

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE OVERVIEW

Departmental responsibilities

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) is one of four parliamentary departments supporting the Australian Parliament.

The purpose of the PBO is to inform the Parliament by providing independent and non-partisan analysis of the budget cycle, fiscal policy and the financial implications of proposals.

The Parliamentary Budget Officer, under the Presiding Officers, is responsible for leading and managing the PBO.

As set out in the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*, the Parliamentary Budget Officer has the following functions:

- outside the caretaker period for a general election, to prepare policy costings on request by Senators and Members, with the requests and the PBO's responses to be kept confidential if so directed by the requestor
- during the caretaker period for a general election, to prepare costings of publicly announced policies on request by authorised members of parliamentary parties or independent parliamentarians, with the requests and the PBO's responses to be made public
- to prepare responses (other than policy costings) to requests relating to the budget from Senators and Members, with the requests and the PBO's responses to be kept confidential if so directed by the requestor
- to prepare submissions to inquiries of parliamentary committees, on request by such committees, with the requests and the PBO's responses to be made public
- after a general election, to report on the budget impacts of the election commitments of designated parliamentary parties
- to conduct, on his or her own initiative, research on the budget and fiscal policy settings, with the results of this work to be made public.