

Australian Government

Department of Home Affairs

2025–26 **Annual Report**

Building our nation,
securing our future

2025–26

Annual Report

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

The Hon Tony Burke MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
Minister for Cyber Security
Minister for the Arts
Leader of the House
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

The Hon Dr Anne Aly MP
Minister for Small Business
Minister for International Development
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

The Hon Kristy McBain MP
Minister for Regional Development,
Local Government and Territories
Minister for Emergency Management
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ministers,

I am pleased to present the Department of Home Affairs Annual Report 2025–26 for the reporting period ending 30 June 2026, as required by subsection 46(1) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).

The report has been prepared pursuant to the requirements for annual reports approved by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, and as prescribed in the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014* (PGPA Rule).

The report includes the department's audited annual financial statements as required by subsection 43(4) of the PGPA Act and the department's annual performance statements as required under section 39 of the PGPA Act.

I, the Secretary, as the Accountable Authority, certify that the department prepared fraud and corruption risk assessments and fraud and corruption control plans that comply with section 10 of the PGPA Rule. The department had appropriate mechanisms in place to prevent, detect, investigate, record and confidentially report suspected fraud and corruption, and I took all reasonable measures to appropriately deal with fraud and corruption relating to the department.

Yours sincerely

Stephanie Foster

Stephanie Foster PSM
Secretary
Department of Home Affairs

13 October 2026

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READER'S GUIDE

This is the 2025–26 Annual Report from the Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs to the Minister for Home Affairs, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, the Minister for Cyber Security, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, and the Minister for Emergency Management for the financial year ending 30 June 2026.

The report also includes the Secretary's fraud certification as the department's Accountable Authority.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the Department of Finance's *Annual Reports for non-corporate Commonwealth entities: Resource Management Guide 135*, issued on 2 October 2026.

Report structure

Part 1: Overview

Part 1 provides an overview of the department and portfolio and a review of the financial year by the Secretary.

Part 2: Annual Performance Statement

Part 2 reports on the department's performance as set out in the department's *2025–26 Corporate Plan* and *2025–26 Portfolio Budget Statements*. It also acquits performance against the *2025–26 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements.*

Part 3: Report on financial performance

Part 3 contains discussion and analysis of the department's financial performance over 2025–26.

Part 4: Financial Statements

Part 4 contains the audited financial statements and Auditor-General's report.

Part 5: Management and accountability

Part 5 provides details on governance, fraud and risk management, human resources, procurement initiatives and purchasing practices of the department. Part 5 also includes other relevant information as required by the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014* (PGPA Rule) and *Annual Reports for non-corporate Commonwealth entities: Resource Management Guide 135.*

Part 6: Appendices

Part 6 provides supplementary information, including material errors from the department's *2024–25 Annual Report*, reporting required under other legislation, and information on legal services expenditure.

Part 7: Reference material

Part 7 contains the list of abbreviations, glossary of key terms, alphabetical index and the compliance index, which includes the list of requirements under the PGPA Rule.

PART 1: OVERVIEW

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ABOUT THE PORTFOLIO

Portfolio ministry

As at 30 June 2026:

- the Hon Tony Burke MP was Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Minister for Cyber Security, Minister for the Arts, and Leader of the House
- the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP was Minister for Small Business, Minister for International Development and Minister for Multicultural Affairs
- the Hon Kristy McBain MP was Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, and Minister for Emergency Management
- the Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP was Assistant Minister for Immigration, and Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade
- the Hon Josh Wilson MP was Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy, and Assistant Minister for Emergency Management
- the Hon Julian Hill MP was Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs, and Assistant Minister for International Education.

Ministerial acting arrangements during the reporting period

Acting arrangements for each minister from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Ministerial acting arrangements

Minister	Start date	End date	Acting Minister
the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP	28 June 2025	4 July 2025	Senator the Hon Tim Ayres (International Development) Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher (Small Business) the Hon Tony Burke MP (Multicultural Affairs)
the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP	8 July 2025	13 July 2025	the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP (Small Business) the Hon Pat Conroy MP (International Development) the Hon Tony Burke MP (Multicultural Affairs)
the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP	3 August 2025	8 August 2025	the Hon Tony Burke MP
the Hon Tony Burke MP	28 August 2025	29 August 2025	Senator the Hon Penny Wong
the Hon Tony Burke MP	5 September 2025	12 September 2025	the Hon Pat Conroy MP
the Hon Kristy McBain MP	8 September 2025	20 September 2025	the Hon Madeleine King MP
the Hon Kristy McBain MP	11 October 2025	15 October 2025	the Hon Tony Burke MP
the Hon Kristy McBain MP	22 September 2025	31 October 2025	the Hon Tony Burke MP
the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP	13 October 2025	18 October 2025	the Hon Mark Butler MP
the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP	30 October 2025	6 November 2025	the Hon Tony Burke MP
the Hon Tony Burke MP	7 November 2025	10 November 2025	the Hon Mark Butler MP
the Hon Tony Burke MP	12 November 2025	14 November 2025	the Hon Mark Butler MP
the Hon Tony Burke MP	11 December 2025	15 December 2025	the Hon Pat Conroy MP
the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP	26 December 2025	18 January 2026	the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
the Hon Tony Burke MP	27 January 2026	30 January 2026	the Hon Michelle Rowland MP
the Hon Tony Burke MP	5 April 2026	12 April 2026	the Hon Michelle Rowland MP
the Hon Tony Burke MP	18 May 2026	20 May 2026	the Hon Pat Conroy MP

ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PORTFOLIO

As at 30 June 2026, the Home Affairs Portfolio (the Portfolio) comprised 7 entities:

- Department of Home Affairs
- Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission
- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Institute of Criminology
- Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
- Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre
- National Emergency Management Agency.

The Portfolio's primary role is to help keep Australia prosperous, secure and united.

The Portfolio protects Australia's domestic interests from national security, cyber and border threats, through integrated law enforcement, intelligence and emergency management capabilities, and works with partners to manage diverse and evolving risks from within and outside Australia's border. Through the careful management of migration, citizenship, multicultural affairs and border programs, the portfolio supports social cohesion, economic prosperity and a community where people feel safe, welcome and able to participate fully in Australian society.

ORGANISATIONAL PURPOSE

Our purpose

Helping build a prosperous, secure and united Australia.

Our vision

Building our nation, securing our future.

Portfolio Budget Statements outcomes

Figure 1: Our outcomes



OUTCOME 1:
Deliver national coordination regulation and policy that safeguard Australia's domestic interests from national security threats, including cyber threats.



OUTCOME 2:
Support a united and prosperous Australia through effective coordination and delivery of immigration and citizenship policy and programs underpinned by robust integrity and assurance.



OUTCOME 3:
Advance a prosperous and secure Australia through trade and travel facilitation and modernisation, and effective customs, immigration, maritime and enforcement activities across the border continuum.

ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY

The Secretary of the department, Stephanie Foster PSM, is the Accountable Authority for the department inclusive of the Australian Border Force (ABF) under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. She occupied her role for the full 2025–26 reporting year.

ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT

The department is responsible for delivering policies, programs and regulatory frameworks in relation to immigration, citizenship, multicultural affairs, domestic and national security arrangements, law enforcement, emergency management, counter-terrorism, social cohesion, the protection of our sovereignty, the integrity of our border and the resilience of our critical infrastructure.

The ABF, within the Department of Home Affairs, is Australia's frontline border law enforcement agency and Australia's customs service. The ABF delivers critical border protection while facilitating the movement of people and goods across the border.

LEGISLATION

In accordance with the Administrative Arrangements Orders, the department is responsible for the following Acts, which form the legislative framework for our functions and services:

- *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006*
- *AusCheck Act 2007*
- *Australian Border Force Act 2015*
- *Australian Citizenship Act 2007*
- *Australian Citizenship (Transitionals and Consequentials) Act 2007*
- *Australian Crime Commission Act 2002,* with the exception of section 27
- *Australian Crime Commission Establishment Act 2002*
- *Australian Crime Commission (National Policing Information Charges) Act 2016*
- *Australian Federal Police Act 1979*
- *Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979,* with the exception of section 34JE
- *Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre Industry Contribution Act 2011*
- *Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre Industry Contribution (Collection) Act 2011*
- *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*
- *Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act 1905*
- *Counter-Terrorism (Temporary Exclusion Orders) Act 2019*
- *Crimes Act 1914,* Parts IAA, IAAA, IAAB, IAAC, IAB, IAC, IACA, IC, ID, IE, IIA, IV and VIIA
- *Criminology Research Act 1971*
- *Customs Act 1901,* other than Part XVB and Part XVC
- *Customs Licensing Charges Act 1997*
- *Customs Securities (Penalties) Act 1981*
- *Customs Tariff Act 1995*

- *Customs Undertakings (Penalties) Act 1981*
- *Cyber Security Act 2024*
- *Home Affairs Act 2023*
- *Immigration (Education) Act 1971*
- *Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act 1946*
- *Import Processing Charges Act 2001*
- *Inspector of Transport Security Act 2006*
- *Intelligence Services Act 2001,* insofar as it relates to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
- *Maritime Powers Act 2013*
- *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003*
- *Migration Act 1958*
- *Migration Agents Registration Application Charge Act 1997*
- *Migration (Skilling Australians Fund) Charges Act 2018*
- *Migration (Sponsorship Fees) Act 2007*
- *Migration (Visa Application) Charge Act 1997*
- *Migration (Visa Pre-application Process) Charge Act 2023*
- *National Crime Authority (Status and Rights of Former Chairman) Act 1984*
- *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*
- *National Emergency Declaration (Consequential Amendments) Act 2020*
- *Passenger Movement Charge Act 1978*
- *Passenger Movement Charge Collection Act 1978*
- *Proceeds of Crime Act 1987*
- *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002*
- *Proceeds of Crime (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Act 2002*
- *Psychotropic Substances Act 1976*
- *Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Act 2023, Chapter 6A*
- *Public Order (Protection of Persons and Property) Act 1971*
- *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*
- *Social Security Act 1991,* insofar as it relates to the Australian Victim of Terrorism Overseas Payment, the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and the Disaster Recovery Allowance
- *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999,* insofar as it relates to the Australian Victim of Terrorism Overseas Payment, the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and the Disaster Recovery Allowance

- *Surveillance Devices Act 2004*
- *Surveillance Legislation (Confirmation of Application) Act 2024*
- *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979*
- *Witness Protection Act 1994*

The department administered 2 additional Acts during the reporting period that were not in the Administrative Arrangements Order during the reporting period. These are new standalone Acts sponsored by the department which came into effect after the Administrative Arrangement Orders were made.

- *Commonwealth Workplace Protection Orders Act 2025*
- *Translating and Interpreting Services Act 2026*

2025–26 legislative and regulatory reform

During 2025–26, 20 Portfolio Bills were introduced to the Australian Parliament. In the same period, 14 Portfolio Bills were passed and became Acts upon receiving Royal Assent.

A total of 30 Portfolio Regulations were made and registered in 2025–26, along with 102 other principal or amending legislative instruments.

Copies of Acts, Amendment Acts, Regulations and other legislative instruments are available on the Federal Register of Legislation,[1] administered by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel.

1. www.legislation.gov.au

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND KEY EXECUTIVE

Figure 2: The department's organisational structure, as at publication



Stephanie Foster PSM
Secretary



Charlotte Tressler
Chief Operating Officer



Clare Sharp PSM
Head of Immigration



Hamish Hansford
Head of
National Security



Michael Willard
Deputy Secretary
Immigration Programs



Ciara Spencer
Deputy Secretary
Law Enforcement and
Domestic Security



Michael Thomas
Deputy Secretary
Immigration Compliance



Brendan Dowling
Deputy Secretary
Counter-Terrorism
Coordinator



Elissa Walker
Deputy Secretary
Technology



Brooke Hartigan
Deputy Secretary
General Counsel



Gavan Reynolds AO
ABF Commissioner



Lieutenant General Michelle McGuinness CSC
National Cyber Security Coordinator



Jarrod Howard
Deputy Commissioner Strategy and Capability



Vanessa Holben PSM
Deputy Commissioner Regional Operations

Changes to the Executive Team

The following changes in the department's leadership occurred during 2025–26:

- Nathan Smyth concluded his role as Deputy Secretary National Security and Resilience on 3 July 2025.
- Clare Sharp concluded her role as Deputy Secretary Legal on 16 July 2025 and commenced as Head of Immigration on 17 July 2025.
- Brooke Hartigan commenced as Deputy Secretary Legal on 17 July 2025.
- Michael Willard concluded his role as Group Manager Immigration Operations and commenced as Deputy Secretary Immigration Programs on 17 July 2025.
- Michael Thomas concluded his role as Group Manager Immigration Compliance and commenced as Deputy Secretary Immigration Compliance on 17 July 2025.
- Hamish Hansford concluded his role as Deputy Secretary Cyber and Infrastructure Security and commenced as Head of National Security on 17 July 2025.
- Ciara Spencer commenced as Deputy Secretary Law Enforcement and Domestic Security on 24 July 2025.
- Brendan Dowling commenced as Deputy Secretary Critical Infrastructure and Protective Security on 14 August 2025.
- Sophie Sharpe concluded her role as Deputy Secretary Executive on 7 November 2025.
- Elissa Walker commenced as Deputy Secretary Technology on 11 May 2026.
- Brendan Dowling concluded his role as Deputy Secretary Critical Infrastructure and Protective Security and was appointed as the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator on 14 May 2026.

Department at a glance

Figure 3: The department at a glance, for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026[2]



Staff

46
Locations around the world

16,410
Staff



People

53.75%
Female

45.91%
Male

0.34%
Non-binary



Workforce

14,180
Full-time

2,230
Part-time

15,792
Ongoing

618
Non-ongoing

242
SES

4,311
EL

11,857
APS

2. These figures are headcount and reflect higher duties arrangements.

REVIEW BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY

The Department of Home Affairs' (the department) year was shaped by significant events, rapid changes in the threat and technology environment and a challenging fiscal environment. The horrific antisemitic terrorist attack targeting Jewish Australians at Bondi Beach in December 2025, conflict in the Middle East and the development of frontier artificial intelligence models all had a direct impact on our work and our staff. Our people responded to immediate and urgent demands while continuing to deliver the services Australians rely on and helping to keep Australia prosperous, secure and united.

