

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE OVERVIEW

Department responsibilities

The Parliamentary Budget Office (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 and Members, 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 members
- to prepare responses (other than policy costings) to requests relating to the budget from Senators and Members, with the requests and the PBO's responses to be kept confidential if so directed by the requestor
- to prepare submissions to inquiries of parliamentary committees, on request by such committees, with the requests and the PBO's responses to be made publicly available
- after a general election, to report on the costs of the election commitments of designated parliamentary parties
- to conduct, on his or her own initiative, research on the budget and fiscal policy settings, with the results of this work to be made publicly available.

DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

Table 1 shows the total new resources provided to the PBO in the 2015–16 budget year.

Table 1: Department resources 2015–16

| | Appropriation Bill No. 1 \$'000 | Special appropriation \$'000 | Total \$'000 |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Parliamentary Budget Office | | | |
| Departmental appropriations | 7,410 | 548 | 7,958 |
| Total | | | 7,958 |
| | Resources available within entity | | 7,958 |