

REFUGEE REVIEW TRIBUNAL

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REFUGEE REVIEW TRIBUNAL

Section 1: Agency overview

The Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) provides final independent merits review of decisions of DIMIA to refuse or cancel protection visas. This outcome contributes to ensuring that Australia meets its international obligations pursuant to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. The RRT is required to provide a mechanism of review that is fair, just, economical, informal and quick.

The RRT is prescribed under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, and administers the RRT post-decision application for review fee.

Table 1.1: Agency outcomes and output groups

Outcome	Description
Outcome 1	
Contribute to ensuring that Australia meets its obligations pursuant to the Convention on the status of refugees	The RRT provides final independent merits review of certain administrative decisions of DIMIA. The RRT is required to provide a review that is fair, just, economical, informal and quick

Section 2: Agency resources for 2005-06

2.1: APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER RESOURCES

The RRT has entered into an ongoing agreement with the Department of Finance and Administration (Finance) to have funding considered on the basis of a formula using fixed and variable costs. The RRT will receive 75 per cent of its appropriation as a fixed amount and the remaining 25 per cent is dependent on the number of cases finalised in a year.

Table 2.1 shows the total resources from all origins for 2005-06, including appropriations. The table summarises how revenue will be applied by outcome, administered and departmental classification.

The total appropriation for the RRT in the 2005-06 Budget is \$20.6 million.

Table 2.1: Appropriations and other revenue 2005-06¹ ('000)

Outcome	Appropriations			Revenue from other sources ⁵		Total resources ⁷
	\$'000 Bill No. 1	\$'000 Bill No. 2 ²	\$'000 Special approp ³	\$'000 Total approp ⁴	% ⁶	
Outcome 1 - Contribute to ensuring that Australia meets its obligations pursuant to the Convention on the status of refugees						
Departmental	20,604	-	-	20,604	1,731	22,335
Total outcome 1	20,604	-	-	20,604	1,731	22,335
Departmental capital (equity injections)				-		
Previous year's outputs				-		
Administered assets and liabilities				-		
Total resources	20,604	-	-	20,604	1,731	22,335

1 This table has been redesigned to correspond with Budget Paper No. 4 'Agency Resourcing'. It now includes (where appropriate) administered revenue from other sources.

2 Under the appropriation structure, Bill No. 2 includes Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs), New Agency Outcomes (NAOs), administered capital and departmental capital via departmental injections and loans.

3 Estimated expenses from individual Special Appropriations are shown at Section 3, Tables 3.1, etc.

4 Total appropriations = Bill No. 1 + Bill No. 2 + Special Appropriations.

5 Revenue from other sources includes FMA s.31 revenues, CAC body revenues that are available to be expensed, special accounts (non-appropriation revenues) and resources received free of charge.

6 Percentage figures indicate the percentage contribution of revenue from government (departmental appropriations) to the total price of outputs, by outcome, and the percentage contribution of revenue from other sources (departmental) to the total price of outputs, by outcome.

7 Total resources = total appropriations + revenue from other sources.

Note: Refer to Budgeted statement of financial performance for application of agency revenue.

2.2: 2005-06 BUDGET MEASURES

Budget measures relating to the Refugee Review Tribunal are summarised in Table 2.2. Measures listed in Table 2.2 are explained in Budget Paper No. 2.

Table 2.2: RRT – summary of expense measures in the 2005-06 Budget

Measure	Outcome and Output Groups	Appropriations budget			Appropriations forward estimate 2006-07 (\$'000)			Appropriations forward estimate 2007-08 (\$'000)			Appropriations forward estimate 2008-09 (\$'000)		
		Admin expenses	Dept outputs	Total	Admin expenses	Dept outputs	Total	Admin expenses	Dept outputs	Total	Admin expenses	Dept outputs	Total
Efficiency dividend - increase in the rate from 1 per cent to 1.25 per cent	1	-	(54)	(54)	-	(51)	(51)	-	(49)	(49)	-	(49)	(49)

2.3: OTHER RECEIPTS AVAILABLE TO BE USED

Table 2.3 provides details of other receipts available to be used and include FMA s.31 receipts, CAC body receipts that are available to be spent, special accounts (non-appropriation receipts) and resources received free of charge.

