

PORTFOLIO GLOSSARY

Accrual accounting	System of accounting where items are brought to account and included in the financial statements as they are earned or incurred, rather than as they are received or paid.
Accumulated depreciation	The aggregate depreciation recorded for a particular depreciating asset.
Additional estimates	Where amounts appropriated at budget time are insufficient, Parliament may appropriate more funds to portfolios through the Additional Estimates Acts.
Administered items	Expenses, revenues, assets or liabilities managed by agencies on behalf of the Commonwealth. Agencies do not control administered items. Administered expenses include grants, subsidies and benefits. In many cases, administered expenses fund the delivery of third party outputs.
Annual appropriation	Two appropriation Bills are introduced into Parliament in May and comprise the Budget for the financial year beginning 1 July. Further Bills are introduced later in the financial year as part of the additional estimates. Parliamentary departments have their own appropriations.
Appropriation	An authorisation by Parliament to spend moneys from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for a particular purpose.
Capital expenditure	Expenditure by an agency on capital projects, for example purchasing a building.
Consolidated Revenue Fund	Section 81 of the Constitution stipulates that all revenue raised or money received by the Commonwealth forms the one consolidated revenue fund (CRF). The CRF is not a bank account. The Official Public Account reflects most of the operations of the CRF.

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Departmental items	Assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses that are controlled by the agency in providing its outputs. Departmental items would generally include computers, plant and equipment assets used by agencies in providing goods and services and most employee expenses, supplier costs and other administrative expenses incurred.
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.
Expense	Total value of all of the resources consumed in producing goods and services or the loss of future economic benefits in the form of reductions in assets or increases in liabilities of an entity.
FMA Act	<i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>
Operating result	Equals revenue less expense.
Outcomes	The government's objectives in each portfolio area. Outcomes are desired results, impacts or consequences for the Australian community as influenced by the actions of the Australian Government. Actual outcomes are assessments of the end-results or impacts actually achieved.
Output groups	A logical aggregation of agency outputs, where useful, and based either on homogeneity, type of product, business line or beneficiary target group. Aggregation of outputs may also be needed for the provision of adequate information for performance monitoring, or based on a materiality test.
Outputs	The goods and services produced by agencies on behalf of government for external organisations or individuals. Outputs also include goods and services for other areas of government external to the agency.

Price	One of the three key efficiency indicators. The amount the government or the community pays for the delivery of agreed outputs.
Program	The building blocks of government financial and non-financial reporting, management and analysis. Programs provide a tangible link between government decisions, government activities and the impacts of those actions.
Quality	One of the three key efficiency indicators. Relates to the characteristics by which customers or stakeholders judge an organisation, product or service. Assessment of quality involves use of information gathered from interested parties to identify differences between user's expectations and experiences.
Quantity	One of the three key efficiency indicators. Examples include: the size of an output; count or volume measures; how many or how much.
Revenue	Total value of resources earned or received to cover the production of goods and services.
Special account	Balances existing within the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) that are supported by standing appropriations (<i>Financial Management and Accountability (FMA) Act 1997</i> , subsection 20s and 21). Special accounts allow money in the CRF to be acknowledged as set aside (hypothecated) for a particular purpose. Amounts credited to a special account may only be spent for the purposes of the special account. Special accounts can only be established by a written determination of the Finance Minister (section 20 FMA Act) or through an Act of Parliament (referred to in section 21 of the FMA Act).

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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 Consolidated Revenue Fund 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.

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AIFS	Australian Institute of Family Studies
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
APS Commission	Australian Public Service Commission
Archives	National Archives of Australia
NADC	National Australia Day Council
OIGIS	Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security
Ombudsman	Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman
ONA	Office of National Assessments
OOSGG	Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General
OPC	Office of the Privacy Commissioner
OPH	Old Parliament House
PM&C	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

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