The Bondi attack was an attack on Australia and our way of life. It was devastating for the victims, survivors, the Jewish community and the nation. In the immediate aftermath, staff from across the department and the ABF worked closely with law enforcement, intelligence, community and government partners, supporting affected communities and the broader government response with professionalism, care and sensitivity at an extraordinarily difficult time. Departmental officials facilitated rapid access to support services through grant funding to Jewish organisations, engaged closely with communities and facilitated visas and travel for affected families and friends.

The department moved quickly from immediate response to longer-term reform. The Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism legislation package strengthened criminal and migration settings, including new visa refusal and cancellation grounds relating to hateful and extremist conduct and the establishment of a prohibited hate group listing framework. We established a dedicated taskforce to lead our engagement with the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion and progressed the Commonwealth recommendations from the Interim Report.

This included appointing a full-time Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, progressing reforms to the National Firearms Agreement and National Gun Buyback Scheme, and rolling out Step Together nationally to provide early-intervention support for people at risk of violent extremism. Through these measures and sustained engagement with governments and affected communities, we strengthened national coordination, preparedness and understanding of antisemitism and its impact.

Against this backdrop, the department delivered strong results across its national security, cyber security, migration, citizenship, border, trade and regulatory responsibilities. Most performance targets were met or substantially met, demonstrating strong delivery. Overall, 86.6 per cent of targets were met, 6 per cent were substantially met, 4.5 per cent were unable to be determined and 3 per cent were not met.

We completed the remaining department-led work under Horizon One of the Australian Cyber Security Strategy 2023–2030 and delivered and released the Horizon Two Action Plan, establishing the direction for the next phase of work to strengthen cyber security and resilience across the economy, community and government. All 17 department-led Horizon One initiatives scheduled for 2025–26 met their delivery milestones.

Working across government and industry, we strengthened the security and resilience of critical infrastructure and government services. We took timely compliance action on every identified instance of material non-compliance with obligations under the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018, addressing all 189 instances within 90 days. To strengthen the Commonwealth's protection of government assets, we continued to support agencies to implement the Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF). I also issued three PSPF directions to all Commonwealth agencies covering cyber vulnerability remediation, mandatory technology standards and personnel security risks from online disclosures. These directions sought to strengthen the Commonwealth's cyber resilience, secure our use of technology and enhance the protection of classified information across Commonwealth agencies.

Separately, the continued implementation of the Act Now. Stay Secure, cyber campaign targeted some of Australia's most vulnerable cohorts with tangible, actionable advice. The campaign supported people to build awareness of practical measures they can take to protect themselves when engaging online and using digital services.

We also advanced implementation of A Safer Australia—Australia's Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy 2025, completing all department-led actions scheduled for 2025–26 within their required timeframes. This strengthened community information and early-intervention resources, improved the accessibility of ESCAPE. HIDE. TELL, materials, and supported engagement with industry and international partners on the implications of artificial intelligence for violent extremism. Through the Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee, we also coordinated national training and capability uplift—where 97.19 per cent of surveyed participants reported that the training supported improvements in their capability.

Across the migration and citizenship system, we delivered the Migration and Humanitarian Programs in full, providing 185,000 Migration Program places and 20,000 Humanitarian Program places, comprising 15,500 offshore and 4,500 onshore places. We also improved or maintained median processing times in five of the six key demand-driven visa programs and increased monthly visa finalisations per processing full-time equivalent from 176.06 to 189.68 compared with previous years.

We continued our efforts to reduce caseloads across protection and citizenship streams. The onhand Protection visa caseload fell from 28,635 to 22,211 as we finalised 30,482 applications. The citizenship caseload fell from 160,118 to 67,253, exceeding our 2025–26 target reduction by 12,747 cases, while citizenship finalisations increased by 45 per cent. Through humanitarian, settlement and multicultural programs, we also supported refugees and vulnerable migrants to develop skills, access services and participate in their communities, providing support to more than 115,000 people.

To support an effective migration system, we delivered 34,272 character and cancellation considerations, exceeding the target by 2,272 considerations. 31,128 of these considerations were adverse general cancellation decisions, including student cancellation decisions. A Third Country Reception Arrangement with the Government of Naoero was also established, enabling the removal of non-citizens who have exhausted all options to remain in Australia.

We continued our work to strengthen migration policy which provided the foundation for the package of migration reforms introduced in the early months of 2026-27, including changes to temporary visa programs, immigration compliance activity, Ministerial Directions and the Migration Agents Code of Conduct.

At the border, the ABF facilitated the safe and efficient movement of nearly 48 million air travellers, maintaining an overall average clearance time of 56.90 seconds, broadly consistent with the two-year benchmark. Across cargo, mail and traveller pathways, we disrupted the movement of illicit drugs, tobacco and vaping products and protected an estimated $4.8 billion in Commonwealth revenue. This included seizing or preventing the importation of 15.7 tonnes of illicit drugs and precursors, 2.257 billion illicit cigarettes, 593 tonnes of loose-leaf tobacco and 13.2 million vaping products.

Operation Sovereign Borders also continued to deny an irregular maritime pathway to settlement in Australia. All 28 identified maritime people-smuggling ventures were resolved, with no venture achieving a pathway to settlement.

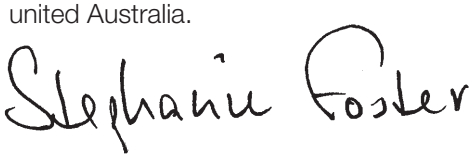
It was an exceptionally demanding year and a significant period of change for our staff. Throughout the year, the department focused on continuing to improve its culture, including by engaging with Executive Level staff to listen, share ideas and co-design meaningful actions. We delivered an EL Leadership Program and supported EL staff to enhance their capability. We also continued to take active steps to eliminate unacceptable behaviour and ensure staff feel supported and safe to report bullying, harassment and discrimination in the workplace. We rolled out AI capabilities across the department, providing staff with the technology and tools they need to do their jobs.

Some results in the 2026 APS Employee Census declined from the high levels recorded in 2025, in the context of budget constraints, redundancies and broader operational pressures. However, the longer-term trajectory remains positive, with the majority of our Census results improving over the past three years. For example, the proportion of employees who would recommend Home Affairs as a good place to work increased from 57 per cent in 2023 to 65 per cent in 2026, while the proportion inspired to identify new and better ways of working increased from 41 to 50 per cent. Results also showed stronger connection to the department's objectives, support for innovation and commitment to public purpose, with most employees understanding how their work contributes to outcomes for the Australian public.

There are of course areas where we can continue to do more—this will be a focus of the leadership team, SES and our managers over 2026–27. Managers at all levels will continue to work with their staff on practical, local activities that make a real difference.

Taken together, our performance results and Census findings show a department that has delivered strong outcomes for Government and the Australian community in the backdrop of a very difficult year. I am grateful to our people for the professionalism, resilience and care they have shown throughout 2025–26 and am proud of the outcomes we have achieved.

Moving into 2026–27, we will continue to listen, learn and improve in partnership with government, industry and the community as we contribute to a prosperous, secure and united Australia.



Stephanie Foster PSM
Secretary
Department of Home Affairs

13 October 2026

PART 2:
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

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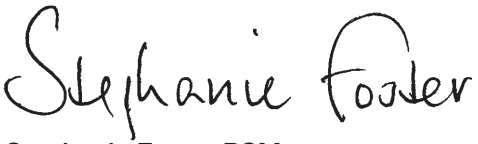
STATEMENT BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY

I, Stephanie Foster PSM, as the Accountable Authority of the Department of Home Affairs (the department), present the Annual Performance Statements of the department for 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 as required under Paragraph 39(1)(a) and (b) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).

In my opinion, these Annual Performance Statements are based on properly maintained records, accurately reflect the performance of the department, and comply with section 37 and subsection 39(2) of the PGPA Act, with the exception of limitations outlined in Appendix A of the Annual Performance Statement.

The department remains committed to continuously improving its performance reporting processes.



Stephanie Foster PSM
Accountable Authority
Department of Home Affairs

13 October 2026

2025–26 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

Content warning: The following information contains references to sensitive issues including sexual assault, injury and violence, which may be distressing for some readers. These references are included to provide an accurate account of the department's activities and performance in 2025–26.

Performance ratings

During 2025–26, the department's performance against an individual target will be assessed based on the result achieved for the target compared to the benchmark result that is set for the target. The performance rating for each target will be reported as 'met', 'substantially met', or 'not met'. When expressed as a percentage of the benchmark for the target, a result of 97.5% or higher will be assessed as met, a result between 92.5% and lower than 97.5% will be assessed as substantially met, and a result lower than 92.5% will be assessed as not met.

Targets within a measure are equally weighted in terms of their contribution to the performance rating of the measure. An example is represented in the table below.

The following performance results are measured using absolute calculations.[3]

Table 2: Hypothetical example showing how performance measures are assessed

Target Assessment					Measure Assessment			
Target number	Target benchmark	Target result	Target performance (result against benchmark)	Target performance rating	Target contribution to measure (weighting)	Target variance (between target benchmark and result)	Measure result	Measure performance rating
1	80%	75%	93.75%	Substantially met	25%	–5%		
2	100%	100%	100%	Met	25%	0%		
3	95%	91%	95.79%	Substantially met	25%	–4%		
4	90%	90%	100%	Met	25%	0%		
Measure 1.1 overall					100%	-2.25%	97.75	Met

Where performance results are derived from survey data, response rate thresholds are applied to support appropriate interpretation of the results and provide transparency regarding limitations arising from non-response.

Results based on response rates of:

- less than 10% are reported as ‘unable to be determined’
- between 10% and 50% are reported with a footnote noting that they may not be representative of the broader population
- greater than 50% are reported without a disclosure related to response rates.

3. Targets that were ‘unable to be determined’ and variances that ‘exceed’ a performance result were not factored into the assessment of a performance measure.

Table 3: Performance measure results

	Total	Cross activity	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3
Met	23	1	8	8	6
Substantially Met	2	0	0	1	1
Not Met	1	0	0	0	1

Table 4: Performance target results

	Total	Cross activity	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3
Met	58	1	19	28	10
Substantially met	4	0	0	0	4
Not met	2	0	0	1	1
Unable to be determined	3	0	1	1	1

Table 5: Departmental purposes and outcomes

Outcome 1: Deliver national coordination, regulation and policy that safeguard Australia's domestic interests from national security threats, including cyber threats.							
Key Activity	**Transport Security** (PBS Program 1.1)	**Critical infrastructure security and security of telecommunications policy and regulation** (PBS Program 1.2)	**Cyber security strategy, regulation and policy** (PBS Program 1.3)	**Cyber security engagement and coordination** (PBS Program 1.3)	**Counter-terrorism** (PBS Program 1.4)	**Counter violent extremism** (PBS Program 1.4)	**Counter foreign interference (PBS Program 1.2)**
Performance Measure	Capability building, engagement and regulatory activities support regulated entities to understand and comply with transport security obligations.	Industry engagement, background checking and regulatory activities support the protection of critical infrastructure and systems of national significance.	Progress in delivering the Cyber Security Strategy 2023–2030 contributes to Australia's cyber security resilience. Administration of the Protective Security Policy Framework supports Government cyber security resilience.	Effective delivery of exercises and consequence management coordination supports cyber security incident preparedness and response.	Counter-terrorism capability programs and national coordination contributes to the management of terrorist threats.	Counter violent extremism through the delivery of training, capability and awareness programs.	Counter foreign interference threats through capability and awareness activities and targeted initiatives.
Regional cooperation (PBS Program 1.5)							

Outcome 2: Support a united and prosperous Australia through effective coordination and delivery of immigration and citizenship policy and programs underpinned by robust integrity and assurance.									
Key Activity	**Migration and citizenship delivery** (PBS Program 2.1, 2.2, 2.5)	**Humanitarian Program** (PBS Program 2.3)	**Settlement services** (PBS Program 2.3)	**Multicultural affairs engagement and grant delivery** (PBS Program 2.5)	**Visa cancellation and refusals** (PBS Program 2.2)	**Immigration compliance operations** (PBS Program 2.1, 2.2, 2.3)	**Onshore detention** (PBS Program 3.5)	**Visa and migration system integrity** (PBS Program 2.1, 2.2)	**Regional processing** (PBS Program 2.4)
Performance Measure	Delivery of the Migration and Citizenship Programs contributes to economic prosperity and aligns to national interests.	Delivery of Australia's Humanitarian Program reflects government priorities and Australia's international protection obligations.	The management and delivery of settlement and translating and interpreting services support refugees and vulnerable migrants in contributing to and participating in the Australian community.	Community engagement and multicultural grants programs support government in responding to community needs.	Character cancellation finalisations and Bridging Visa E application processing contributes to community safety and support those to stay lawfully in Australia.	Immigration compliance advice, referrals and coordination contributes to community safety.	Effectively maintain a safe, secure and sustainable immigration detention network.	Regulation of Registered Migration Agents and implementation of migrant worker exploitation reforms supports the integrity of the visa and migration system	International capability and engagement activities and contract management supports offshore regional processing.

Outcome 3: Advance a prosperous and secure Australia through trade and travel facilitation and modernisation, and effective customs, immigration, maritime and enforcement activities across the border continuum.					
Key Activity	**Border services** (PBS Program 3.1, 3.2)	**Customs compliance and enforcement** (PBS Program 3.3, 3.4)	**Border modernisation and regulatory advice** (PBS Program 3.2)	**Civil maritime security capability** (PBS Program 3.4)	**Support for Joint Agency Taskforce Operation Sovereign Borders** (PBS Program 3.4)
Performance Measure	Delivery of facilitation and regulatory activities supports the movement of legitimate trade. Delivery of facilitation and technology enhancements supports improved movement of people across Australia's physical border.	Examinations, enforcement and compliance activities prevents prohibited goods crossing Australia's border and contributes to revenue protection. Delivery of trade services, including advice to industry contributes to the trade and traveller experience. Effective traveller intervention and enforcement activities support the interdiction of travellers who pose a risk to the Australian community.	Delivery of program and reform activities supports trade and travel modernisation.	Maintain and sustain surveillance and response capability to counter civil maritime threats.	Deterrence messaging, engagement and operational activity contributes to the OSB mission.

