

Parliamentary Budget Office

Section 1: Entity overview and resources

1.1 Strategic direction statement

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. Our vision of enriching Australia's democracy through independent budget and fiscal analysis drives everything we do.

Our work includes supporting the Parliament by providing non-partisan analysis and information that is factual and evidence based. We also publish self-initiated research and information papers on the budget, to improve public understanding of fiscal policy and budget policy issues. We enhance transparency around the financial implications of election commitments by publishing a summary report after each general election.

The PBO is a trusted partner that acts with integrity, transparency, discretion, and mutual respect. We strive for excellence by continuously improving and innovating to provide high-quality, useful and timely information, tailored to the needs of our clients.

Demand for PBO analysis and costing services has steadily increased over the 47th Parliament. In 2024-25, the volume of requests is expected to be significantly more than in 2023-24, in anticipation of the next general election. The PBO's appropriation is increased every third year by \$0.5 million to reflect the extra activity during an election year.

Given the strong demand for PBO services, the expected resourcing for 2024-25 will make it challenging to maintain our service levels for parliamentarian requests as well as meet our publication and election related responsibilities.

To support the 2024-25 Portfolio Budget Statements (PB Statements) and in accordance with section 64Q of the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*, the Parliamentary Budget Officer, in consultation with the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, will prepare a work plan for the PBO setting out:

- the priorities for the PBO for the 2024-25 financial year
- protocols for the allocation of the resources for the PBO during the financial year

This information will be incorporated into the PBO's 2024-25 Corporate Plan, to be released before 31 August 2024.

Ahead of the release of the 2024-25 Corporate Plan, section 2 of the 2024-25 PB Statements provides detail on the PBO's outcome and planned performance.

1.2 Entity resource statement

Table 1.1 shows the total resourcing from all sources available to the entity for its operations and to deliver programs and services on behalf of the Government.

The table summarises how resources will be applied by outcome (government strategic policy objectives) and by administered (on behalf of the Government or the public) and departmental (for the entity’s operations) classification.

Information in this table is presented on a resourcing (that is, appropriations/cash available) basis, whilst the ‘Budgeted expenses by Outcome’ tables in Section 2 and the financial statements in Section 3 are presented on an accrual basis. Amounts presented below are consistent with amounts presented in the Appropriation Bills themselves.

Table 1.1: PBO resource statement – Budget estimates for 2024–25 as at Budget May 2024

	<i>2023-24 Estimated actual \$'000</i>	2024-25 Estimate \$'000
Departmental		
Annual appropriations - ordinary annual services (a)		
Prior year appropriations available	4,654	4,654
Departmental appropriation	9,137	9,895
Total departmental annual appropriations	<u>13,791</u>	<u>14,549</u>
<i>less departmental appropriations drawn from annual/special appropriations and credited to special accounts</i>		
Total departmental resourcing	<u>13,791</u>	<u>14,549</u>
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Average staffing level (number)	<u>44</u>	<u>48</u>

All figures shown above are GST exclusive - these may not match figures in the cash flow statement.

(a) Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2024-2025.