

REFUGEE REVIEW TRIBUNAL

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REFUGEE REVIEW TRIBUNAL

Section 1: Overview

The Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) provides final independent merits review of decisions of DIMA 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 DIMA. The RRT is required to provide a review that is fair, just, economical, informal and quick

Section 2: Resources for 2006-07

2.1: APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER RESOURCES

The RRT has an agreement with the Department of Finance and Administration (Finance) to have funding reviewed 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 2006-07, including appropriations. The table summarises how revenue will be applied by outcome, administered and departmental classification.

The total appropriation for the RRT in the 2006-07 Budget is \$19.1 million.

Table 2.1: Appropriations and other revenue 2006-07¹ ('000)

Refugee Review Tribunal Agency Resourcing—2006-07										
Agency/Outcome/ Non-operating	Departmental				Administered					Total \$'000
	Appropriation Bill No. 1 \$'000	Appropriation Bill No. 2 \$'000	Special Appropriation \$'000	Receipts (a) \$'000	Appropriation Bill No. 1 \$'000	Appropriation Bill No. 2 SPPs \$'000	Other (b) \$'000	Special Appropriation \$'000	Receipts (a) \$'000	
Outcome 1										
Contributing to ensuring that Australia meets its obligations pursuant to the Convention on the Status of Refugees	19,072	-	-	1,600	-	-	-	-	-	20,672
Equity injections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loans	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Previous years' outputs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Administered assets and liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special capital Appropriation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	19,072	-	-	1,600	-	-	-	-	-	20,672

(a) Departmental receipts from other sources (that is, other than appropriation amounts) that are available to be used.

(b) Includes new administered expenses and administered assets and liabilities.

Notes:

1. 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.

Refer to Budgeted Departmental Income Statement for application of agency revenue.

2.2: 2006-07 BUDGET MEASURES

The RRT has no measures, for this reason Table 2.2 is not presented.

2.3: OTHER RECEIPTS AVAILABLE TO BE USED

Table 2.3 provides details of other receipts available to be used and include FMA Act 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

	Estimated receipts 2005-06 \$'000	Budget estimate 2006-07 \$'000
Outcome		
Departmental other receipts		
Revenue from other sources	1,554	1,600
Total departmental other receipts available to be used	1,554	1,600

2.4: MOVEMENT OF ADMINISTERED FUNDS FROM 2005-06 TO 2006-07

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 2005-06 \$'000	Budget estimate 2006-07 \$'000
ADMINISTERED REVENUE		
Outcome 1		
RRT fees	3,600	3,300
Total Outcome 1	3,600	3,300
Total administered revenue	3,600	3,300
DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE		
Outcome 1		
Corporate services charge - MRT	1,554	1,600
Total Outcome 1	1,554	1,600
Total departmental revenue	1,554	1,600

Section 3: 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.

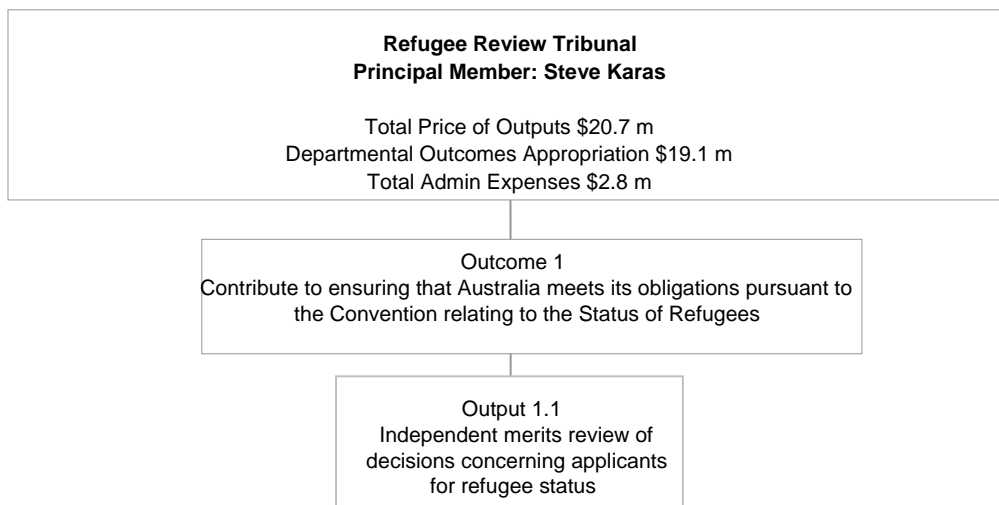
3.1: SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES, OUTPUTS AND ADMINISTERED ITEMS