Cross activity performance measure		MET 100%
TARGET 1 80% of policy advice provided to government was assessed by stakeholders as being of high quality.		
Performance rating	**Performance against target**	**Justification for result**
Met	As at 30 June 2025–26, stakeholders were asked to assess the quality of the department's policy advice to government against the quality domains of 'informed', 'influential' and 'impactful'.[4] The assessment components include: **Ministerial interviews** • Of the Portfolio Ministers, 4 were responsible for material policy functions captured within the scope of the target and were therefore interviewed. • All 4 Ministers provided a positive response, with the average score against the quality domains being 4.18 out of 5. • Therefore, 100% of Ministerial assessments of policy advice indicated advice provided by the department was of high quality. **External stakeholder survey** • Of the 62 external stakeholders surveyed, 7 provided a response (11%).[5] • Of the 7 stakeholder responses, 4 were positive, with an overall average response against the quality domains of 3.37 out of 5. • Therefore, 57.14% of stakeholder assessments of policy advice indicated advice provided by the department was of high quality. **Panel assessments** • The 3 panels of internal stakeholders provided assessments against 31 pieces of policy advice.[6] • Ministerial Submissions scored an average of 4.03 out of 5 against the quality domains. • Therefore, 100% of policy assessed by panellists was of high quality.	This target was met as 85.71%[7] of policy advice to government was assessed as high-quality, scoring 3.86[8] out of 5 as an average against the quality domains. This exceeded the target by 5.71 percentage points.

4. Stakeholders refer to ministerial stakeholders, external stakeholders from central agencies and 3 panels of internal stakeholders.
5. For response rates less than 50%, the department notes that results may not reflect the views of the broader stakeholder population.
6. Internal stakeholders taking part in the panel assessment did not assess policy advice which fell within the remit of their regular work.
7. The performance result is calculated by averaging the results from the 3 assessment components.
8. Under the methodology for this target, a score of 3.51 or above out of 5 was treated as a positive assessment against the quality domains.

Supporting performance information

The department is responsible for the leadership and central coordination of policy in relation to:

- national security and resilience
- law enforcement
- migration and citizenship
- multicultural affairs
- border management and security.

High-quality policy advice provides the foundation for sound decision-making and effective policy implementation. This includes ensuring that portfolio ministers and senior executives are appropriately supported to make informed, strategic decisions on complex issues.

The methodology[9] comprises 3 components with each component assessing advice against 3 quality domains: informed, influential and impactful. For all components, stakeholders were asked to provide a response between 1 (lowest) and 5 (highest) for the same 12 survey assessment criteria, representing various elements of quality policy advice, organised under the 3 quality domains as follows:

Table 6: Policy quality domains

Informed	Influential	Impactful
The advice was clear about the problem/opportunity, rationale for intervention, and intended outcomes.	The advice supported decision-making and outlined clear next steps.	The advice was clear about how the proposal aligns with or has the potential to advance the government's objectives.
The advice was supported by relevant and up-to-date evidence.	The advice was provided in time to support consideration.	The advice established a basis for successful implementation and delivery.
The advice was developed in collaboration with people affected by the policy, and relevant stakeholders within and outside the APS.	The advice was clear, concise and compelling and tailored to needs.	The advice considered the long-term impacts and unintended outcomes.
The advice incorporated lessons learned from the past and considered the wider context.	The advice provided options where applicable, assessed key risks and benefits, and made clear recommendations.	The advice explains how the policy solution will be monitored and/or evaluated where applicable.

Ministerial and external stakeholders were asked to complete this assessment on the basis of policy advice they had been provided or seen during the financial year within the material policy functions, whereas, the 3 panels of internal stakeholders were asked to complete the assessment for a sample of randomly selected Ministerial Submissions from the material policy functions. The 3 components of the assessment are as follows.

Ministerial interviews

The department measured performance against this component by conducting ministerial interviews[10] over a 4-week period from 18 June to 20 July 2026. With consideration for the pre-defined scope of policy advice, relevant portfolio Minsters were asked to provide feedback on the quality of the department's policy advice provided to the Minister's Office between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026.

Stakeholder survey

The department measured performance against this component by conducting a survey over a 3-week period from 29 June to 20 July 2026. The survey was issued to senior executives from central agencies to which the department had provided policy advice during the financial year.

9. Performance against the target was determined via a methodology which varied from that published in the *Department of Home Affairs 2025–26 Corporate Plan*.
10. The Minister and Assistant Minister for Emergency Management were not interviewed as part of the assessment against the target, as they do not hold responsibility for the material policy functions captured by the target.

Panel assessment

This component of the performance target involved the assessment of a sample of Ministerial Submissions (provided to the Ministers' Offices during the financial year) by 3 panels of departmental senior executives. 31 Ministerial Submissions relating to the material functions captured within the target were randomly selected on 1 July 2026. Each submission was assessed by panel members individually, before scores were moderated during a whole-of-panel discussion. Panellists were selected on the basis of their policy expertise and ability to make an impartial assessment. Panellists were asked to assess policy advice against the 3 quality domains.

During 2025–26, the department continued to invest in strategic policy capability uplift activities informed by 2024–25 Target 1 findings. This included facilitating strategic leadership discussions, providing senior decision-makers with strategic insights, strengthening policy development through design and enabling services, and leveraging external expertise through partnerships with think tanks.

While the overall target result indicates that the department's policy advice to government is of a high quality, opportunities remain to further strengthen the consistency of policy development and engagement practices across the department. Qualitative feedback reflected strong performance across all 3 quality domains, describing the department's advice as clear, concise and comprehensive, and consistently recognising its alignment with the Government's priorities and objectives.

Stakeholder feedback also highlighted opportunities to further strengthen policy development processes, including ensuring policy advice is supported by timely and relevant evidence, clearly identifies consultation undertaken, and explicitly articulates recommendations, impacts and next steps. It was noted that continued focus on the use of data to inform policy proposals and support the monitoring and evaluation of policy measures, together with effective engagement and testing of proposals with central agencies throughout the policy development process, would further enhance the quality and effectiveness of policy advice.

The results from the ministerial interviews, stakeholder survey and internal panel assessment will be used to support further uplift of policy capability across the department. Qualitative feedback received from stakeholders has been provided to senior executives as part of continuous improvement processes. The findings will also inform targeted capability development activities, including practical guidance, exemplars of high-quality policy products, tailored learning opportunities and improvements to policy development processes.

OUTCOME 1

Deliver national coordination regulation and policy that safeguard Australia's domestic interests from national security threats, including cyber threats.

Table 7: Performance measures for Outcome 1

Activity	Performance measures
Transport security	Capability building, engagement and regulatory activities support regulated entities to understand and comply with transport security obligations **– Met**
Critical infrastructure security and security of telecommunications policy and regulation	Industry engagement, background checking and regulatory activities support the protection of critical infrastructure and systems of national significance **– Met**
Cyber security strategy, regulation and policy	Progress in delivering the *Cyber Security Strategy 2023–2030* contributes to Australia's cyber security resilience **– Met**
	Administration of the Protective Security Policy Framework supports Government cyber security resilience **– Met**
Cyber security engagement and coordination	Effective delivery of exercises and consequence management coordination supports cyber security incident preparedness and response **– Met**
Counter-terrorism	Counter-terrorism capability programs and national coordination contributes to the management of terrorist threats **– Met**
Counter violent extremism	Counter violent extremism through the delivery of training, capability and awareness programs **– Met**
Counter foreign interference	Counter foreign interference threats through capability and awareness activities and targeted initiatives **– Met**

Outcome 1

Deliver national coordination regulation and policy that safeguard Australia's domestic interests from national security threats, including cyber threats.

Priority: Critical infrastructure protection

Key activity: Transport Security

Measure: Capability building, engagement and regulatory activities support regulated entities to understand and comply with transport security obligations.	**MET** **99.98%**

TARGET 2

75% of surveyed representatives of transport security stakeholder forums agree that the forum provides useful and relevant information to assist participants to understand transport security policy, and to better meet their obligations under transport security legislative frameworks.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 14 representatives of transport security stakeholder forums surveyed, with 9 of these responding to the survey (64.29%). Of the respondents, all 9 provided an overall positive response.	This target was met as 100% of surveyed representatives (that responded to the survey) indicated that the forum provided useful and relevant information to assist participants to understand transport security policy, and to better meet their obligations under transport security legislative frameworks. This exceeded the target by 25 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

Transport security stakeholder forums are the primary industry engagement mechanism the department uses to support industry to understand transport security policy, and to better meet their obligations under transport security legislative frameworks. These transport security stakeholder forums have been running for more than 10 years and are well attended by industry members regulated under transport security legislative frameworks.

Through these forums, the department provides regulated entities with timely policy updates, relevant information on transport security issues and targeted opportunities to engage directly with departmental officials. Participants can seek clarification about policy and regulatory expectations, raise implementation challenges and consider how transport security requirements apply within their operating environments. This engagement contributes to improved industry awareness, preparedness and risk-management capability and supports regulated entities to better understand and meet their legislative obligations.

Transport security stakeholder forums meetings and activities undertaken throughout 2025–26 included:

- Strategic Aviation Security Meeting (SASM) which gathered senior representatives from the designated airports and major Australian carriers to discuss strategic topics on the future of aviation security and impacts of aviation reform
- Aviation Security Advisory Forum (ASAF) which gathered representatives from the designated airports and major Australian carriers to provide government updates and discussion of current and near-term issues
- Regional Aviation Security Advisory Forum (RASAF) which gathered all regional aviation stakeholders to provide government updates and discussion of current and near-term issues
- Air Cargo Security Industry Advisory Forum (ACSIAF) which gathered representatives from the air cargo industry including port authorities, cargo terminal operators and industry bodies to facilitate engagement and consultation on air cargo security
- Maritime Industry Security Consultative Forum (MISCF) which gathered representatives from the maritime industry, including port authorities and industry bodies to discuss maritime transport security issues and hazards.

Performance against this target was assessed through conducting an annual survey over a 10-week period from 8 May to 16 July 2026.

The survey was issued to SASM industry members, and ASAF, RASAF and MISCF industry co-chairs, who have held a co-chair position for at least 6 months during 2025–26. Elected by industry members, the industry co-chairs represent the collective view of industry participants of these forums.

The performance result is based on responses to the following 3 questions:

- Do you agree the forum provides participants with useful information to understand transport security policy?
- Do you agree the forum provides participants with relevant information to understand transport security policy?
- Do you agree the forum supports participants to better meet their obligations under transport security legislative frameworks?

For each question, respondents selected one of 5 response options: 'strongly agree', 'somewhat agree', 'neither agree nor disagree', 'somewhat disagree' or 'strongly disagree'. A respondent was counted as providing an overall positive response only if they selected 'strongly agree' or 'somewhat agree' for all 3 questions.

Feedback demonstrates that the forums provide practical, relevant information that helps industry participants understand and meet their transport security obligations, supporting the protection of critical infrastructure assets on which Australians rely. Survey feedback informs continuous improvement and supports the department to ensure stakeholder engagement activities remain effective, relevant and aligned with the delivery of transport security policy and regulatory objectives.

TARGET 3

75% of surveyed interlocutors participating in the Transport Security International Capability Building Program (who responded to the survey), agree that the annual program developed in response to a Last Ports of Call (LPOC) assessment has assisted them to put in place a mitigation plan or measures that reduce air cargo and/or aviation security risks.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 14 interlocutors[11] who participated in the Transport Security International Capability Building Program. All 14 interlocutors were surveyed, with 7 total responses received (50%).[12] Of the 7 respondents, 6 provided a positive response of 'agree'. The remaining respondent provided a neutral response of 'neither agree nor disagree'.	This target was met as 85.71% of surveyed interlocutors (who responded to the survey) agreed that the annual program developed in response to an LPOC assessment has assisted them to put in place a mitigation plan or measures that reduce air cargo and/or aviation security risks. This exceeded the target by 10.71 percentage points.

11. The 14 interlocutors represented 13 participating entities from 5 countries: Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. Attendance at individual program activities may have been delegated to other officials from the relevant entity.
12. For response rates less than 50%, the department notes that results may not fully reflect the views of the broader stakeholder population. The 7 responses were received from interlocutors in 4 countries: the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. Indonesia was not represented among the survey responses.

Supporting performance information

The Transport Security International Capability Building Program delivers capability building activities across the Asia–Pacific region to strengthen compliance with global aviation standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), enhance oversight capabilities and mitigate transport security risks arising from direct flights to Australia.

The program provides targeted training, mentoring and technical assistance to transport security regulators and airport operators, informed by risks and vulnerabilities identified through LPOC assessments. These activities strengthen participants' understanding of international aviation security requirements and build the practical skills needed to implement security measures, undertake oversight and compliance activities, and develop corrective action plans to address identified deficiencies. This supports participating organisations to improve their security practices, mitigate identified air cargo and aviation security risks, and strengthen compliance with international aviation security standards, helping to mitigate national security risks associated with direct flights to Australia.

During 2025–26, a total of 15 capability building activities were delivered across 5 countries. These included:

- delivery of ICAO certified inspector training in Indonesia
- on-the-job mentoring for transport security inspectors in Timor-Leste
- delivery of a workshop in the Philippines on embedding 'security-by-design' in airport infrastructure planning
- delivery of a workshop in Thailand on applying quality control techniques and developing corrective action plans
- delivery of ICAO certified aviation security manager training in Vietnam.

Performance against this target was assessed through conducting an annual survey over a one-week period from 14 July to 21 July 2026 assessing the effectiveness of these activities in supporting interlocutors to reduce air cargo and/or aviation security risks at LPOCs to Australia.

The performance result is based on responses to the following question:

- The annual program has assisted you to implement a mitigation plan or measures aimed at reducing air cargo and/or aviation security risks.

Respondents were asked to provide a rating of either 'agree', 'neither agree nor disagree' or 'disagree', with the performance result only counting responses of 'agree' as positive.

The performance result indicates that respondents valued the department's assistance in implementing international aviation security standards and reducing air cargo and aviation security risks. For example, program activities supported stakeholders to apply quality-control techniques, undertake compliance activities and develop corrective action plans to address identified deficiencies.

Survey results are used by the department to help identify emerging needs and inform the planning of next year's program.

