

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES

The Portfolio Budget Statements provide information about the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Portfolio. Through its portfolio agencies, the Australian Government takes a national leadership role in education and training and aims to improve the productive performance of enterprises in Australia. The Australian Government works with the state and territory governments, other Australian Government agencies, various industries, and a range of contracted service providers to provide high quality policy, advice and services for the benefit of Australia.

The Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Portfolio is comprised of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (the Department), and the following agencies:

- the Australian Industrial Relations Commission(AIRC)/Australian Industry Registry (AIR)
- the Australian Learning and Teaching Council Limited (ALTC)
- Comcare, the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission, and the Seafarer's Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority
- Fair Work Australia (FWA)
- the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO)
- Office of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner (ABCC)
- Teaching Australia – Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited
- the Workplace Authority (WPA).

The ALTC was previously reported as the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education Limited. It was renamed in May 2008.

Portfolio Overview

New Workplace Relations System

As a result of the introduction of the new workplace relations system, the seven existing workplace relations agencies will be amalgamated to form a new institutional framework comprising Fair Work Australia and the Fair Work Ombudsman. FWA and FWO will provide practical information, advice and assistance on workplace issues and ensure compliance with workplace laws and will begin operations from 1 July 2009. FWA will be formed from the AIRC, the AIR, the Australian Fair Pay Commission (AFPC), the Australian Fair Pay Commission (AFPC) Secretariat and the agreement processing elements of the WPA. The AIRC, AIR and the WPA will continue to operate for a limited time in 2009-10 to complete legacy functions reported in separate Agency statements within these Portfolio Budget Statements. FWA will also enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Fair Pay Commission Secretariat to support the completion of Australian Fair Pay Commission functions for the period of 1 July to 31 July 2009. The ABCC will continue to operate in 2009-10 until it is transferred to the FWO and is also reported separately within these Portfolio Budget Statements.

Other new agencies

Two new Portfolio agencies will commence operation during 2009-10:

- the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority
- Safe Work Australia.

Agency resources and planned performance information for these new agencies will be included in the DEEWR 2009-10 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements.

Figure 1: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations portfolio structure and outcomes

<p>The Hon Julia Gillard MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Education, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Minister for Social Inclusion The Hon Brendan O'Connor MP, Minister for Employment Participation The Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Youth Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Prime Minister for Social Inclusion The Hon Maxine McKew MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Early Childhood Education and Child Care</p>	
<p>Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Secretary: Lisa Paul</p> <p>Outcome 1: Improved access to quality services that support early childhood learning and care for children through a national quality framework, agreed national standards, investment in infrastructure, and support for parents, carers, services and the workforce. Outcome 2: Improved learning, and literacy, numeracy and educational attainment for school students, through funding for quality teaching and learning environments, workplace learning and career advice. Outcome 3: A growth in skills, qualifications and productivity through funding to improve teaching quality, learning, and tertiary sector infrastructure, international promotion of Australia's education and training sectors, and partnerships with industry. Outcome 4: Enhanced employability and acquisition of labour market skills and knowledge and participation in society through direct financial support and funding of employment and training services. Outcome 5: Safer, fairer and more productive workplaces for employers and employees by promoting and supporting the adoption of fair and flexible workplace arrangements and safer working arrangements.</p>	
<p>Australian Industrial Relations Commission/Australian Industrial Registry Industrial Registrar: Doug Williams Outcome: Co-operative workplace relations which promote the economic prosperity & welfare of the people of Australia.</p>	<p>Comcare Chief Executive Officer: Martin Dolan Outcome 1: The protection of the health, safety and welfare at work of workers covered by the Comcare scheme through education, assurance and enforcement. Outcome 2: An early and safe return to work and access to compensation for injured workers covered by the Comcare scheme through working in partnership with employers to create best practice in rehabilitation and quick and accurate management of workers' compensation claims. Outcome 3: Access to compensation for people with asbestos-related diseases where the Commonwealth has a liability, through the management of claims.</p>
<p>Australian Learning and Teaching Council Exec Director: Prof Richard Johnstone Outcome: Enhanced learning for students through engaging the higher education sector in the identification, support and reward of outstanding and innovative teaching.</p>	<p>Fair Work Australia Outcome: Simple, fair and flexible workplace relations for employees and employers through the exercise of powers to set and vary minimum wages and modern awards, facilitate collective bargaining, approve agreements and deal with disputes.</p>
<p>Fair Work Ombudsman Outcome: Compliance with workplace relations legislation by employees and employers through advice, education and where necessary enforcement.</p>	<p>Workplace Authority A/g Director: Penny Weir Outcome: Employees, employers are informed of all aspects of workplace relations under Commonwealth workplace relations laws, & agreement making meets the requirements of those laws.</p>
<p>Office of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner Commissioner: John Lloyd Outcome: Workplace relations laws are enforced in building & construction industry workplaces.</p>	
<p>Teaching Australia A/g Chief Executive: Helen Tracey Outcome: Enhance the quality of teaching and school leadership through developing standards, recognising teaching excellence, providing professional development opportunities, and supporting the teaching profession.</p>	

PORTFOLIO RESOURCES

Table 1 shows the total resources provided to the portfolio in the 2009-10 budget year, by agency.

Table 1: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Portfolio resources 2009-10

	Appropriation			Receipts	Total
	Bill No. 1 \$'000	Bill No. 2 \$'000	Special \$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations					
Administered appropriations	6,473,109	3,734,221	33,413,070	-	43,620,400
Departmental appropriations	859,418	41,648	-	57,035	958,101
Total:					44,578,501
Australian Industrial Relations Commission/ Australian Industrial Registry					
Administered appropriations	-	-	3,604	-	3,604
Departmental appropriations	7,282	-	-	-	7,282
Total:					10,886
Australian Learning and Teaching Council					
Departmental appropriations	-	-	-	29,273	29,273
Total:					29,273
Comcare					
Departmental appropriations	5,898	-	71,391	250,996	328,285
Total:					328,285
Seafarer's Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority					
Administered appropriations	-	-	-	132	132
Total:					132
Fair Work Australia					
Departmental appropriations	73,516	-	-	-	73,516
Total:					73,516
Fair Work Ombudsman					
Departmental appropriations	134,637	-	-	20,104	154,741
Total:					154,741

Table 1: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Portfolio resources 2009-10 (cont.)

	Appropriation			Receipts	Total
	Bill No. 1 \$'000	Bill No. 2 \$'000	Special \$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Office of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner					
Departmental appropriations	33,446	-	-	10	33,456
Total:					33,456
Teaching Australia - Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited					
Departmental appropriations	-	-	-	5,610	5,610
Total:					5,610
Workplace Authority					
Administered appropriations	-	-	-	-	-
Departmental appropriations	20,364	-	-	-	20,364
Total:					20,364
Portfolio total					45,234,764
Less amounts transferred within Portfolio					-34,883
					Resources available within Portfolio: 45,199,881

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