Table 2.3: Other receipts available to be used

Outcome	Estimated receipts 2004-05 \$'000	Budget estimate 2005-06 \$'000
Departmental other receipts		
Revenue from other sources	1,824	1,731
Sale of assets	71	-
Total departmental other receipts available to be used	1,895	1,731

2.4: MOVEMENT OF ADMINISTERED FUNDS FROM 2004-05 TO 2005-06

The RRT has no movement of administered funds. For this reason, table 2.4 is not presented.

2.5: SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS

The RRT has no special appropriations. For this reason, table 2.5 is not presented.

2.6: SPECIAL ACCOUNTS

The RRT has no special accounts. For this reason, table 2.6 is not presented.

2.7: ADMINISTERED CAPITAL AND DEPARTMENTAL EQUITY INJECTIONS AND LOANS

The RRT has no administered capital, departmental equity injections or loans

2.8: REVENUE FROM INDEPENDENT SOURCES

Supplementary Table 1: Revenue from independent sources

	Estimated actual 2004-05 \$'000	Budget estimate 2005-06 \$'000
ADMINISTERED REVENUE		
Outcome 1		
RRT fees	4,530	4,200
Total Outcome 1	4,530	4,200
Total administered revenue	4,530	4,200
DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE		
Outcome 1		
Resources received free of charge	28	28
Corporate services charge - MRT	1,796	1,703
Sale of assets	71	-
Total Outcome 1	1,895	1,731
Total departmental revenue	1,895	1,731

Section 3: Agency outcomes

This section explains how the resources identified in Section 2 will be used to deliver outputs and administered items to contribute to the outcome for the Refugee Review Tribunal.

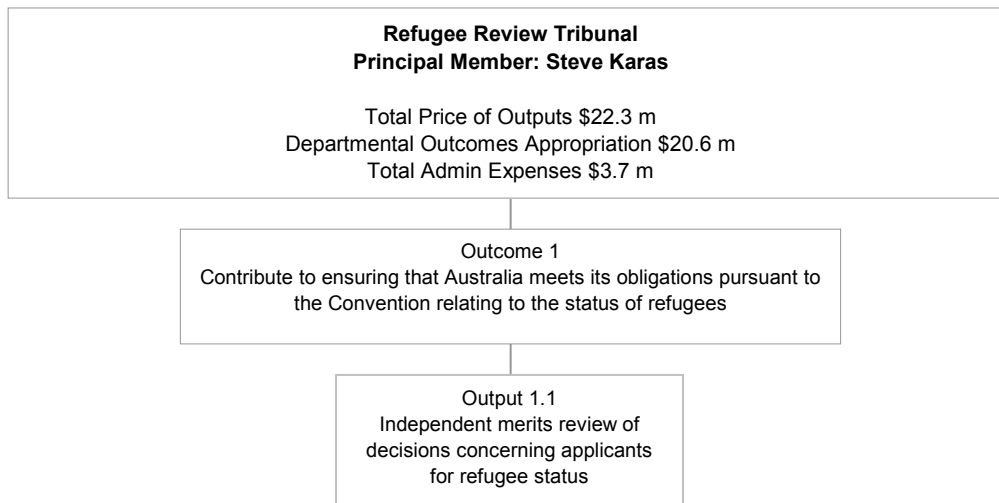
3.1: SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES, OUTPUTS AND ADMINISTERED ITEMS

The RRT works towards achieving one outcome specified by government. The outcome is *to contribute to ensuring that Australia meets its international obligations pursuant to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*.

Output cost attribution

There is one output for the RRT which is the *independent merits review of decisions concerning applicants for refugee status*. All costs are allocated to this output.

Figure 4: Outcomes and output groups and administered items



Changes to outcomes and outputs

RRT has had no changes to the number, wording or structure of its outcome or outputs since Budget 2004-05.

3.2: OUTCOMES — DEPARTMENTAL AND ADMINISTERED

Departmental appropriations by outcome

As identified in Section 3.1, the RRT works towards achieving one outcome. All departmental appropriation is allocated to this outcome. An analysis of departmental resources for this outcome is provided in Section 5.1: Analysis of Budgeted Financial Statements.