TARGET 4

100% of transport security non-compliance is corrected by industry or is the subject of follow-up regulatory inspection and/or enforcement action within:

- 30 calendar days if assessed as high risk non-compliance; and
- 90 calendar days for all other non-compliance.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, a total of 1,146 transport security non-compliances were identified. Of these: • 222 were assessed as high-risk non-compliance with 222 (100%) corrected by industry or the subject of follow-up regulatory inspection and/or enforcement action within 30 days • 822 were assessed as other risk non-compliance, with 821 (99.88%) corrected by industry or the subject of follow-up regulatory inspection and/or enforcement action within 90 days • 102 were not finalised but were still within allowed processing timeframes.[13]	This target was met as 99.90% of transport security non-compliances were corrected by industry or were the subject of follow-up regulatory inspection and/or enforcement action[14] within the specified timeframe. The target was met as 99.90% was within the target variance of 2.50 percentage points.[15]

Supporting performance information

This target measures the department's effectiveness as a regulator in responding to identified non-compliance with requirements under the *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004* and the *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003.*

The management of transport security non-compliance forms an important part of the department's broader regulatory strategy. When non-compliance is identified, the department assesses its risk, advises the regulated entity of the relevant obligation and required corrective action and monitors the entity's response. This engagement supports regulated entities understand how their transport security obligations apply in practice and what action is required to return to compliance. Where corrective action is not timely or sufficient, the department undertakes follow-up inspection and/or enforcement action to address the identified risk and promote compliance. Entities within scope of this target include airports, airlines, accredited air cargo agents, known consignors, regulated air cargo agents, port operators, port facility operators and issuing bodies.

The one non-compliance that did not meet the target was administrative in nature and arose during a period of management transition within the industry participant. The department proactively engaged with the industry participant on several occasions about the non-compliance prior to the 90-day due date. While the industry participant's initial corrective actions were not sufficient, the non-compliance was corrected and the matter has been finalised. A review of the associated processes was undertaken, with ongoing monitoring implemented to strengthen procedural controls and ensure compliance with follow-up requirements. These actions are expected to minimise the risk of similar occurrences recurring in the future.

Overall, all but 7 entities with identified transport security non-compliance returned to a state of compliance with the support of the department's actions. The non-compliance for the remaining 7 entities were not high risk, the department undertook follow-up action within the required target timeframes and will continue to monitor, inspect or take enforcement action, as appropriate, until the identified non-compliance is resolved.

13. On-hand instances of non-compliance that were identified in the reporting period that have not yet been finalised but are within the allowed processing timeframes are not included in the reported result.
14. Follow-up regulatory inspections include in-person or desktop activities which target the identified non-compliance, with a focus on the interim measures the entity is implementing to mitigate the risk posed by the non-compliance and the entity's long-term corrective action plan. Enforcement actions may include (but not limited to) warning letters, infringement notices or compliance control directions.
15. Measures and targets have been assessed as 'met' where reported performance varied by less than 2.50 percentage points from the benchmark, as published in the *Department of Home Affairs 2025–26 Corporate Plan*. Please see 'Performance ratings' on page 22 of this report.

TARGET 5

95% of applications under the administered transport security legislation relating to entry control and regulatory settings for aviation and maritime security are finalised to approve, refuse, or are unable to be assessed within the statutory consideration period or the negotiated timeframe.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 1,671 applications made under the administered transport security legislation relating to entry control and regulatory settings for aviation and maritime security.[16] Of these: • 1,326 were finalised within the statutory consideration period or the negotiated timeframe[17] • 36 were not finalised within the statutory consideration period or the negotiated timeframe.	This target was met as 97.85% of applications under the administered transport security legislation relating to entry control and regulatory settings for aviation and maritime security were finalised within the statutory consideration period or the negotiated timeframe. This exceeded the target by 2.85 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

The department, pursuant to the *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004, Aviation Transport Security Regulations 2005, Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003* and *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Regulations 2003*, administers regulatory settings that contribute to security and resilience outcomes by helping to safeguard critical transport infrastructure from unlawful interference and other security risks, supporting Australia's social and economic wellbeing.

Activities captured by the target relate to decisions that enable entities to enter, operate within, or vary arrangements under these frameworks. They include decisions concerning security programs, permissions, exemptions, regulated operations, and new or changed aviation, maritime or cargo operations. These decisions support the practical implementation of transport security obligations that underpin the department's compliance and assurance activities and contribute to the Australian Government meeting its international obligations under *Safeguarding International Civil Aviation Against Acts of Unlawful Interference (Annex 17)*, Chapter XI-2 of the *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974* (SOLAS), and the *International Ship and Port Facility Security Code 2003* (ISPS).

This target measures the department's timeliness in making these regulatory decisions within applicable statutory consideration periods or agreed timeframes. Agreed timeframes may apply where operational, commercial or policy imperatives require a regulatory or security outcome by a certain date. Finalising applications within these timeframes provides regulated entities with clear and timely regulatory outcomes and supports them to understand and comply with their transport security obligations. These outcomes include whether an application is approved, refused or unable to be assessed. Where relevant, decisions also clarify applicable conditions, requirements or areas requiring further action, helping entities understand and meet their obligations under the administered legislative frameworks.

By exceeding the target, the department demonstrated its ability to make regulatory decisions within applicable statutory consideration periods or agreed timeframes while managing the demand-driven volume of applications received during the reporting period. The timely finalisation of applications provided regulated entities with regulatory assurance and supported business and operational planning and the timely implementation of applicable regulatory and security requirements.

16. On-hand applications that have commenced in the reporting period that have not yet been finalised are not included in the reported result. Of the 1,671 applications, 309 were not subject to a statutory or negotiated timeframe and therefore are excluded from the calculation of the performance result.
17. Statutory consideration periods are the legislated timeframes within which the department must make certain regulatory decisions and these differ based on the nature of the application and the legislation under which it is made. Where a statutory period does not apply, applications are finalised within timeframes agreed between the department and the applicant, taking into account the complexity and operational requirements of the matter.

During 2025–26, the volume of applications made under the administered legislation was influenced by the following regulatory and operational developments:

- Consideration of revised Transport Security Programs submitted in response to the department's direction for all designated, Tier 1 and Tier 2 airports to strengthen perimeter security arrangements.
- Commencement of 3 new direct routes into Australia from international airports requiring dedicated risk assessments.
- Establishment of Western Sydney International (Nancy Bird Walton) Airport as a designated airport and the establishment of a new airport operator, including associated applications relating to regulatory settings, screening authorities and air cargo agent approvals.

Key activity: Critical infrastructure security and security of telecommunications policy and regulation

Measure: Industry engagement, background checking and regulatory activities support the protection of critical infrastructure and systems of national significance.	**MET** **100%**

TARGET 6

75% of surveyed industry participants for the Critical Infrastructure Advisory Council (who responded to the survey) agree that the forum provides information to assist the broader Trusted Information Sharing Network to:

- better understand critical infrastructure security policy
- meet their obligations under the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* (SOCI Act).

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 25 industry participants in the Critical Infrastructure Advisory Council (CIAC).[18] All 25 participants were surveyed, with 14 total responses received (56%). Of the respondents, all 14 provided a positive response to both questions.	This target was met as 100% of surveyed industry participants agreed that the forum provides information to assist the broader Trusted Information Sharing Network (TISN) to better understand critical infrastructure security policy and assists them in meeting their obligations under the SOCI Act. This exceeded the target by 25 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

The CIAC is a strategic driver for high-level industry engagement and enables the department to collaborate with industry to support the uplift of critical infrastructure protection.

Through the CIAC, the department supports collaboration between government and senior industry representatives by providing policy guidance, sector-specific threat information and opportunities to discuss emerging risks and cross-sector dependencies. This engagement supports information sharing across the broader TISN, strengthens industry understanding of critical infrastructure security policy and assists industry participants to understand and meet their obligations under the SOCI Act. This industry engagement supports effective regulatory compliance, preparedness and risk management, contributing to the protection of critical infrastructure and systems of national significance.

18. The CIAC is comprised of Australian government, state and territory government and industry representatives and provides leadership and strategic direction for the Trusted Information Sharing Network—further information is at www.cisc.gov.au/how-we-support-industry/partnership-and-collaboration/critical-infrastructure-advisory-council

The department measured performance against this target by conducting an annual survey over a 4-week period from 20 March 2026 to 16 April 2026. The survey was issued to eligible past and current CIAC industry members who had served as sector group chairs, co-chairs, deputy chairs or other industry participants during the relevant period and had been elected to the CIAC before 1 September 2025.

The performance result is based on responses to the following questions:

- Do you agree that the department provides relevant information through CIAC to enable participants to better understand critical infrastructure security policy?
- Do you agree that CIAC supports participants to better understand and meet their obligations under the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act (SOCI) 2018?*

For each survey question, respondents were asked to provide a rating of either 'strongly agree', 'somewhat agree', 'neutral', 'somewhat disagree' or 'strongly disagree' with the performance result only counting 'strongly agree' and 'somewhat agree' responses as positive, with the overall performance result calculated by averaging the positive response rates across the 2 questions.

Survey results help the department identify opportunities to improve future CIAC agendas and engagement, including areas requiring further information, policy guidance or consultation.

The department supported the CIAC by providing secretariat services, ad hoc briefings on sector-specific threats and policy guidance.

Activities undertaken or supported by the CIAC during 2025–26 included:

- international engagement, with a joint Critical 5 and CIAC meeting held in November 2025
- consultation on the Independent Review, and proposed reforms to both the SOCI Act and its supporting Rules
- 47 cross-sector briefings across all-hazards with 17,323 attendees
- best practice regulatory guidance co-drafted via the TISN Platform.

TARGET 7

The department administers *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* (SOCI Act) provisions which it has functional responsibility for in a timely manner:

- 100% of instances of identified non-compliance with obligations in the SOCI Act are subject to a compliance action within 90 calendar days
- 100% of telecommunications sector notifications of change are responded to by the department within 22 business days.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 189 instances of identified non-compliance with obligations in the SOCI Act, and 78 instances of telecommunications sector notifications of change. Of these: • all 189 instances were subject to a compliance action within 90 days • all 78 notifications were responded to by the department within 22 business days.[19]	This target was met as 100% of SOCI Act provisions which the department has responsibility for were administered in a timely manner.

19. For the purposes of reporting, the timeframe commences when a notification is received by the department and concludes when the department issues a response to the responsible entity. For the purposes of reporting, business days were calculated as Monday to Friday, excluding 26 September, 4 November, 25 and 26 December 2025, and 1 and 26 January, 9 March, 3 and 6 April, and 8 June 2026.

Supporting performance information

The SOCI Act establishes a framework for managing risks to Australia's critical infrastructure. Under the SOCI Act, relevant statutory functions and powers are conferred principally on the Minister for Home Affairs and the Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs. The department administers the framework as the responsible Commonwealth department.

The department's timely administration of SOCI Act provisions, including responding to identified instances of non-compliance and assessing telecommunications sector notifications of change, provides regulated entities with guidance and regulatory certainty, facilitates their understanding of SOCI Act obligations, encourages compliance and supports action to address security risks. In doing so, it contributes to the protection and resilience of Australia's critical infrastructure. In turn, compliance with the SOCI Act provides government with assurance that regulated entities are taking proactive measures to understand and manage risks to critical infrastructure, strengthening resilience to hazards and disruption.

SOCI Act non-compliance

Under the SOCI Act, the department undertakes regulatory compliance activities to promote compliance with the following positive security obligations:

- notifying data service providers under subsection 12F(3)
- providing operational and ownership information for the register of critical infrastructure assets under Part 2
- adopting, maintaining and complying with a written critical infrastructure risk management program under Part 2A
- reporting cyber incidents that have a relevant or significant impact on a critical infrastructure asset under Part 2B.

Potential non-compliance with the above obligations may be identified through audits, compliance monitoring, incidents, investigations, referrals[20] or self-reporting by regulated entities.

The performance result captures instances of identified[21] material non-compliance by entities within the above scope of obligations. Material non-compliance includes failures that are more than a minor, procedural or technical departure. For example, failure to comply with the Critical Infrastructure Risk Management Program rules may constitute material non-compliance. By comparison, the omission of a single item of information when registering a critical infrastructure asset may be treated as a minor, procedural or technical departure, depending on the circumstances.

Depending on the nature and seriousness of the non-compliance, compliance actions may range from engagement with an entity and agreed remediation to formal enforcement action, including civil penalty proceedings. Compliance actions are determined in accordance with the Critical Infrastructure Security Centre's Compliance and Enforcement Framework[22] and the published regulatory posture.

Of the 189 instances of non-compliance identified during 2025–26, 52 remained on-hand but within the applicable 90 day timeframe on 30 June 2026. These instances were subject to compliance action after 30 June 2026 and as at 13 August 2026, all had been subject to compliance action within 90 days of identification. This includes 11 instances identified on 30 June 2026 that were subsequently resolved through further assessment of information provided by the relevant regulated entities, and no further compliance action was required. These 52 instances have been included in the performance result.

The SOCI Act requires relevant entities to provide annual attestations about their compliance with their Critical Infrastructure Risk Management Program. Of the 189 instances of non-compliance identified during 2025–26, 175 related to the annual attestation requirement. These instances were identified either from information provided in an attestation or because an expected attestation was not submitted.

20. The department also has functional responsibility for the following additional security obligations specific to Systems of National Significance (Part 2C) and critical telecommunications assets (Part 2D). Potential non-compliance with these additional obligations may be identified by the department and referred for compliance or enforcement consideration. During 2025–26, there were no referrals of non-compliance made for either of these obligations.
21. For the purposes of reporting, a non-compliance or breach in legislation is only considered identified when a delegate under the SOCI Act signs a minute, decision record or equivalent approved record, formally determining that material non-compliance has occurred.
22. This varies from the definition of 'Compliance action' which was originally published in the *Department of Home Affairs 2025–26 Corporate Plan.*

As at 28 September 2026, the department had received 588 annual attestations for the subsequent reporting cycle and completed analysis of 274. Based on the attestations analysed, 45 of the 175 attestation-related instances had returned to a state of compliance. This represents an interim position, as additional attestations have been received since the reporting cut-off, some remain outstanding and analysis is ongoing. The department will continue to analyse outstanding information, monitor remediation and take further compliance action as appropriate.

Telecommunications sector notifications of change

Under section 30EC of the SOCI Act, responsible entities for critical telecommunications assets owned or operated by carriers must notify the department (as the delegate of the Secretary) of changes or proposed changes to telecommunication services or systems that are likely to have a material adverse effect on their ability to comply with security obligations.

The department (as the delegate of the Secretary) assesses notifications to determine whether a change presents:

- a risk of unauthorised interference with a critical telecommunications asset
- a risk of unauthorised access to a critical telecommunications asset
- a risk that would be prejudicial to security.