The RRT works towards achieving one outcome specified by government. The outcome is *to contribute to ensuring that Australia meets its 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 1: 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 2005-06.

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 2006-07 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 2005-06 \$'000	Budget estimate 2006-07 \$'000
Administered items		
Non-cash expenses	3,000	2,800
Total administered expenses	3,000	2,800
Departmental appropriations		
Output 1.1 - Independent merits review of certain decisions concerning applicants for refugee status	22,742	19,072
Subtotal Output Group 1.1	22,742	19,072
Total revenue from government (appropriations)	22,742	19,072
Contributing to price of departmental outputs	93%	92%
Revenue from other sources		
Corporate services charge - MRT	1,554	1,600
Resources received free of charge	32	32
Total revenue from other sources	1,586	1,632
Total price from departmental outputs (Total revenue from government and from other sources)	24,328	20,704
Total estimated resourcing for Outcome 1 (Total price of outputs and administered appropriations)	27,328	23,504
	2005-06	2006-07
Average staffing level (number)	190	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	\$19.1 million
Quantity	
Cases finalised	3,380
Quality	
Level and outcome of appeals against Tribunal decisions	
Complaints received	
Extent to which time standards are met	

Evaluations for Outcome 1

The RRT seeks feedback from stakeholders through regular community liaison meetings and liaison meetings with DIMA. 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 (ANAO) is 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 and engaged in accordance with Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines.

Section 4: Other reporting requirements

4.1: PURCHASER-PROVIDER ARRANGEMENTS

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

The MRT introduced a joint case management system (CaseMate) in 2006, which is shared with the RRT, and the RRT is charged a fee which is based on direct costs.

Cross agency overview

The RRT and the MRT have established a Joint Management Board and other joint corporate governance arrangements, are co-located 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. Members and staff are cross-appointed to both the tribunals. The management of the allocation of work to members between the tribunals permits the tribunals to deal with changing caseloads.

Responsibility

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

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 (\$1.6 million for 2006-07) 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 2006-07 is provided below.

Budgeted departmental income statement

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 2006-07 are estimated at \$20.7 million, which will lead to an anticipated nil surplus.

Budgeted departmental statement balance sheet

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 2006-07.

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.

Departmental non-financial assets — summary of movement

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

Capital purchases include audio-visual upgrade and purchases in line with the asset management programme.

Schedule of administered activity

Schedule of budgeted income 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 2006-07, and the other expenses are bad debts. Applicants who debts remain unpaid are placed on DIMA's Movement Alert List (MAL) System until the debt has been recovered. The debt recovery process is managed by DIMA.

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 2007.

Schedule of budgeted administered cash flows

This schedule shows cash flows administered on behalf of the government. The \$0.52 million for fees represents anticipated recovery of fees for 2006-07.