Administered appropriations by outcome

The RRT has no administered appropriation.

3.3: OUTCOMES RESOURCING

Outcome 1 resourcing

Table 3.1 shows how the 2005-06 Budget appropriations translate to total resourcing for the Outcome, including administered expenses, revenue from government (appropriation), revenue from other sources (departmental) and the total price of outputs.

Table 3.1: Total resources for Outcome 1 (\$'000)

	Estimated actual 2004-05 \$'000	Budget estimate 2005-06 \$'000
Administered items		
Non-cash expenses	4,000	3,700
Total administered expenses	4,000	3,700
Departmental appropriations		
Output 1.1 - Independent merits review of certain decisions concerning applicants for refugee status.	22,075	20,604
Subtotal Output Group 1.1	22,075	20,604
Total revenue from government (appropriations)	22,075	20,604
Contributing to price of departmental outputs	92%	92%
Revenue from other sources		
Resources received free of charge	28	28
Corporate services charge - MRT	1,796	1,703
Sale of assets	71	-
Total revenue from other sources	1,895	1,731
Total price from departmental outputs (Total revenue from government and from other sources)	23,970	22,335
Total estimated resourcing for Outcome 1 (Total price of outputs and administered appropriations)	27,970	26,035
	2004-05	2005-06
Average staffing level (number)	224	190

Performance information for Outcome 1

Table 3.2: Performance information for Outcome 1

Effectiveness — overall achievement of the outcome	
Decisions are correct and preferable	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RRT contributes to the quality and consistency of decision making 	
Performance information for departmental outputs	
Output 1.1: Independent merits review of decisions concerning applicants for refugee status	\$20.6 million
Quantity	
Cases finalised	4,050
Quality	
Level of and outcomes appeals against Tribunal decisions	
Complaints received	
Extent to which time standards are met	

Evaluations for Outcome 1

The RRT regularly seeks feedback from stakeholders through regular community liaison meetings and liaison meetings with DIMIA. Monthly activity and financial reports are reviewed by the Senior Management Group and by the Joint Management Board. There is an internal audit program and there are management initiated reviews to enhance the flexibility, accountability and cost effectiveness of output delivery. The Australian National Audit Office (the ANAO) will be conducting a general performance audit on the effectiveness of the MRT and the RRT.

Competitive tendering and contracting (CTC)

The RRT manages a number of contracts with external service providers. Service providers are selected through competitive tendering processes.

Section 4: Other reporting requirements

4.1: PURCHASER-PROVIDER ARRANGEMENTS

The RRT currently purchases its financial system from DIMIA, and has an agreement with DIMIA for the processing and collection of post-decision fees. The RRT also has arrangements with DIMIA to use DIMIA's travel provider.

The RRT provides corporate, research and library services to the MRT. The MRT is charged a fee for this service which is based on direct costs, comprised mainly of staff and rent.

Cross agency overview

The RRT and the MRT have established a Joint Management Board and other joint corporate governance arrangements, and are continuing to implement measures to find efficiencies in the operations of the tribunals through common staff service arrangements, common infrastructure, and common purchasing. In July 2004, a significant proportion of members were cross-appointed to both the MRT and the RRT. The management of the allocation of work to these members between the tribunals permits the tribunals to deal with changing caseloads.

The tribunals co-located in Melbourne in 2003 and will co-locate in Sydney in 2005.

Responsibility

The reporting of these arrangements forms part of the RRT's Annual Reports.

Control arrangements

The RRT is accountable for its operations, and there are joint corporate governance arrangements in place across RRT and MRT operations.

Resourcing

A service fee (\$1.7 million for 2005-06) is paid by the MRT for services utilising RRT resources.

Performance against outcomes of purchased outputs

The services which are provided by other agencies are support services, the effectiveness of which will be reported on in the RRT's Annual Report. The services provided or sourced support the efficient delivery of the RRT's single outcome.

4.2: COST RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS

The RRT has no cost recovery arrangements. Fees and charges for courts and tribunals are excluded from the government's cost recovery policy (which generally encompasses fees and charges related to the provision of government goods and services to the private and other non-government sectors of the economy).