Where a potential risk is identified, the department may seek further information and work with the responsible entity to identify appropriate mitigations. This supports early engagement between government and industry and the timely management of risks to critical telecommunications assets.

Where the department requests further information under subsection 30EC(4), the responsible entity has 44 business days to respond. Further information received by the department is treated as a new submission and starts a new 22 business day response period.

Of the 78 telecommunications notifications of change received during 2025–26, 7 remained on-hand but within the applicable 22 business day timeframe on 30 June 2026. These notifications were responded to after 30 June 2026 and as at 13 August 2026, all had been responded to within 22 business days of receipt. These 7 notifications have been included in the performance result.

Further information on the SOCI Act can be found at Appendix C.

TARGET 8

75% of AusCheck background checks are completed within:

- 20 business days for applicants with no disclosable court outcomes
- 40 business days for applicants with disclosable court outcomes.[23]

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, AusCheck had undertaken a total of 191,444 background checks,[24] comprising: • 184,381 checks for applicants with no disclosable court outcomes • 7,063 checks for applicants with disclosable court outcomes. Of these: • 181,968 of the 184,381 background checks for applicants with no disclosable court outcomes were completed within 20 business days • 6,841 of the 7,063 background checks for applicants with disclosable court outcomes were completed within 40 business days.	This target was met as 98.62% of AusCheck background checks were completed within 20 business days for applicants with no disclosable court outcomes and 40 business days for applicants with disclosable court outcomes.[25] This exceeded the target by 23.62 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

Under the *AusCheck Act 2007*, the department is responsible for the delivery of background checking services. Background checks support assurance that individuals who require access to secure or sensitive facilities do not pose an unacceptable national security or serious criminality risk, thereby supporting the protection of critical infrastructure and systems of national significance.

The department delivers background checking services for a number of schemes, including:

- Aviation Security Identification Cards (ASIC) and Maritime Security Identification Cards (MSIC)
- Critical Infrastructure
- Major National Events
- the Naval Shipbuilding Identity Assurance Program
- Security Sensitive Biological Agents.

AusCheck background checks also support the Global Entry program, which provides eligible Australians with faster immigration and customs clearance in the United States of America.

The end-to-end process commences when an individual, issuing body, responsible entity or national health entity lodges a complete application to AusCheck for a background check on a person and concludes when they are notified of the final outcome. The process may include checks by external checking partners, including the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission. The total processing time includes time taken by those partners.

23. For the purposes of reporting, business days were calculated as Monday to Friday. Public holidays were included as business days.
24. This figure captures all applications finalised in 2025–26, including those lodged in the previous financial year.
25. Delays caused by external factors outside AusCheck's control may result in a background check exceeding 90 days. Where the 90-day timeframe is exceeded due to awaiting actions from an external partner, the AusCheck system automatically initiates a new check and resets the reporting timeframe. Checks completed within the revised timeframe are counted as "met" for target reporting.

During 2025–26, demand for AusCheck services was influenced by a number of major initiatives. This included the expansion of the Global Entry program to all eligible Australians from 15 December 2025 and background checking requirements for the Asian Football Confederation Women's Asian Cup 2026 as a Major National Event. These initiatives contributed to an 18% increase in the number of background checks undertaken compared with 2024–25. The department managed these checking volumes through active workload monitoring, surge management arrangements, prioritisation of time-critical cases and increased engagement with stakeholders.

In the 2026–27 Federal Budget, the government announced it would cease implementation of the single issuing body for ASIC and MSIC and pursue industry engagement to modernise AusCheck's background checking framework. The proposed modernisation will introduce a new legislative framework that will include establishment of a standing authority to conduct background checks, replacing the need to create separate background checking arrangements for each new program. The reforms are intended to improve the scalability, consistency and portability of background checks, incorporate advances in digital identity, support workforce mobility and strengthen the framework's capacity to respond to emerging security risks and future demand.

The proposed legislative changes would also establish a clearer separation between AusCheck's background checking functions and subsequent regulatory decisions relating to matters such as access, employment, and accreditation.

The department is progressing these reforms in line with government expectations. The decision to cease implementation of the single issuing body did not affect AusCheck's processing times in 2025–26.

Priority: Cyber Security		
Key activity: Cyber security strategy, regulation and policy		
Measure: Progress in delivering the 2023–2030 Australian Cyber Security Strategy contributes to Australia's cyber security resilience.		**Met** **100%**
TARGET 9 100% of department-led activities are on track for completion within their required timeframes for: • Horizon 1 of the *2023–2030 Australian Cyber Security Strategy Action Plan* • Delivery and release of the Horizon 2 implementation plan for the *2023–2030 Australian Cyber Security Strategy*.		
Performance rating	**Performance against target**	**Justification for result**
Met	As at 30 June 2026, for department-led activities under the 2023–2030 Australian Cyber Security Strategy which were scheduled for 2025–26, • all 17 Horizon 1 initiatives met their delivery milestones[26] • the Horizon 2 Action Plan[27] met its delivery and release milestones.	This target was met as 100% of department-led activities under the 2023–2030 Australian Cyber Security Strategy met their delivery milestones.

26. The *2023–2030 Australian Cyber Security Strategy Horizon 1 Action Plan* outlined 60 initiatives. Of these, 45 initiatives were either department-led or had key delivery milestones which were department-led. Target 9 does not capture the 28 initiatives delivered in 2024–25.
27. References to the "Horizon 2 Implementation Plan" correspond directly to the *Horizon 2 Action Plan (2026–2028).* The terminology was updated upon the official release of the final delivery framework.

Supporting performance information

Reporting against Target 9 provides assurance that implementation of the *Australian Cyber Security Strategy 2023–2030* remains on track. Delivery of scheduled initiatives demonstrates sustained implementation of the *Australian Cyber Security Strategy 2023–2030* and supports the broader outcome of strengthening Australia's cyber security resilience.

The *Australian Cyber Security Strategy 2023–2030* is the Australian Government's national framework for strengthening cyber security and resilience across the economy, community, government and region. It represents Australia's long-term roadmap to protect people, businesses, data, technology and essential services from cyber threats, and seeks to build national resilience, strengthen cyber maturity across the economy, grow sovereign cyber capability, and position Australia as a global leader in cyber security by 2030.

The *Australian Cyber Security Strategy 2023–2030* is delivered across 3 horizons to support staged implementation and ongoing adaptation to emerging cyber threats and technologies. Horizon 1 (2023–2025) focused on strengthening Australia's cyber security foundations by addressing critical gaps, improving protections for vulnerable citizens and businesses, and establishing key governance, regulatory and partnership arrangements. Horizon 2 (2026–2028) builds on this foundation by scaling cyber maturity across the economy, deepening government–industry collaboration, and investing in broader cyber capability, workforce and ecosystem uplift. Horizon 3 (2029–2030) will focus on advancing Australia's global leadership in cyber security, including through emerging technologies, innovation, international standards and continued adaptation to future cyber risks.

Aligned with the timeframes outlined in the *Australian Cyber Security Strategy 2023–2030*, the department successfully delivered the remaining milestones for department-led initiatives under the associated *2023–2030 Australian Cyber Security Strategy Horizon 1 Action Plan* by the end of the 2025 calendar year, including the following key achievements:

- launching the Cyber Health Check Tool, which was completed by more than 3,300 users in its first month, helping organisations better understand and improve their cyber security posture
- delivering Phase 4 of the Act Now. Stay Secure. campaign, reinforcing the practical steps Australians can take to protect themselves online
- publishing the Australian Voluntary Code of Practice for App Store Operators and App Developers, supporting safer digital products and services for Australians
- awarding the Growing and Professionalising the Cyber Security Industry Program Grant to the Australian Computer Society and its consortia to support the growth and professionalisation of Australia's cyber security workforce

The following Cyber Security Strategy activities continued throughout 2025–26:

- strengthening national cyber preparedness through 47 exercises completed as part of the National Office of Cyber Security (NOCS) Exercise Program
- the mandatory cyber security standard for consumer-grade smart devices came into effect, helping improve the security of everyday connected products used by Australians
- supporting the establishment of the Cyber Incident Review Board, including the appointment of its Chair and Board Members, to help ensure lessons from significant cyber incidents inform future resilience.

For more information on the delivery of Horizon 1, see *2025 Review: Transition from Horizon 1 to Horizon 2 of the 2023-2030 Australian Cyber Security Strategy*.[28]

The department supported the transition from Horizon 1 to Horizon 2, using the 2025 Review to assess progress, capture lessons learned and inform the next phase of implementation. In 2025–26, the *Australian Cyber Security Strategy 2023–2030 Horizon 2 Action Plan* was delivered and released by the department under the *Australian Cyber Security Strategy 2023–2030* setting out 19 actions and 64 initiatives for government to deliver by the end of 2028, focused on empowering Australia's workforce to be our strongest defence as a "human firewall", protecting critical infrastructure and government systems, and shaping, securing and embracing digital technology.

28. www.homeaffairs.gov.au/cyber-security-subsite/files/2025-css-review-transition-from-h1-to-h2.pdf

Measure: Administration of the Protective Security Policy Framework supports Government cyber security resilience.	**Met** **100%**

TARGET 10

Complete 100% of scheduled activities required to deliver assurance of annual Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF) compliance reporting.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 14 scheduled activities required to deliver assurance of the annual PSPF compliance reporting. Of these, 14 scheduled activities were completed.	This target was met as 100% of scheduled activities required to deliver assurance of annual PSPF compliance reporting were completed.

Supporting performance information

The department's delivery of key assessment reporting and assurance activities supports the department's role in improving government security resilience across the Commonwealth.

The PSPF is the Australian Government's national framework for protective security, establishing minimum security standards to support the secure delivery of government business and protect government people, information and resources. As a whole-of-government framework, the PSPF supports entities to identify, assess and mitigate security risks through a consistent, risk-based approach, with annual reporting and assurance activities driving continuous improvement in protective security maturity across the Commonwealth.

The department is responsible for administering the PSPF, providing whole-of-government protective security policy leadership, issuing security directions where required, and overseeing entity reporting and assurance activities.

During 2025–26, scheduled activities related to 2 key work streams; administration of the 2024–25 PSPF assessment reporting process and implementation of the 2024–25 PSPF assurance pilot program.

For 2025–26, scheduled activities required to administer the 2024–25 PSPF assessment reporting process included, but were not limited to:

- collecting and analysing PSPF self-assessment reporting data from non-corporate Commonwealth entities, providing an evidence base for assessing protective security maturity across government
- developing and implementing the PSPF assurance pilot methodology, including finalising participating entities and conducting targeted testing and verification of entity reporting across PSPF security domains
- presenting PSPF entity self-assessment reporting data and the forward assurance program to the Government Security Committee, which endorsed the program on 15 January 2026
- presenting reporting outcomes through established governance arrangements, including the Government Security Committee and Protective Security Board
- publishing the 2024–25 PSPF Assessment Report on 11 February 2026
- producing the 2024–25 PSPF Assurance Report, which tested the accuracy and reliability of entity self-assessments, identified vulnerabilities and control gaps, and supported entities to accurately report their protective security maturity.

During 2025–26, the 2024–25 PSPF assessment reporting process was complemented by implementation of the 2024–25 PSPF assurance pilot program. The pilot was designed to test and establish an assurance function for PSPF reporting by validating the accuracy and reliability of entity self-assessments, identifying vulnerabilities and control gaps, and supporting entities to accurately report their protective security maturity. Assurance activities involved targeted testing and verification of entity reporting across PSPF security domains to assess the robustness of evidence supporting self-assessed outcomes and to identify opportunities for strengthening protective security practices.

The pilot program was a successful demonstration of the value of independently validating PSPF reporting, ultimately improving confidence in entity reporting, identifying areas for continuous improvement, and informing the development of an ongoing Commonwealth PSPF assurance capability. The pilot represents an important step towards strengthening oversight of PSPF compliance reporting and supporting continual improvement in protective security outcomes across the Commonwealth.

Key activity: Cyber security engagement and coordination	
Measure: Effective delivery of exercises and consequence management coordination supports cyber security incident preparedness and response.	**Met** **100%**

TARGET 11

90% of surveyed participants (who responded to the survey) indicated that department-led cyber preparedness exercises provided meaningful preparedness insights.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Unable to be determined	As at 30 June 2026, there were 407 participants[29] in department-led cyber preparedness exercises, with 161 of these responding to the survey (39.56%).[30] Of the 155 valid responses,[31] 149 were positive. The remaining 6 respondents provided a negative response.	This target was unable to be determined. While 96.13% of surveyed participants (who responded to the survey) indicated that department-led cyber security incident preparedness exercises provided meaningful preparedness insights, the survey results for this target were not considered reliable because surveys were not administered in accordance with a consistent survey methodology throughout the reporting period.[32]

29. Several inconsistencies were identified in survey administration, including variations in attendance recording and the identification of participants and observers which may have affected the accuracy of the reported total. This figure may not be indicative of the number of participants who attended the cyber preparedness exercises.
30. The survey was distributed to 446 individuals, while approximately 407 participated in the exercise. As attendance records could not be verified against the distribution list, some responses may have been received from individuals whose attendance could not be confirmed. One exercise was delivered to departmental staff within visa and citizenship systems, cyber risk services and service delivery areas. This exercise explored coordination, consequence management and response arrangements for a cyber security incident affecting departmental systems and services. Of the 155 valid survey responses, 3 responses were from this exercise. The departmental participants in this exercise were not involved in the design nor delivery of the exercise.
31. Responses of 'not sure/too early to tell' were deemed invalid as they were considered neither positive nor negative. Of the 161 responses, 6 responses were deemed invalid and therefore excluded from the performance result.
32. For 3 exercises, surveys were not distributed immediately after the exercise had concluded. Additionally, for 7 exercises, the survey link was emailed to all participants even though it had already been administered via a QR code at the conclusion of the exercise.

Supporting performance information

Cyber security consequence management exercises test whole-of-government coordination and consequence management arrangements for responding to cyber security incidents. Through realistic, scenario-based discussions and decision-making activities, the exercises allow participants to test response arrangements, coordination mechanisms, information-sharing practices and interdependencies.

The exercise program strengthens cyber security preparedness and response by helping organisations validate their plans and procedures, identify capability gaps and areas for improvement, and clarify roles and responsibilities during complex incidents. It also strengthens relationships and collaboration among key stakeholders that may need to respond collectively. These outcomes improve participants' ability to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from cyber security incidents, supporting national preparedness and response capability, strengthening Australia's cyber resilience and contributing to the delivery of key initiatives under the *2023–2030 Australian Cyber Security Strategy*.

