

# **Department Overview**

# Parliamentary Budget Office overview

## Department responsibilities

The purpose of the Parliamentary Budget Office (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 is a statutory role and has the following functions:

- outside the caretaker period for a general election, to prepare policy costings and undertake budget analysis on request by Senators or Members of the House of Representatives, 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 submissions to inquiries of parliamentary committees, on request by such committees, with the requests and the PBO's response to be made public
- after a general election, to prepare a report that analyses and summarises the budget impacts of the election commitments of designated parliamentary parties
- to conduct and publish self-initiated research on the budget and fiscal policy settings.

The Parliamentary Budget Officer's functions do not include preparing economic forecasts or budget estimates.