Section 5: Budgeted financial statements

5.1: ANALYSIS OF BUDGETED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

An analysis of the RRT's budgeted financial statements for 2005-06 is provided below.

Budgeted departmental statement of financial performance

This statement provides a picture of the expected financial results for the RRT by identifying full accrual expenses and revenues, which highlights whether the RRT is operating at a sustainable level.

The RRT's funding is based on an agreement with Finance, and receives funding for fixed costs plus variable costs based on the RRT's total operating costs. Total expenses for 2005-06 are estimated at \$22.3 million, which will lead to an anticipated nil surplus. The MRT is co-locating with the RRT in Sydney mid 2005, and productivity improvements should be achieved in out years after transitional costs are incurred.

Budgeted departmental statement of financial position

This statement shows the financial position of the RRT. It helps decision-makers to track the management of assets and liabilities.

Assets and liabilities will remain static during 2005-06.

Budgeted departmental statement of cash flows

Budgeted cash flows, as reflected in the statement of cash flows, provide important information on the extent and nature of cash flows by categorising them into expected cash flows from operating activities, investing activities and financing activities.

Departmental capital budget statement

Shows all planned departmental capital expenditure (capital expenditure on non-financial assets), whether funded through capital appropriations for additional equity or borrowings, or from funds from internal sources.

The RRT replaces assets on a regular basis as part of its ongoing asset maintenance program. This year the capital budget is affected by a co-location in Sydney with the Migration Review Tribunal.

Departmental non-financial assets — summary of movement

Shows budgeted acquisitions and disposals of non-financial assets during the budget year.

Capital purchases will be affected by the Sydney co-location. The fitout component includes an upgrade of a PABX and a replacement program for copiers, printers and PCs. The RRT is also replacing its current case management system (CMS), with a new CMS in conjunction with the MRT.

Schedule of administered activity

Schedule of budgeted revenues and expenses administered on behalf of government

This schedule identifies the main revenues and expenses administered on behalf of the government.

The RRT administers a post decision fee of \$1,400 payable by applicants where the primary decision to refuse a visa has been upheld. The fees reflect the anticipated fees payable for 2005-06, and the other expenses are bad debts. Applicants who debts remain unpaid are placed on DIMIA's movement alert system until the debt has been recovered. The debt recovery process is managed by DIMIA.

Schedule of budgeted assets and liabilities administered on behalf of government

This schedule shows the assets and liabilities administered on behalf of the government. Receivables reflect the net amount of outstanding debt at 30 June 2006.

Schedule of budgeted administered cash flows

This schedule shows cash flows administered on behalf of the government. The \$0.5 million for fees represents anticipated recovery of fees for 2005-06.

5.2: BUDGETED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TABLES

Table 5.1: Budgeted departmental statement of financial performance for the period ended 30 June

	Estimated actual 2004-05 \$'000	Budget estimate 2005-06 \$'000	Forward estimate 2006-07 \$'000	Forward estimate 2007-08 \$'000	Forward estimate 2008-09 \$'000
REVENUE					
Revenues from ordinary activities					
Revenues from Government	22,075	20,604	19,441	19,916	20,176
Goods and services	1,824	1,731	1,687	1,704	1,721
Revenue from sales of assets	71	-	-	-	-
Revenues from ordinary activities	23,970	22,335	21,128	21,620	21,897
EXPENSE					
Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)					
Employees	14,929	14,930	13,800	14,102	14,208
Suppliers	6,726	6,846	6,765	7,002	7,173
Depreciation and amortisation	1,228	559	563	516	516
Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)	22,883	22,335	21,128	21,620	21,897
Net surplus or deficit attributable to the Australian Government	1,087	-	-	-	-