Participant-reported preparedness provides an indicator of whether department-led cyber preparedness exercises are supporting these objectives.

During 2025–26, the department led 10 cyber security incident preparedness exercises involving stakeholders from government, industry and critical infrastructure sectors and collected survey responses at the conclusion of each exercise. However, the department did not consider the survey results reliable due to inconsistencies in attendance recording, the identification of participants and observers, survey distribution lists, and the timing and method of survey administration.

Participants were asked to respond to the following question:

- The cyber preparedness exercise provided meaningful preparedness insights (for use in the event of a cyber security incident).

Participants were asked to provide a rating of either 'strongly agree', 'agree', 'not sure/too early to tell', 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree', with the performance result only counting responses of 'strongly agree' and 'agree' as positive.

While the target was unable to be determined due to survey reliability issues, the 149 positive responses indicates that a substantial number of participants agreed that the exercises supported preparedness to respond to a cyber security incident.

Survey feedback and post-exercise evaluations are used to identify lessons learned, inform future exercise design and delivery, and support continuous improvement of the exercise program. Feedback assists the department to refine exercise scenarios, improve facilitation approaches, strengthen stakeholder engagement and ensure exercises continue to address emerging cyber security risks and preparedness requirements.

Feedback received throughout the reporting period demonstrated that participants valued the opportunity to test arrangements in a collaborative environment, improve understanding of cyber incident response processes and strengthen engagement with other organisations involved in cyber security preparedness and response activities.

Supporting activities included:

- the identification and dissemination of lessons learned to support continuous improvement in cyber incident preparedness and response arrangements
- ongoing engagement with stakeholders to strengthen cyber security awareness, preparedness, coordination and resilience.

TARGET 12

80% of stakeholders involved in Tier 2–3 cyber incidents (who responded to the survey) were satisfied that the department's consequence management coordination effectively supported awareness and response.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 67 stakeholders involved in 3 Tier 2–3 cyber incidents. Of the 67 stakeholders, 25 key stakeholders were surveyed,[33] related to 2 of the incidents,[34] with 13 of these providing a valid response (52%).[35] Of the 13 valid responses, all 13 respondents provided a positive response.	This target was met as 100% of stakeholders involved in Tier 2–3 cyber incidents (who responded to the survey) were satisfied that the department's consequence management coordination effectively supported awareness and response. This exceeded the target by 20 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

The National Office of Cyber Security, within the department, coordinates consequence management activities for nationally significant cyber security incidents in collaboration with operationally independent technical, law enforcement and regulatory agencies. This coordination supports affected organisations and government stakeholders to maintain situational awareness, align government interests and manage the broader consequences of an incident. Lessons identified through operational responses also inform improvements to procedures, communications and stakeholder engagement, strengthening preparedness for future incidents.

Cyber security incidents are assessed against the AUSCYBERPLAN incident assessment matrix and assigned a tier based on factors including the affected sector, type of information involved, severity and breadth of impacts and complexity. These are:

- Tier 1: Incident with limited impacts and/or low capacity
- Tier 2: Significant incident with major impacts and/or moderate complexity
- Tier 3: Nationally significant incident with severe impacts and/or high complexity
- Tier 4: Nationally catastrophic incident with extreme to catastrophic impacts and/or complexity.

Performance against this target was assessed through a survey administered following the closure of Tier 2 and Tier 3 cyber security incidents.[36] For reporting purposes, stakeholders were grouped according to the nature of their involvement in the incident.

Organisations directly involved in, or impacted by, an incident (response) were asked:

- I am satisfied the consequence management coordination provided by the department, in response to a recent cyber incident that impacted my organisation, was effective in supporting my organisation's response to the incident.

Stakeholders indirectly involved in, or impacted by, an incident (awareness) were asked:

- I am satisfied the consequence management coordination provided by the department, in response to a recent cyber incident that involved my organisation, was effective in supporting awareness of the incident.

33. Key stakeholders were a subset of the broader stakeholder group. For the response survey, they were representatives of organisations with a leading role in managing the coordinated response to an incident, such as the entity primarily affected. For the awareness survey, they were representatives of organisations that required situational awareness and had a key role in response or consequence management arrangements due to the incident's impact. 38 stakeholders were not surveyed because they did not meet either definition, including because they did not represent an organisation directly or indirectly affected by an incident and requiring departmental support, or because they were subsequently assessed as having a limited role or responsibility in responding to the incident.
34. Due to delays in establishing the reporting processes for this target, the survey methodology was not finalised at the time of one Tier 2 incident closure. There were 4 key stakeholders involved in this incident; however, they were not surveyed due to the brief engagement which occurred in response to the incident, and the amount of time elapsed since the incident occurred.
35. Responses of 'not sure/too early to tell' are deemed invalid as they are considered neither positive nor negative. Of the total 14 responses received, 1 response was deemed invalid and therefore excluded from the performance result.
36. Surveys are administered following incident closure. Accordingly, Tier 2 and Tier 3 incidents that occurred in 2025–26 but remained open at the end of the reporting period will be captured in the 2026–27 result.

For both questions, respondents were asked to provide a rating of either 'strongly agree', 'agree', 'not sure/too early to tell', 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree', with the performance result only counting responses of 'strongly agree' and 'agree' as positive.

Tier 1 incidents are outside the scope of this target but remain subject to assessment and response by the department where appropriate. In 2025–26, the department engaged in 63 Tier 1 cyber incidents, taking a coordinating role in 16 and a monitoring role in 47.

Survey results are used to identify strengths, lessons learned and opportunities to improve consequence management coordination. Stakeholder feedback informs the refinement of operational procedures, coordination arrangements, communication practices and engagement activities, supporting continuous improvement in cyber incident response and preparedness for future incidents.

Priority: Counter-terrorism and counter violent extremism

Key activity: Counter-terrorism

Measure: Counter-terrorism capability programs and national coordination contributes to the management of terrorist threats.	**Met** **100%**

TARGET 13

100% of known persons of counter-terrorism interest offshore or foreign fighters seeking to return/travel to Australia are assessed and appropriate mechanisms are developed to manage the risk associated with their return.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, 100% of known persons of counter-terrorism interest offshore or foreign fighters[37] that were identified as seeking to return/travel to Australia were assessed and appropriate mechanisms were developed to manage the risk associated with their return.[38]	This target was met as 100% of known persons of counter-terrorism interest offshore or foreign fighters seeking to return/travel to Australia were assessed and appropriate mechanisms were developed to manage the risk associated with their return.[39]

Supporting performance information

This target represents the department's coordination of information sharing and risk management across Commonwealth Government agencies in relation to known persons of counter-terrorism interest and foreign fighters. This contributes to supporting informed decision-making and proportionate responses to potential terrorist threats.

Beyond its direct security function, this activity makes a meaningful contribution to social cohesion by strengthening community safety and providing government and the Australian public with assurance that risks to national security are being actively identified, assessed and appropriately managed.

As chair of the Joint Operations Group, the department leads whole-of-government engagement on the potential return to Australia of persons of counter-terrorism interest or foreign fighters.[40] This involves coordinating information sharing across agencies, supporting decision-making on potential returns, and providing assurance to government that relevant risks are being managed. Depending on the threat, responses may include a range of lawful and proportionate risk mitigation measures.

The department's contributions as Chair supports agencies to develop a shared understanding of relevant threats and risks and supports coordinated, timely and proportionate responses. Without this coordination, government may have reduced visibility of risks and a diminished capacity to manage potential returns effectively, increasing risks to community safety and national security.

37. Australians, Australian visa holders, permanent residents and those with Australian citizenship claims, who have participated in foreign conflicts or undertaken training with extremist groups overseas.
38. This target captures individuals known to the Joint Operations Group.
39. This performance information has been expressed as a percentage only due to the sensitive nature of the content.
40. The Joint Operations Group is responsible for the risk management of persons of counter-terrorism interest or foreign fighters as well as the determination of any appropriate mechanisms that may be required to manage their return to Australia.

TARGET 14

85% of surveyed participants in scheduled Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee (ANZCTC) training (who responded to the survey) indicated the training delivered was aligned to, and supported, the expected capability uplift.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 482 participants who attended 27 ANZCTC trainings.[41] Of the 482, there were 320 valid[42] survey responses received (66.39%). Of the 320 valid responses, 311 of the respondents provided an overall positive response. The remaining 9 respondents provided an overall negative response.	This target was met as 97.19% of surveyed participants in scheduled ANZCTC training (who responded to the survey) indicated the training delivered was aligned to, and supported, the expected capability uplift. This exceeded the target by 12.19 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

The ANZCTC is a high-level body comprising representatives from the Australian Government, Australian state and territory governments, and the New Zealand Government. It contributes to the security of Australia and New Zealand by coordinating national counter-terrorism capability and supporting policy enhancement.

ANZCTC training programs coordinated by the department are intended to strengthen counter-terrorism capability across Australian jurisdictions. The programs aim to build capability by developing specialist skills, supporting nationally consistent practices and improving interoperability, thereby strengthening Australia's preparedness to prevent and respond to terrorism and violent extremism.

Participant-reported capability uplift provides an indicator of whether the training is supporting these objectives.

During 2025–26, the department coordinated a total of 44 ANZCTC training programs. These programs brought together personnel from multiple jurisdictions and disciplines to develop specialist knowledge and skills, strengthen professional networks and support a shared understanding of counter-terrorism doctrine, frameworks and agency roles and responsibilities.

Training activities included exposure to contemporary threats, lessons learned and realistic scenario-based activities. These activities support participants to apply their learning within their home agencies through operational procedures, training and exercises, while strengthening coordination and collaboration during exercises, major events and responses to counter-terrorism incidents.

Performance against this target was assessed through participant surveys administered at the conclusion of ANZCTC training programs. Due to delays in establishing the reporting processes for this target, the performance result is based on surveys administered from 19 November 2025 to 30 June 2026.

For training surveys administered during this period, the performance results is based on the responses to the following 2 questions:

1. Do you consider that the training delivered was aligned to the expected capability uplift?

2. Do you consider that the training delivered supported capability uplift within your role/field?

Participants were asked to respond 'Yes' or 'No' to each question. A response was counted as positive only where the participant answered 'Yes' to both questions.[43]

41. Due to delays in establishing the reporting processes for this target, the performance result reflects ANZCTC training surveys administered from 19 November 2025 to 30 June 2026. Survey methodologies varied across the 17 training courses conducted before 19 November 2025, therefore, feedback from these courses was excluded from the overall performance result.
42. 82 responses were classified as invalid for the purposes of reporting, including duplicate and/or incomplete responses and responses received outside of the defined survey period. Due to the anonymous nature of the survey, duplicate responses could only be identified where the response included an identifier.
43. For one training program, the survey used free-text response fields instead of binary 'yes/no' response options. For the purposes of reporting, a response was only classified as positive where the respondent provided a clear 'yes' to both questions. All other responses were classified as not positive.

While participant-reported capability uplift provides an indication of the immediate impact of training, the survey does not measure whether participants' reported improvements are sustained or applied in practice over time. The department supports the ongoing application of participants' knowledge and skills through a broader program of ANZCTC capability building, including nationally coordinated training, exercises and cross-jurisdictional engagement.

Through these activities, the program promotes nationally consistent practices, strengthens cross-agency relationships and supports interoperability between Commonwealth, state and territory agencies. This contributes to broader national counter-terrorism preparedness, capability and response readiness.

The outcomes delivered through the ANZCTC training program are also relevant to matters being considered by the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion.

By promoting nationally consistent practices, strengthening inter-agency coordination and building specialist capability across Commonwealth, state and territory agencies, the program supports the broader capability of law enforcement and national security partners to prevent, prepare for and respond to terrorism and ideologically or religiously motivated violent extremism.

The program's focus on shared doctrine, operational readiness and cross-jurisdictional collaboration supports broader efforts to strengthen national counter-terrorism coordination, preparedness and response capability. These capabilities support the protection of public safety and community resilience and contribute to efforts to strengthen social cohesion.

Additional information on Australia's counter-terrorism strategies can be found in *A Safer Australia—Australia's Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy.*[44]

TARGET 15

85% of department-led activities under the 'Safer Australia—Australia's Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy 2025' are on track for completion within their required timeframes.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 9 department-led activities under the *Safer Australia—Australia's Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy 2025* due for completion in 2025–26. Of these, all 9 activities were delivered within their required timeframes.[45]	This target was met as 100% of department-led activities under the *'Safer Australia—Australia's Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy 2025'* were completed within their required timeframes. This exceeded the target by 15 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

The department delivered its responsibilities under the *A Safer Australia – Australia's Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy 2025* (the Strategy 2025) during 2025–26 through the implementation of department-led actions to maintain and enhance Australia's counter-terrorism capabilities and contribute to strengthened preparedness, resilience and response to terrorism and violent extremism.

Delivery of the Strategy 2025 also contributes to social cohesion by supporting the prevention of terrorism and violent extremism events that can disrupt community safety and resilience. As this is the first year Target 15 has been reported, the 2025–26 result establishes a baseline for future annual reporting on the department's progress in delivering the Strategy 2025.

44. www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/what-australia-is-doing-subsite/Files/australias-counter-terrorism-violent-extremism-strategy.pdf
45. The milestones for some activities experienced delays during the reporting period due to implementation complexities and external dependencies, however these delays did not affect the overall delivery timeframes for the relevant actions. The department sought to manage delivery risks through ongoing monitoring, prioritisation and proactive engagement with implementation partners.

The Strategy 2025 is Australia's national framework for responding to evolving terrorism and violent extremism threats. It sets out a whole-of-nation approach involving state governments, law enforcement, intelligence agencies, communities, industry, academia and international partners to strengthen national resilience, reduce current and future threats, and support Australia's ability to prevent, identify, disrupt, respond to and recover from terrorism and violent extremism. The Strategy 2025 also provides a shared understanding of the threat environment and outlines practical areas of focus, including prevention, early identification and intervention, reducing access to violent extremist material online, managing enduring and emerging threats, and strengthening domestic and international partnerships.