5.2: BUDGETED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TABLES

Table 5.1: Budgeted departmental income statement for the period ended 30 June

	Estimated actual 2005-06 \$'000	Budget estimate 2006-07 \$'000	Forward estimate 2007-08 \$'000	Forward estimate 2008-09 \$'000	Forward estimate 2009-10 \$'000
INCOME					
Revenue					
Revenues from Government (Note 1)	22,774	19,104	19,525	19,779	20,011
Goods and services	1,554	1,600	1,650	1,700	1,750
Total Revenue	24,328	20,704	21,175	21,479	21,761
Total Income	24,328	20,704	21,175	21,479	21,761
EXPENSE					
Employees	15,650	14,530	14,892	15,208	15,446
Suppliers	6,250	5,608	5,704	5,700	5,769
Depreciation and amortisation	541	566	579	571	546
Total Expenses	22,441	20,704	21,175	21,479	21,761
Operating result from continuing operations	1,887	-	-	-	-
Net Surplus or (deficit) attributable to the Australian Government	1,887	-	-	-	-
Note 1 - Revenues from Government					
Appropriation	22,742	19,072	19,493	19,747	19,979
Resources received free of charge					
- Audit fees	32	32	32	32	32
Total revenues from Government	22,774	19,104	19,525	19,779	20,011

**Table 5.2: Budgeted departmental balance sheet
as at 30 June**

	Estimated actual 2005-06 \$'000	Budget estimate 2006-07 \$'000	Forward estimate 2007-08 \$'000	Forward estimate 2008-09 \$'000	Forward estimate 2009-10 \$'000
ASSETS					
Financial assets					
Cash	347	261	389	395	363
Receivables	4,937	4,737	4,937	5,137	5,237
Total financial assets	5,284	4,998	5,326	5,532	5,600
Non-financial assets					
Land and buildings	1,094	942	790	638	486
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	792	825	530	342	269
Intangibles	405	613	521	430	349
Other non-financial assets	132	132	132	132	132
Total non-financial assets	2,423	2,512	1,973	1,542	1,236
Total assets	7,707	7,510	7,299	7,074	6,836
LIABILITIES					
Interest bearing liabilities					
Leases	1,823	1,626	1,415	1,190	952
Total interest bearing liabilities	1,823	1,626	1,415	1,190	952
Provisions					
Employees	2,977	2,977	2,977	2,977	2,977
Total provisions	2,977	2,977	2,977	2,977	2,977
Payables					
Suppliers	707	707	707	707	707
Total payables	707	707	707	707	707
Total liabilities	5,507	5,310	5,099	4,874	4,636
EQUITY*					
Parent entity interest					
Contributed Equity	300	300	300	300	300
Reserves	1,477	1,477	1,477	1,477	1,477
Retained surpluses	423	423	423	423	423
Total parent entity interest	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
Current assets	5,416	5,130	5,458	5,664	5,732
Non-current assets	2,291	2,380	1,841	1,410	1,104
Current liabilities	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600
Non-current liabilities	1,907	1,710	1,499	1,274	1,036

*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 2005-06 \$'000	Budget estimate 2006-07 \$'000	Forward estimate 2007-08 \$'000	Forward estimate 2008-09 \$'000	Forward estimate 2009-10 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Appropriations	21,448	19,072	19,493	19,747	19,979
Goods and Services	1,554	1,600	1,650	1,700	1,750
Total cash received	23,002	20,672	21,143	21,447	21,729
Cash used					
Employees	16,907	14,530	14,892	15,208	15,446
Suppliers	6,439	5,576	5,672	5,668	5,737
Transfer to OPA	(1,000)	(200)	200	200	100
Total cash used	22,346	19,906	20,764	21,076	21,283
Net cash from or (used by) operating activities	656	766	379	371	446
INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Total cash received	-	-	-	-	-
Cash used					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	983	655	40	140	240
Total cash used	983	655	40	140	240
Net cash from or (used by) investing activities	(983)	(655)	(40)	(140)	(240)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Contributed Equity	300	-	-	-	-
Total cash received	300	-	-	-	-
Cash used					
Repayments of lease incentive	106	197	211	225	238
Total cash used	106	197	211	225	238
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities	194	(197)	(211)	(225)	(238)
Net increase or (decrease) in cash held	(133)	(86)	128	6	(32)
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period	480	347	261	389	395
Cash at the end of the reporting period	347	261	389	395	363

Table 5.4: Departmental statement of changes in equity – summary of movement (Budget 2006-07)

