

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2009

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 1, Program 1

Topic: Programs growing faster than two per cent in real terms

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Senator Coonan asked:

Can I have a list of the [major programs] that are exceeding two per cent?

Answer:

Attached is a list of the 31 programs that exceed two per cent average annual real growth between 2009-10 and 2012-13. For the purposes of this list, major programs are the largest 100 programs, which account for approximately 90 per cent of all expenses in 2009-10. The Consumer Price Index has been used to rebase all expenses into 2009-10 dollars to determine real growth rates.

Major programs that exceed two per cent average annual real growth between 2009-10 and 2012-13, representing those programs that are the largest 100 programs and account for approximately 90 per cent of all expenses in 2009-10.

Rank	Agency	Program Name	Annual Average Real Growth %
1	Australian Taxation Office	Research and Development Tax Offset	23.12
2	Australian Office of Financial Management	Commonwealth Debt Management	22.49
3	Department of Defence	Capability Development	21.37
	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	Maternity Payments and Care Incentives	13.89
4	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	Road Infrastructure Investment	11.86
5	Department of Health and Ageing	Flexible Aged Care	11.31
6	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	Income Support for Carers	10.75
7	Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts	Water Reform*	10.65
8	Department of the Treasury	National Disability Agreement - Payment to/through States	8.63
9	Australian Taxation Office	Superannuation Co-Contribution Scheme	8.08
10	AusAID	Official Development Assistance - Africa, South and Central Asia, Middle East and Other	7.66
11	AusAID	Official Development Assistance - East Asia	7.49
12	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	Higher Education Loan Program	7.48
13	AusAID	Official Development Assistance - PNG and Pacific	7.00
14	National Blood Authority	Blood and Organ Donation Services	6.83
15	Department of Finance and Deregulation	Nation Building Funds	6.77
16	Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research	Investment in Higher Education Research	6.44
17	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	Non Government Schools National Support	5.38
18	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	Income Support for Seniors	5.12
19	Department of the Treasury	National Healthcare Agreement - Payment to/through States	4.90
20	Department of the Treasury	Assistance to the Aged - Payment to/through States	4.54
21	Department of the Treasury	Revenue Assistance to the States and Territories	4.14
22	Department of Health and Ageing	Pharmaceuticals and Pharmaceutical Services	3.90
23	Department of Defence	Defence Support	3.76
24	Department of Veterans' Affairs	Veterans' Community Care and Support	3.60
25	Department of Health and Ageing	Residential Aged Care	3.14
26	Department of the Treasury	National Skills and Workforce Development - Payment to/through States	2.91
27	National Health and Medical Research Council	Medical Research	2.88
28	Department of Health and Ageing	Medicare Services	2.83
29	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	Disability Support Pension	2.44
30	Department of Veterans' Affairs	Veterans' Counselling and Other Health Services	2.23
31			

* Note that this program constitutes expenses only - the calculation does not include the purchase of water entitlements over the next four years. The combined effect of the expenses and capital purchases reduces average annual real growth to 5.3 per cent.