The Strategy 2025 Action Plan section provides the basis for the department-led activities reported against this target. This section identifies practical commitments to be delivered, including strengthening education and support services, improving community awareness and referral pathways, enhancing online safety and responses to violent extremist content, supporting counter-terrorism laws and capabilities, improving national counter-terrorism and violent extremism approaches, and deepening partnerships with states and territories, industry, academia and international partners.

During 2025–26, the department delivered scheduled activities under the Strategy 2025 Action Plan, including, but not limited to, the following key achievements:

- enhancing the Step Together website with updated information and advisory resources to help communities identify and counter violent extremist narratives
- updating ESCAPE. HIDE. TELL. resources to improve accessibility for First Nations peoples, people with disability, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- engaging with industry and international partners on the risks and opportunities presented by artificial intelligence in the context of violent extremism.

In addition to the 9 activities captured by this target, the department also delivered 1 action in 2025–26 that was originally scheduled for completion in future. This is not included in the target calculation but demonstrates accelerated progress in delivering the Strategy 2025. The key deliverable for this action related to supporting the exchange of best practice and cooperation with international partners to strengthen collective responses to enduring, new and emerging threats.

During 2025–26, the activities associated with this target were reviewed and the number included for reporting was amended from 14 to 9. The 5 activities removed from the target remained part of the department's broader work but were no longer considered appropriate for reporting against this target because their original plans were affected by reprioritisation in response to emerging national security priorities or by external factors outside the department's control. The 5 activities were:

- providing tailored treatment and support pathways for people, including vulnerable young people, at risk of involvement in violent extremism
- coordinating services to support the rehabilitation and appropriate community reintegration of convicted high-risk terrorist offenders
- improving awareness and understanding of behavioural indicators of violent extremism, informed by evidence and research'
- improving understanding of the role of mis and disinformation in violent extremism and informing evidence-based responses
- supporting initiatives that address the impacts of mis and disinformation and strengthen resilience to violent extremist narratives.

Key activity: Counter violent extremism	
Measure: Counter violent extremism through the delivery of training, capability and awareness programs.	**Met** **100%**

TARGET 16

85% of surveyed participants (who responded to the survey) are satisfied that the department's counter violent extremism (CVE) training improved their CVE intervention capability and awareness.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 285 participants who attended the department's CVE training.[46] All 285 participants were surveyed,[47] with 255 total valid responses received (89.47%).[48] Of the 255 valid responses, 240 of the respondents provided a positive response. The remaining 15 respondents provided a negative response.	This target was met as 94.12% of participants (who responded to the survey) indicated they were satisfied that the department's training improved their CVE intervention capability and awareness. This exceeded the target by 9.12 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

The department's CVE training supports the development of nationally consistent CVE intervention capability across Commonwealth, state and territory agencies and relevant practitioner sectors. The training is designed to improve participants' awareness of violent extremism risks and strengthen their capability to apply structured, evidence-based approaches to risk assessment, supervision and intervention planning. By equipping participants from policy, law enforcement, corrections, mental health and private practitioner settings with practical tools and shared approaches, the training supports coordinated, prevention-focused responses to violent extremism.

During 2025–26, the department facilitated training on risk and needs assessment tools that support practitioners and intervention providers in making structured and evidence-based decisions around risk, supervision, and treatment decisions for at-risk individuals in the community and correctional settings. Violent extremism risk assessments are structured professional judgement tools and require training for their correct use.

Activities that underpin training delivery include:

- coordinating national CVE risk assessment training across states and territories
- convening training working group meetings to support information sharing and best practice
- engaging training providers and partners to align training with stakeholder needs
- reviewing the VERA-2R and associated training materials to maintain currency.

Performance against this target was assessed through participant feedback via a survey at the conclusion of each training program. For training programs conducted from July 2025 to November 2025, participants were asked to respond to the following question using a five-point scale from 1 (very low) to 5 (very high), with responses of 4 or above counted as positive:

- Has the training improved your CVE intervention capability and awareness?

For training programs conducted from December 2025 onwards, participants were asked to respond to the following 2 questions with either 'Yes' or 'No', with responses of 'Yes' to both questions counted as positive:

- The training improved your CVE intervention awareness?
- The training improved your CVE intervention capability?

46. Trainings offered include Violent Extremism Risk Assessment 2 Revised (VERA-2R), Pro-Integration Model (PIM), Youth Pro-Integration Model (YPIM) and Violent Extremism Situational Awareness (VESA) assessment tools.
47. The survey methodology used varied between trainings delivered from July 2025 to November 2025 and those delivered from December 2025 onwards.
48. For the purposes of reporting, responses were deemed invalid if they were anonymous or did not include an answer to the relevant survey question/s. Of the 261 survey responses received, 6 survey responses were deemed invalid and therefore excluded from the overall result, resulting in 255 valid responses.

Some participants, particularly subject matter experts or experienced CVE practitioners, may not report an improvement in awareness or capability where the training reinforced existing knowledge rather than introduced new concepts or skills. As a result, negative responses may reflect a high baseline level of expertise rather than the quality, relevance or value of the training.

While the survey does not measure whether these reported improvements are sustained or applied in practice over time, the department seeks to support the ongoing development and application of participants' knowledge and skills through a broader program of CVE capability building. This includes the continued delivery of specialised training, stakeholder engagement activities, coordination of a national CVE training working group, and information-sharing mechanisms that support collaboration across jurisdictions and sectors. Through these activities, the department supports practitioner awareness of emerging violent extremism trends, the sharing of good practice, and national capability to identify, assess and manage risks associated with violent extremism. The department also uses survey results to inform continuous improvement of the training program and help maintain its relevance and responsiveness to stakeholder needs and the evolving threat environment.

The department's provision of countering violent extremism training supports social cohesion by equipping frontline professionals with consistent knowledge and approaches. This enables earlier, more coordinated and community-focused responses to violent extremism risks.

By improving practitioners' awareness and intervention capability, the training contributes to broader efforts to counter violent extremism and reduce the harm it may cause to individuals and communities.

TARGET 17

75% of surveyed states and territories' counter violent extremism (CVE) coordinators (who responded to the survey) are satisfied with the department's coordination of the National Support and Intervention Program (NSIP).[49]

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 17 state and territory CVE Coordinators. In November 2025, 10 Coordinators[50] were surveyed[51] with 6 responses received (60.00%). Of these: • 5 respondents provided a positive response (83.33%) • 1 respondent provided a negative response (16.67%). In May 2026, 17 Coordinators were surveyed with 14 responses received (82.35%). Of these: • 13 respondents provided a positive response (92.86%) • 1 respondent provided a negative response (7.14%).	This target was met as 88.10%[52] of surveyed states and territories' CVE coordinators[53] (who responded to the survey) were satisfied with the department's coordination of the NSIP. This exceeded the target by 13.10 percentage points.

49. The target was originally published in the *Department of Home Affairs 2025–26 Corporate Plan* as '75% of surveyed states and territories' counter violent extremism (CVE) coordinators (who responded to the survey) are satisfied with the guidance provided by the department to establish the new National Support and Intervention Program (NSIP)'.
50. CVE Coordinators were surveyed at the conclusion of the November CVE Coordinator Workshop. As a result, the survey was only distributed to CVE Coordinators who attended the workshop. Of the 17 CVE Coordinators, 10 attended the November 2025 CVE Coordinator Workshop and were surveyed.
51. The method for calculation published in the Department of Home Affairs *2025–26 Corporate Plan* required surveyed CVE Coordinators to have held the position for at least 6 months. To ensure sufficient responses were received, this criteria was not applied for the November survey and all CVE Coordinators were surveyed, regardless of time in the role.
52. The performance result is calculated by averaging the positive response rates from the 2 surveys.
53. 6 Coordinators were included in both survey populations. Due to the anonymous nature of the survey, it is not possible to determine the proportion of Coordinators who responded to both surveys.

Supporting performance information

The department manages the NSIP, a nationally coordinated and locally delivered program established as an initiative under the Strategy 2025 and implemented in July 2025 to support the disengagement and rehabilitation of individuals involved in, or vulnerable to, violent extremism. The program delivers tailored interventions across the risk continuum, including support for individuals who are exploring violent extremist ideologies, engaging in extremist activities, or transitioning through custodial and post-release environments. NSIP integrates the functions of the former Living Safe Together Intervention Program and High-Risk Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program into a unified national program.

The department's management of NSIP supports CVE efforts through the delivery of capability and awareness initiatives and by strengthening the national arrangements that support CVE interventions across states and territories. Through national governance, reporting, data collection and stakeholder engagement, the department assists states and territories to deliver tailored support for individuals involved in, or vulnerable to, violent extremism. By bringing together intervention, rehabilitation and reintegration functions under a unified national program, NSIP builds shared capability, supports consistent practice and improves awareness of intervention approaches across the CVE sector. This coordinated national approach supports responses to individuals at different stages of risk and contributes to broader efforts to reduce violent extremism.

The department's coordination of NSIP involves:

- establishing and coordinating national policy and governance functions
- administering program funding and financial management arrangements
- managing state and territory reporting requirements, including data collection, quality assurance and analysis
- developing and maintaining reporting systems to support program reporting
- engaging with state and territory stakeholders to support program implementation
- building capability to support effective CVE interventions, including through national workshops and other knowledge-sharing activities.

Performance against this target was assessed through a bi-annual survey of CVE Coordinators. The first of these surveys was distributed to Coordinators as part of a feedback form associated with a bi-annual workshop conducted in November 2025, in line with the pre-determined methodology. The second bi-annual workshop scheduled for April was cancelled and no feedback form was distributed. The second survey was therefore administered via email to CVE Coordinators in May 2026.

The performance result is based on responses to the following question:

- Overall, how satisfied are you with the department's coordination of the National Support and Intervention Program?

Coordinators were asked to provide a response of 'Yes' or 'No' to the above question with responses of 'Yes' counted as positive.

The performance result indicates that responding CVE Coordinators considered that the department had met their expectations in coordinating NSIP. Their responses demonstrate the department's effectiveness in supporting national coordination, governance, reporting, and stakeholder engagement activities that underpin delivery of intervention services across Australia. Qualitative feedback also highlighted support for the establishment of NSIP as a nationally coordinated program, as well as the value of regular engagement with the department and opportunities for information sharing across states and territories. The department uses survey results and CVE Coordinator feedback to identify opportunities to improve program coordination, reporting processes, guidance materials, and stakeholder engagement activities.

The department strengthened stakeholder engagement and capability development in 2025–26 through the delivery of a national CVE workshop and regular engagement with state and territory partners, including monthly CVE Coordinators meetings, quarterly state and territory engagement meetings, and information sessions on reporting requirements. While a second national workshop was not delivered during 2025–26, the department maintained engagement and capability-building activities through these forums and provided ongoing support to states and territories. These activities enabled the department to support states and territories, facilitate the sharing of emerging practice and lessons learned, and promote collaboration. Together, they supported ongoing capability development, information sharing and stakeholder engagement throughout 2025–26.

The NSIP aims to strengthen CVE capabilities, and reduce violent extremism across Australia, the department's CVE efforts contribute to social cohesion by addressing underlying vulnerabilities that drive divisive and violent extremism behaviours.

Priority: Counter foreign interference	
Key activity: Counter foreign interference	
Measure: Counter foreign interference threats through capability and awareness activities and targeted initiatives.	**Met** **100%**

TARGET 18

80% of surveyed entities who have implemented the Counter Foreign Interference (CFI) eLearning module (who responded to the survey) indicate the training has uplifted their staff understanding of foreign interference risks.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 79 entities subscribed to the CFI eLearning module, with 45 of these indicating they had implemented the module. Of the 45 eligible entities,[54] 29 valid survey responses were received (64.44%).[55] Of the 29 responses, 27 entities provided a positive response. The remaining 2 entities provided a negative response.	This target was met as 93.10% of surveyed entities who implemented the CFI eLearning module (who responded to the survey) indicated that the training has uplifted their staff understanding of foreign interference risks. This exceeded the target by 13.10 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

The Counter Foreign Interference Coordination Centre's eLearning module strengthens the capability of government, industry, and the education and research sector to recognise, respond to and protect against foreign interference. By improving awareness and understanding among personnel, the module builds organisational resilience and supports informed responses to foreign interference risks and vulnerabilities. This contributes to efforts to counter foreign interference threats through capability and awareness activities and targeted initiatives.

Through sector-specific case studies and knowledge checks, the module helps users recognise foreign interference, apply due diligence and mitigation measures, and understand the potential consequences of inaction. These practical examples help users identify foreign interference risks and consider appropriate measures to manage them.

The department measured performance against this target by conducting an annual survey over a 2-week period from 1 July to 14 July 2026 assessing the effectiveness of the training in uplifting understanding of foreign interference risks.

The survey was issued to training coordinators in all 79 entities subscribed to the CFI eLearning module and was used to establish whether the module had been implemented, as the department did not otherwise have visibility of this information. Entities that confirmed implementation were eligible to provide feedback on the module's effectiveness in improving staff understanding of foreign interference risks and to report staff completion numbers, providing information on the module's uptake and reach.

The performance result is based on responses to the following question:

- How much do you agree/disagree with this statement: The CFI eLearning module training has uplifted my agency's staff understanding of foreign interference risks?'

Respondents were asked to provide a rating of either 'strongly agree', 'agree', 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree', with a positive response requiring a response of 'strongly agree' or 'agree'.

54. For the purposes of reporting, entities must have implemented the CFI eLearning module at least 8 weeks prior to the survey being distributed. The total number of eligible entities does not include those which implemented less than 8 weeks prior.
55. For the purposes of reporting, responses were deemed invalid if they did not include an answer to the relevant survey question/s or if they were submitted after the closing date. The department received 32 survey responses with 3 of these responses deemed invalid and therefore excluded from the overall result, resulting in 29 valid responses.

As part of this assessment, training coordinators were required to consult across their organisations to ensure that the feedback submitted to the department accurately reflected the perspectives and experiences of personnel who had utilised the module. To support meaningful consultation and the collection of representative feedback, sufficient time was allowed for coordinators to engage with relevant individuals and consolidate views from across the organisation.

The result is also supported by strong uptake of the module, with 32 of 79 subscribed entities reporting implementation and a combined completion rate of 4,993 staff. The performance result and reach data indicates that the CFI eLearning module contributed to improved awareness and understanding of foreign interference risks among participating entities, representative of a broad range of organisations, during 2025–26.

