

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE OVERVIEW

Departmental Responsibilities

The 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 or Members of the House of Representatives.
- During the caretaker period for a general election – to prepare policy costings on request by authorised members of Parliamentary parties or independent members.
- To prepare responses (other than policy costings) to requests relating to the budget by Senators or Members of the House of Representatives.
- To prepare submissions to inquiries of Parliamentary committees on request by such committees.
- To conduct research on, and analysis of, the budget and fiscal policy settings.