Table 5.2: Budgeted departmental statement of financial position as at 30 June

	Estimated actual 2004-05 \$'000	Budget estimate 2005-06 \$'000	Forward estimate 2006-07 \$'000	Forward estimate 2007-08 \$'000	Forward estimate 2008-09 \$'000
ASSETS					
Financial assets					
Cash	304	247	161	154	200
Receivables	4,159	4,587	4,887	5,087	5,087
Total financial assets	4,463	4,834	5,048	5,241	5,287
Non-financial assets					
Land and buildings	1,438	1,260	1,112	934	756
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	952	702	569	261	73
Intangibles	5	2	-	-	-
Other non-financial assets	47	52	78	52	52
Total non-financial assets	2,442	2,016	1,759	1,247	881
Total assets	6,905	6,850	6,807	6,488	6,168
LIABILITIES					
Interest bearing liabilities					
Leases	1,413	1,200	1,000	800	600
Total interest bearing liabilities	1,413	1,200	1,000	800	600
Provisions					
Employees	3,721	3,947	3,947	3,947	3,947
Total provisions	3,721	3,947	3,947	3,947	3,947
Payables					
Suppliers	343	275	432	313	193
Total payables	343	275	432	313	193
Total liabilities	5,477	5,422	5,379	5,060	4,740
EQUITY*					
Parent entity interest					
Reserves	1,477	1,477	1,477	1,477	1,477
Retained surpluses or accumulated deficits	(49)	(49)	(49)	(49)	(49)
Total parent entity interest	1,428	1,428	1,428	1,428	1,428
Current assets	4,510	4,886	5,126	5,293	5,339
Non-current assets	2,395	1,964	1,681	1,195	829
Current liabilities	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600
Non-current liabilities	1,877	1,822	1,779	1,460	1,140

*Note: 'equity' is the residual interest in assets after deduction of liabilities.

Table 5.3: Budgeted departmental statement of cash flows for the period ended 30 June

	Estimated actual 2004-05 \$'000	Budget estimate 2005-06 \$'000	Forward estimate 2006-07 \$'000	Forward estimate 2007-08 \$'000	Forward estimate 2008-09 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Goods and services	1,824	1,731	1,687	1,704	1,721
Appropriations	21,074	20,604	19,441	19,916	20,176
Total cash received	22,898	22,335	21,128	21,620	21,897
Cash used					
Employees	14,929	14,930	13,800	14,102	14,208
Suppliers	6,726	6,549	6,634	7,095	7,293
Transfer to DOFA	900	600	300	200	-
Total cash used	22,555	22,079	20,734	21,397	21,501
Net cash from or (used by) operating activities	343	256	394	223	396
INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment	71	-	-	-	-
Total cash received	71	-	-	-	-
Cash used					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	813	128	280	30	150
Total cash used	813	128	280	30	150
Net cash from or (used by) investing activities	(742)	(128)	(280)	(30)	(150)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total cash received	-	-	-	-	-
Cash used					
Repayments of debt	132	185	200	200	200
Total cash used	132	185	200	200	200
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities	(132)	(185)	(200)	(200)	(200)
Net increase or (decrease) in cash held	(531)	(57)	(86)	(7)	46
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period	835	304	247	161	154
Cash at the end of the reporting period	304	247	161	154	200

Table 5.4: Departmental capital budget statement

	Estimated actual 2004-05 \$'000	Budget estimate 2005-06 \$'000	Forward estimate 2006-07 \$'000	Forward estimate 2007-08 \$'000	Forward estimate 2008-09 \$'000
PURCHASE OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS					
Funded by capital appropriation	-	-	-	-	-
Funded internally by					
Departmental resources	813	128	280	30	150
Total	813	128	280	30	150

Table 5.5: Departmental property, plant, equipment and intangibles — summary of movement (Budget year 2005-06)

	Buildings	Other infrastructure plant and equipment	Computer software	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2005				
Gross book value	1,496	3,215	78	4,789
Accumulated depreciation	58	2,263	73	2,394
Opening net book value	1,438	952	5	2,395
Additions:				
by purchase		128		128
Depreciation/amortisation expense	178	378	3	559
As at 30 June 2006	1,260	702	2	1,964
Gross book value	1,496	3,343	78	4,917
Accumulated depreciation	236	2,641	76	2,953
Closing net book value	1,260	702	2	1,964

Table 5.6: Schedule of budgeted revenues and expenses administered on behalf of Government for the period ended 30 June