	Accumulated results \$'000	Asset revaluation reserve \$'000	Other reserves \$'000	Contributed equity/ capital \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Opening balance as at 1 July 2006					
Balance carried forward from previous period	423	1,477	-	300	2,200
Adjustment for changes in accounting policies	-	-	-	-	-
Adjusted opening balance	423	1,477	-	300	2,200
Income and expense					
Income and expenses recognised directly in equity:					
Gain/loss on revaluation of property	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total income and expense	-	-	-	-	-
Net operating result	-	-	-	-	-
Total income and expenses recognised directly in equity	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners					
Distribution to owners	-	-	-	-	-
Contribution by owners	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers between equity components	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated closing balance as at 30 June 2007	423	1,477	-	300	2,200

Table 5.5: Departmental capital budget statement

	Estimated actual 2005-06 \$'000	Budget estimate 2006-07 \$'000	Forward estimate 2007-08 \$'000	Forward estimate 2008-09 \$'000	Forward estimate 2009-10 \$'000
PURCHASE OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS					
Funded internally by					
Departmental resources	983	655	40	140	240
Total	983	655	40	140	240

Table 5.6: Departmental property, plant, equipment and intangibles — summary of movement (Budget year 2006-07)

	Buildings	Other infrastructure plant and equipment	Computer software	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2006				
Gross book value	3,307	3,036	529	6,872
Accumulated depreciation	2,213	2,244	124	4,581
Opening net book value	1,094	792	405	2,291
Additions:				
by purchase	-	355	300	655
Depreciation/amortisation expense	152	322	92	566
As at 30 June 2007	942	825	613	2,380
Gross book value	3,307	3,391	829	7,527
Accumulated depreciation	2,365	2,566	216	5,147
Closing net book value	942	825	613	2,380

Table 5.7: Schedule of budgeted income and expenses administered on behalf of Government for the period ended 30 June

	Estimated actual 2005-06 \$'000	Budget estimates 2006-07 \$'000	Forward estimate 2007-08 \$'000	Forward estimate 2008-09 \$'000	Forward estimate 2009-10 \$'000
INCOME ADMINISTERED ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT					
Revenue					
Non-Taxation					
Other sources of non-taxation revenues	3,600	3,300	3,600	3,600	3,600
Total non-taxation	3,600	3,300	3,600	3,600	3,600
Total income administered on behalf of Government	3,600	3,300	3,600	3,600	3,600
EXPENSES ADMINISTERED ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT					
Write down and impairment of assets	3,000	2,800	3,000	3,000	3,000
Total expenses administered on behalf of Government	3,000	2,800	3,000	3,000	3,000

Table 5.8: Schedule of budgeted assets and liabilities administered on behalf of Government as at 30 June

	Estimated actual 2005-06 \$'000	Budget estimate 2006-07 \$'000	Forward estimate 2007-08 \$'000	Forward estimate 2008-09 \$'000	Forward estimate 2009-10 \$'000
ASSETS ADMINISTERED ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT					
Financial assets					
Receivables	150	150	150	150	150
Total financial assets	150	150	150	150	150
Non-financial assets					
Other non-financial assets					
Total non-financial assets	-	-	-	-	-
Total assets administered on behalf of Government	150	150	150	150	150
LIABILITIES ADMINISTERED ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT					
Payables					
Other payables	-	-	-	-	-
Total payables	-	-	-	-	-
Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government	-	-	-	-	-

Table 5.9: Schedule of budgeted administered cash flows for the period ended 30 June

	Estimated actual 2005-06 \$'000	Budget estimate 2006-07 \$'000	Forward estimate 2007-08 \$'000	Forward estimate 2008-09 \$'000	Forward estimate 2009-10 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Other taxes, fees and fines	600	500	600	600	600
Total cash received	600	500	600	600	600
Cash used					
Cash to Official Public Account	600	500	600	600	600
Total cash used	600	500	600	600	600
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	-	-	-	-	-