08 Estimate \$'000	2008-09 Estimate \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>							
<b>Receipts</b>							
6 259	User Charges	6 459	6 708	4	6 886	7 058	7 232
550	Interest Received	1 102	854	-23	825	781	750
0	Grants Received from the Commonwealth	310	96	-69	99	101	104
176	Other Revenue	176	176	-	176	176	176
<b>6 985</b>	<b>Operating Receipts</b>	<b>8 047</b>	<b>7 834</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>7 986</b>	<b>8 116</b>	<b>8 262</b>
<b>Payments</b>							
3 337	Related to Employees	3 557	3 676	3	3 801	3 894	3 949
3 609	Related to Supplies and Services	4 808	4 585	-5	4 711	4 568	4 136
177	Other	177	177	-	177	177	177
<b>7 123</b>	<b>Operating Payments</b>	<b>8 542</b>	<b>8 438</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>8 689</b>	<b>8 639</b>	<b>8 262</b>
<b>-138</b>	<b>NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>-495</b>	<b>-604</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>-703</b>	<b>-523</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>							
<b>Receipts</b>							
0	Proceeds from Sale/Maturities of Investments	0	195	#	703	523	0
<b>0</b>	<b>Investing Receipts</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>-138</b>	<b>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD</b>	<b>-495</b>	<b>-409</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>1 665</b>	<b>CASH AT BEGINNING OF REPORTING PERIOD</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>-55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>1 527</b>	<b>CASH AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Legal Aid Commission Statement of Changes in Equity

Budget as at 30/6/05 \$'000		Est.Outcome as at 30/6/05 \$'000	Planned as at 30/6/06 \$'000	Var %	Planned as at 30/6/07 \$'000	Planned as at 30/6/08 \$'000	Planned as at 30/6/09 \$'000
1 177	<b>Opening Balance</b>	1 791	1 267	-29	621	-108	-630
	<b>Accumulated Funds</b>						
-222	Operating Result for the Period	-524	-646	-23	-729	-522	1
	<b>Reserves</b>						
-222	<b>Total Income And Expense For The Period</b>	-524	-646	-23	-729	-522	1
	<b>Transactions Involving Equity Holders Affecting Accumulated Funds</b>						
955	<b>Closing Balance</b>	1 267	621	-51	-108	-630	-629

### Notes to the Budget Statements

Significant variations are as follows:

#### *Operating Statement*

- user charges – non ACT Government: the increase of \$0.136m in the 2004-05 estimated outcome from the original budget is mainly due to an increase in client contributions and recovered costs.
- grants from the Commonwealth:
  - the increase of \$0.310m in the 2004-05 estimated outcome from the original budget is due to additional funding from the Commonwealth for expensive cases (cases costing more than \$0.1m are separately funded after negotiation with the Commonwealth) and separate funding for the Primary Dispute Resolution program which was unconfirmed at the time of the original budget; and
  - the decrease of \$0.214m in the 2005-06 Budget from the 2004-05 estimated outcome is due to the exclusion of expensive case funding from budgeted figures.
- interest:
  - the increase of \$0.552m in the 2004-05 estimated outcome from the original budget is due to an increase in interest rates and an increase in statutory revenue from the ACT Law Society; and
  - the decrease of \$0.248m in the 2005-06 Budget from the 2004-05 estimated outcome is due to the unpredictable nature of the statutory revenue from the ACT Law Society and the greater than expected allocation of this revenue in 2004-05.

- employee expenses:
  - the increase of \$0.326m in the 2004-05 estimated outcome from the original budget is due to an increase in salaries resulting from the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA), and an increase in other employee expenses; and
  - the increase of \$0.101m in the 2005-06 Budget from the 2004-05 estimated outcome is also due to an increase in salaries resulting from the EBA.
- supplies and services:
  - the increase of \$1.094m in the 2004-05 estimated outcome from the original budget is mainly due to higher costs associated with in-house cases and an increase in amounts paid on referred and expensive cases; and
  - the decrease of \$0.218m in the 2005-06 Budget from the 2004-05 estimated outcome is due to an expected decrease in legal services, if the statutory revenue received from the ACT Law Society is not higher than the budgeted amount.

### *Balance Sheet*

- cash:
  - the decrease of \$1.118m in the 2004-05 estimated outcome from the original budget is mainly due to an increase in the estimated operating deficit and the transfer of funds to a term deposit investment; and
  - the decrease of \$0.409m in the 2005-06 Budget from the 2004-05 estimated outcome is due to an expected further increase in the operating deficit in 2005-06.
- investments:
  - the increase of \$1.371m in the 2004-05 estimated outcome from the original budget is largely due to a transfer of funds from the operating bank account to a term deposit investment account; and
  - the decrease of \$0.195m in the 2005-06 Budget from the 2004-05 estimated outcome is due to investment funds being used to fund operational expenses due to the increase in the operating deficit.