	Estimated actual 2004-05 \$'000	Budget estimates 2005-06 \$'000	Forward estimate 2006-07 \$'000	Forward estimate 2007-08 \$'000	Forward estimate 2008-09 \$'000
REVENUES ADMINISTERED ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT					
Non-taxation (revenues from Government)					
Other sources of non-taxation revenues	4,530	4,200	3,900	4,200	4,200
Total non-taxation	4,530	4,200	3,900	4,200	4,200
Total revenues administered on behalf of Government	4,530	4,200	3,900	4,200	4,200
EXPENSES ADMINISTERED ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT					
Write down and impairment of assets	4,000	3,700	3,400	3,700	3,700
Total expenses administered on behalf of Government	4,000	3,700	3,400	3,700	3,700

Table 5.7: Schedule of budgeted assets and liabilities administered on behalf of Government as at 30 June

	Estimated actual 2004-05 \$'000	Budget estimate 2005-06 \$'000	Forward estimate 2006-07 \$'000	Forward estimate 2007-08 \$'000	Forward estimate 2008-09 \$'000
ASSETS ADMINISTERED ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT					
Financial assets					
Receivables	346	350	350	350	350
Total financial assets	346	350	350	350	350
Non-financial assets					
Other non-financial assets	-	-	-	-	-
Total non-financial assets	-	-	-	-	-
Total assets administered on behalf of Government	346	350	350	350	350
LIABILITIES ADMINISTERED ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT					
Payables					
Other payables	-	-	-	-	-
Total payables	-	-	-	-	-
Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government	-	-	-	-	-

**Table 5.8: Schedule of budgeted administered cash flows
for the period ended 30 June**

	Estimated actual 2004-05 \$'000	Budget estimate 2005-06 \$'000	Forward estimate 2006-07 \$'000	Forward estimate 2007-08 \$'000	Forward estimate 2008-09 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Other taxes, fees and fines	530	500	460	490	490
Total cash received	530	500	460	490	490
Cash used					
Cash to Official Public Account	530	500	460	490	490
Total cash used	530	500	460	490	490
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	-	-	-	-	-
Net increase or (decrease) in cash held	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at beginning of reporting period	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at end of reporting period	-	-	-	-	-

5.3: NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Departmental financial statements and schedule to administered activity

Under the Australian Government's accrual based budgeting framework, and consistent with Australian Accounting Standards, transactions that agencies control (departmental transactions) are separately budgeted for and reported on from transactions agencies do not have control over (administered transactions). This ensures that agencies are only held fully accountable for the transactions over which they have control.

- departmental items are those assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses in relation to an agency or authority that are controlled by the agency. Departmental expenses include employee and supplier expenses and other administrative costs, which are incurred by the agency in providing its goods and services.
- administered items are revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities that are managed by an agency or authority on behalf of the government according to set government directions. Administered expenses include subsidies, grants and personal benefit payments and administered revenues include taxes, fees, fines and excises.

Appropriations in the accrual budgeting framework

Under the Australian Government's accrual budgeting framework, separate annual appropriations are provided for:

- departmental price of outputs appropriations: representing the government's funding of outputs from agencies;
- departmental capital appropriations: for investments by the government for either additional equity or loans in agencies;
- administered expense appropriations: for the estimated administered expenses relating to an existing outcome, a new outcome or a Specific Purpose Payment to the states; and
- administered capital appropriations: for increases in administered equity through funding non-expense administered payments.

Special appropriations fund the majority of payments from the Consolidated Revenue Fund (especially those that are entitlement driven or involve transfers to state governments).

Administered investments in controlled entities

Each Commonwealth Department is required to show an administered investment in each *Commonwealth Authorities and Company Act 1997* entity within their portfolio. These administered investments should be valued at the Commonwealth's ownership interest in the net assets of those CAC entities, fixed at a notional acquisition date of 30 June 1997.

Asset valuation

From 1 July 2002 Commonwealth agencies and authorities are required to use either the cost basis or the fair value basis to measure property, plant and equipment. The shift from the deprival method of valuation to fair value should occur gradually over a three-year period. Fair value essentially reflects the current market value of an asset.

