

Portfolio glossary

Term	Meaning
Accumulated depreciation	The aggregate depreciation recorded for a particular depreciating asset.
Administered item	Appropriation consisting of funding managed on behalf of the Commonwealth. This funding is not at the discretion of the entity and any unspent appropriation is returned to the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) at the end of the financial year. An administered item is a component of an administered program. It may be a measure but will not constitute a program in its own right.
Appropriation	A law of the Australian Parliament providing authority for Commonwealth entities to spend money from the CRF for a particular purpose. Entities may not spend money without an appropriation authorising the expenditure and, where necessary, other legislation authorising the specified purpose.
Appropriation Bill (No. 1)	This Bill proposes spending from the CRF for the ordinary annual services of government. Bills proposing appropriations for ordinary annual services cannot be amended by the Senate under Section 53 of the Australian Constitution. Once the Bill is passed by the Parliament and given Royal Assent, it becomes Appropriation Act (No. 1).
Appropriation Bill (No. 2)	This Bill proposes spending from the CRF for purposes other than the ordinary annual services of government. Under existing arrangements between the 2 Houses of Parliament, this Bill includes appropriation funding of administered expenses for new outcomes, for payments to the states and territories, and for departmental or administered capital. Funding for extensions to existing programs can be included in Appropriation Bill (No. 2). Once the Bill is passed by the Parliament and given Royal Assent, it becomes Appropriation Act (No. 2).
Appropriation Bills (Nos. 3 and 4)	If an amount provided in Appropriation Acts (Nos. 1 or 2) is not enough to meet approved expenditure in a financial year, supplementary appropriation may be sought in Appropriation Bills (Nos. 3 or 4). Once these Bills are passed by the Parliament and given Royal Assent, they become the Appropriation Acts (Nos. 3 and 4). They are also commonly referred to as the Additional Estimates Bills.
Assets	Future economic benefits controlled by an entity as a result of past transactions or other past events.
Average staffing level	The average number of employees receiving salary/wages (or compensation in lieu of salary/wages) over a financial year, with adjustments for casual and part-time employees to show the full-time equivalent.
Budget Paper 1 (BP1)	Budget Strategy and Outlook - Provide information and analysis on whole-of-government expenditure and revenue.
Budget Paper 2 (BP2)	Budget Measures - Provide a description of each budget measure by portfolio.
Budget Paper 3 (BP3)	Australia's Federal Relations - Provide information and analysis on federal funding provided to the states and territories.
Budget Paper 4 (BP4)	Entity Resourcing. Details total resourcing available to agencies.
Capital expenditure	Expenditure by an entity on capital projects; for example, purchasing a building.

Term	Meaning
Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF)	The principal operating fund from which money is drawn to pay for the activities of the Government. Section 81 of the Australian Constitution provides that all revenue raised or monies received by the Executive Government forms one consolidated revenue fund from which appropriations are made for the purposes of the Australian Government.
Departmental Capital Budget (DCB)	Net cash appropriation arrangements involve the cessation of funding for depreciation, amortisation and make good expenses. Funding for these expenses has been replaced with a collection development and acquisition budget (CDAB) for designated collection institutions (DCIs), and departmental capital budgets (DCBs).
Departmental item	Resources (assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses) the entity accountable authorities control directly. This includes outsourced activities funded and controlled by the entity. Examples of departmental items include entity running costs, accrued employee entitlements and net appropriations. A departmental item is a component of a departmental program.
Depreciation	Apportionment of an asset's capital value as an expense over its estimated useful life to take account of normal usage, obsolescence, or the passage of time.
Equity or net assets	Residual interest in the assets of an entity after deduction of its liabilities.
Entity	A department, agency, company or authority under the <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> (PGPA Act) or any other Commonwealth statutory authority.
Estimated actual expenses	Details of the current year's estimated final figures as included in the Budget documentation.
Expenditure	Spending money from the Consolidated Revenue Fund or a notional payment to a PGPA entity.
Expense	Decreases in economic benefits in the form of outflows or depletions of assets or incurrence of liabilities results in decreases in equity, other than those relating to distributions to equity participants.
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year	Expenses not involving a cash flow impact are not included within the calculation of an appropriation. An example of such an event is goods or services received free of charge that are then expensed; for example, Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) audit services. The ANAO does not charge for audit services; however, the expense must be recognised. Similarly, bad debts are recognised as an expense but are not recognised for the purpose of calculating appropriation amounts to be sought from the Parliament.
Forward estimates period	The 3 years following the Budget year. For example if 2023–24 is the Budget year, 2024–25 is forward year 1, 2025–26 is forward year 2 and 2026–27 is forward year 3.
Funds	Money appropriated but not drawn from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.
Income	Total value of resources earned or received to cover the production of goods and services.
Make good	Make good is the cost of dismantling and removing an item and restoring the site on which it is located, the obligation for which an entity incurs either when the item is acquired or as a consequence of having used the item during a particular period for purposes other than to produce inventories during that period. A common example of make good in the public sector is the restoration of office premises at the end of a lease period.

Term	Meaning
Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO)	The MYEFO provides an update of the government's budget estimates by examining expenses and revenues in the year to date, as well as provisions for new decisions taken since the Budget. The report provides updated information to allow the assessment of the government's fiscal performance against the fiscal strategy set out in its current fiscal strategy statement.
'Movement of Funds' between years	A 'movement of funds' process is carried out twice each year in relation to un-expensed administered operating appropriations. This involves portfolio ministers submitting requests to the Finance Minister advising of timing changes to funding requirements. If agreed by the Finance Minister, there will be an increase in the amount appropriated in later year(s).
Net cash appropriation arrangements	The net cash framework, implemented from the 2010–11 Budget, replaces funding for depreciation and amortisation expenses with a departmental capital budget (DCB) and the funding of make good expenses will cease to be paid in advance. The net cash framework applies to general government sector entities receiving funding from annual appropriations directly or via a special account, with the exception of the Department of Defence.
Non-operating Official Public Account (OPA)	Sometimes called 'capital' costs. The OPA is the Australian Government's central bank account held within the Reserve Bank of Australia. The OPA reflects the operations of the CRF.
Operating	Normally related to ongoing, or recurring expenses, such as paying salaries or making program payments.
Operating result	Equals income less expenses.
Outcome	An outcome is the intended result, consequence or impact of government actions on the Australian community.
<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> (PGPA Act)	The PGPA Act is the principal legislation concerning the governance, performance and accountability of, and the use and management of public resources by the Commonwealth.
Portfolio Budget Statements	Budget related paper detailing budget initiatives and explanations of appropriations specified by outcome and program by each entity within a portfolio.
Program	Activity that delivers benefits, services or transfer payments to individuals, industry and/or the community as a whole, with the aim of achieving the intended result specified in an outcome statement.
Program support	The entity running costs allocated to a program. This is funded as part of the entity's departmental appropriations.
Special account	Balances existing within the CRF supported by standing appropriations (PGPA Act s. 78, s. 79 and s. 80). Special accounts allow money in the CRF to be acknowledged as set-aside (hypothecated) for a particular purpose. Amounts credited to a special account can only be spent for the purposes of the special account. Special accounts can only be established by a written determination of the Finance Minister (s. 78 of the PGPA Act) or through an Act of Parliament (referred to in s. 80 of the PGPA Act).
Special appropriations (including standing appropriations)	An amount of money appropriated by a particular Act of Parliament for a specific purpose and number of years. For special appropriations, the authority to withdraw funds from the CRF does not generally cease at the end of the financial year. Standing appropriations are a subcategory consisting of ongoing special appropriations – the amount appropriated will depend on circumstances specified in the legislation.