As individual entities determine how the module is rolled out, the department does not control its internal reach or whether completion is voluntary or mandatory. The 2 respondents who disagreed attributed their responses to limited participation under voluntary arrangements, which prevented them from concluding that understanding had improved across their organisations.

During 2025–26, alongside delivery of the CFI eLearning module, the department strengthened national awareness and resilience to foreign interference across government, industry, higher education, and the community sectors. This included building partnerships, delivering briefings and engagement programs, developing practical resilience products, and supporting sector-specific initiatives across higher education, research, government and local communities. The work also expanded accessible support through the CFI Community Support Hub, which has been translated into 23 languages, to provide knowledge, tools and advice for members of the community impacted or concerned by foreign interference.

Foreign interference threatens Australia's sovereignty, democracy, and national interests. Left unchecked, it will continue to undermine Australia's democratic values, civil rights, government institutions, economic prosperity, and social cohesion. The CFI eLearning module contributes to national efforts to counter this threat by improving awareness and understanding of foreign interference risks among personnel across government, industry, and the education and research sectors. By helping users recognise foreign interference, understand its potential impacts, and apply appropriate mitigation measures, the module supports organisational resilience and informed responses to risks that can affect institutions, communities and public confidence.

TARGET 19

Launch the Counter Foreign Interference (CFI) Community Support Hub website, including a CFI web form, by 30 June 2026.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, the CFI Community Support Hub was fully launched. This included the completion of 6 scheduled milestones.	This target was met as the CFI Community Support Hub website was fully launched on 26 November 2025.

Supporting performance information

In 2025–26, activities to establish the CFI Community Support Hub supported building national capability and delivering awareness initiatives targeted at diverse communities.

The Community Support Hub centralises accessible educational materials, including multilingual resources tailored for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, creating a sustainable digital infrastructure that strengthens public literacy in identifying and mitigating covert foreign interference threats. By making resources widely accessible and culturally appropriate, the hub expands the reach of CFI education beyond traditional audiences, ensuring that awareness-raising is inclusive and nationally scalable. This contributes to the departments role in targeted initiatives that builds community-level resilience, a critical and enduring layer of Australia's broader CFI capability.

The CFI Community Support Hub is an official online platform designed to support the safeguarding of Australia's diverse population, democratic institutions, and sovereignty from covert, deceptive, or coercive state-backed activities. Aligned with our portfolio responsibility for central coordination, policy leadership, and national security outreach, the hub provides vital multilingual resources tailored for at-risk diaspora communities to identify and mitigate hostile threats. By offering actionable self-protection frameworks, the portal fosters local grassroots resilience.

The department has structural oversight for website delivery and operations. For 2025–26, the focus was on launching of the Community Support Hub, involving the creation of a website and creative assets to help communities better understand and identify foreign interference, know how to mitigate and report it, and where to find support. The full launch of the website occurred on 26 November 2025, as at 30 June 2026 it has had 2,446 unique visitors.

The English version of the website was launched on 26 November 2025, with the following translations being delivered throughout 2025–26:

- 92 of 92 video animations
- 23 out of 23 languages being translated and assured.

While this target was originally published to also count delivery of a CFI webform, on 1 May 2026 there was an operational decision to not launch the webform. While the webform was initially proposed to offer another way for community members to engage with government on foreign interference issues, it was determined that existing channels[56] already provide effective pathways for reporting concerns, accessing information and obtaining support.

TARGET 20

80% of surveyed university sector participants in Counter Foreign Interference (CFI) webinars (who responded to the survey) are satisfied that the activity improved their understanding of foreign interference risks and would be useful to inform future mitigations.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 907 participants in the CFI webinars with all participants surveyed. Of these, 199 responded to the survey (21.94%).[57] Of the total, 168 of the respondents provided an overall positive response. The remaining 31 respondents provided an overall negative response.	This target was met as 84.42% of surveyed university sector participants in CFI webinars (who responded to the survey) were satisfied that the activity improved their understanding of foreign interference risks and would be useful to inform future mitigations. This exceeded the target by 4.42 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

The department delivers CFI webinars as part of the broader capability-building, awareness and engagement program coordinated by the CFI Coordination Centre across government, education and research sectors. The webinars provide university sector participants with information about the foreign interference threat environment and practical strategies to identify and mitigate risks affecting institutions, students, staff and researchers.

The webinars were targeted to Deans and Heads of Schools, CFI Accountable Authorities, members of university risk, integrity and security teams and key personnel involved in policy development and outreach to individuals and communities at risk from foreign interference in each of Australia's 42 universities. These individuals were targeted because their roles contribute to institutional decision-making, including decisions relating to compliance with corporate and reporting obligations, and influence how foreign interference risks are understood and managed by staff and researchers within their universities.

The webinars covered topics including:

- foreign interference threats facing universities, their staff, students and researchers
- case studies illustrating how foreign interference may arise in university settings
- relevant government legislation, policies and guidance
- mitigation strategies and tools available to strengthen institutional CFI awareness and capability.

56. Existing channels include the 24-hour National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400 and the National Security Hotline Online Report. Members of the public who feel threatened or unsafe should contact the police by calling 000 (Triple Zero) for immediate threats or 13 14 44 for non-urgent police assistance.
57. For response rates less than 50%, the department notes that results may not fully reflect the views of the broader stakeholder population.

The webinars raised awareness of foreign interference risks and built CFI capability by supporting participants to recognise potential indicators of foreign interference and consider how suspected instances could be appropriately escalated and managed within their institutions. This builds universities' capacity to counter foreign interference, protect individuals and institutional interests, and apply proportionate, risk-based responses while supporting open academic collaboration and debate.

Performance against this target was assessed through surveys administered at the conclusion of 2 CFI webinars delivered on 6 March 2026 and 27 March 2026. At the conclusion of each webinar, respondents were asked to provide a rating of agreement to the following 2 statements:

- The Webinar improved my understanding of foreign interference risks.
- The Webinar is useful in informing future efforts to mitigate foreign interference risks.

For each question, respondents were asked to provide a rating of agreement of 'strongly agree', 'somewhat agree', 'neither agree nor disagree',[58] 'somewhat disagree' or 'strongly disagree', with an overall positive response requiring a response of 'strongly agree' or 'somewhat agree' to both questions.

The performance result indicates that respondents to the survey considered the webinars to have improved their understanding of foreign interference risks and were useful in informing their future efforts to mitigate foreign interference risks. The feedback provides an indication that the department's capability-building efforts are supporting sector knowledge and capability through targeted advice and outreach.

Survey responses are used both to assess the effectiveness of the webinars and to identify areas that could inform future departmental CFI engagement, including identifying demand for additional guidance, resources or outreach concerning cyber security practices and other controls relevant to managing foreign interference risks.

The webinars were complemented by broader CFI engagement and capability-building activities, including:

- CFI teams located in capitals cities across Australia regularly engaging with stakeholders to discuss emerging issues and communicate current government advice
- distributing a post-webinar resource pack to attendees containing links to guidance, relevant legislation and other government resources to assist practitioners to understand their responsibilities and strengthen institutional capability and awareness
- convening the University Foreign Interference Taskforce, bringing together government and university representatives to discuss existing and emerging challenges and identify opportunities for coordinated action.

Foreign interference activities can often be targeted at international or diaspora student cohorts (e.g. through peer-to-peer surveillance, direct coercion, or pressure to report on peers). The CFI Webinars reinforce the importance of campus safety and culture, as well as protecting academic freedoms and freedom of speech from being suppressed by foreign interference activities. In doing so, the webinars contribute to social cohesion by strengthening community trust in university systems and support processes, promoting respectful and open participation in academic collaboration and debate and supporting institutions to manage foreign interference risks in ways that protect both national interests and the participation of Australia's diverse communities.

58. For the purposes of reporting, responses of 'neither agree nor disagree' were excluded from the overall number of survey responses.

TARGET 21

80% of surveyed industry participants (who responded to the survey) identified that TechFIT improved organisational awareness of foreign interference risks.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 71 industry participants who engaged through TechFIT. Of the total participants, 19 were surveyed,[59] with 10 responses received (52.63%). Of the respondents, all 10 provided a positive response.	This target was met as 100% of surveyed industry participants (who responded to the survey) identified that TechFIT improved their organisational awareness of foreign interference risks. This exceeded the target by 20 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

Building awareness of, and resilience to, foreign interference across Australia's technology sector is critical to both economic prosperity and national security. The Technology Foreign Interference Taskforce (TechFIT) facilitates engagement between government and Australia's technology industry through targeted outreach, briefings and tailored guidance. This provides industry with the information it needs to recognise, report and build long-term resilience against foreign interference.

In 2025–26, TechFIT focused on strengthening trusted stakeholder relationships, developing new guidance material for industry, and exploring additional engagement opportunities, all aimed at enhancing awareness of foreign interference risks within Australia's technology ecosystem. TechFIT engaged small, medium and large companies in the quantum, biotechnology and artificial intelligence sectors, as well as innovation accelerators, launch pads and venture capital firms that support and enable technology companies to scale. Improving industry participants' organisational awareness of foreign interference risks and the measures available to address them supports organisations to identify vulnerabilities and take informed protective action, thereby strengthening capability across the technology sector and contributing to broader efforts to counter foreign interference.

Engagement activities delivered throughout 2025–26 included:

- a deep dive event with the University Foreign Interference Taskforce
- a masterclass delivered in partnership with an industry peak body
- Industry Advisory Group meetings
- briefings to the Trusted Information Sharing Network
- participation in industry conferences and workshops.

Performance against this target was assessed by conducting an annual survey of industry stakeholders who had engaged with TechFIT on a minimum of 2 occasions throughout 2025–26. The survey was conducted over a 2-week period from 1 July to 15 July 2026 and captured participant feedback on their engagement with TechFIT.

The performance result is based on responses to the following question:

- Through your engagement with TechFIT since 1 July 2025, has your organisation's awareness of foreign interference risks improved?

Participants were asked to provide a response of 'Yes' or 'No' to the above question with responses of 'Yes' counted as positive.

59. For reporting purposes, the survey population was limited to industry stakeholders who had engaged with TechFIT on at least two occasions during 2025–26. Of the 71 industry representatives who engaged with TechFIT during the reporting period, 19 met this eligibility criteria and were invited to complete the survey. Australian Government representatives who engaged with TechFIT during the reporting period were excluded from the survey population.

The performance result indicates that the department's engagement and approach with industry stakeholders has effectively uplifted organisational awareness of foreign interference risks. The department will continue to respond to survey results and qualitative feedback to ensure industry is receiving best-practice engagement and support to address their needs.

TechFIT also released the following guidance products to further support entities' engagement:

- Investee Due Diligence Guidance
- Factsheet of Critical Technology Sectors on Foreign Interference and Espionage Risks
- Information Sheet for Critical Technology Sectors on Bad-faith Investors.

These products were informed by industry feedback and requests and provide practical information, tools and techniques to help organisations identify and respond to foreign interference risks.

The department's national security responsibilities include addressing threats that can undermine Australia's social cohesion, including foreign interference. By translating threat intelligence into targeted outreach and guidance for technology industry sectors, government and research stakeholders, TechFIT supports broader departmental counter foreign interference efforts. This strengthens awareness of foreign interference risks and supports protective behaviours across the national innovation ecosystem.

OUTCOME 2

Support a united and prosperous Australia through effective coordination and delivery of immigration and citizenship policy and programs underpinned by robust integrity and assurance.

Table 8: Performance measures for Outcome 2

Activity	Performance measures
Migration and citizenship delivery	Delivery of the Migration and Citizenship Programs contributes to economic prosperity and aligns to national interests **– Met**
Humanitarian Program	Delivery of Australia's Humanitarian Program reflects government priorities and Australia's international protection obligations **– Met**
Settlement services	The management and delivery of settlement and translating and interpreting services support refugees and vulnerable migrants in contributing to and participating in the Australian community **– Met**
Multicultural affairs engagement and grant delivery	Community engagement and multicultural grants programs support government in responding to community needs **– Met**
Visa cancellation and refusals	Character cancellation finalisations and Bridging Visa E application processing contributes to community safety and support those to stay lawfully in Australia **– Met**
Immigration compliance operations	Immigration compliance advice and referrals contributes to community safety **– Met**
Onshore detention	Effectively maintain a safe, secure and sustainable immigration detention network **– Substantially met**
Visa and migration systems integrity	Regulation of Registered Migration Agents and implementation of migrant worker exploitation reforms supports the integrity of the visa and migration system **– Met**
Regional processing	International capability and engagement activities and contract management supports offshore regional processing **– Met**

Outcome 2

Support a united and prosperous Australia through effective coordination and delivery of immigration and citizenship policy and programs underpinned by robust integrity and assurance.

Priority: Migration and citizenship reform and delivery

Key activity: Migration and citizenship delivery

Measure: Delivery of the Migration and Citizenship Programs contributes to economic prosperity and aligns to national interests.	**Met** **100%**

TARGET 22

The Migration Program is delivered consistent with planning levels set by government.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, the permanent Migration Program planning level for 2025–26 was 185,000. Against this, the department delivered 185,000[60] places, including: • 132,222 places in the Skilled stream, against a planning level of 132,200 • 52,522 places in the Family stream, against a planning level of 52,500 • 256 places in the Special Eligibility Program stream, against a planning level of 300 places.	This target was met as 100% of places were delivered against the permanent Migration Program planning level set by government.

Supporting performance information

This target measures the department's performance in delivering the 185,000 places set for the 2025–26 Migration Program planning level. The program comprises 3 streams:

- the Skilled stream, which supports workforce needs and regional development through skilled migration
- the Family stream, which enables Australian citizens and permanent residents to reunite with immediate family members, with a majority of places allocated to partners, followed by parents and children
- the Special Eligibility stream, which provides a limited number of places for specific circumstances, including former residents returning to Australia or certain visas granted through ministerial intervention.

Delivering Australia's permanent Migration Program in line with the planning level set by the government supports Australia's economic, demographic and community needs. The program attracts migrants who can help address current and emerging skills shortages and enables family reunification, which strengthens community connections and social cohesion. Effective program delivery also supports confidence in the integrity and administration of the migration system.

The department monitored outcomes throughout 2025–26 and reallocated unused Special Eligibility places to the Employer Sponsored and Child visa categories to deliver the overall planning level, in line with government priorities.

60. 185,000 places were delivered within the Migration Program Outcome (MPO) of 2025–26. The snapshot was generated on 4 July 2026 (for operational reasons). Some future reports containing the 2025–26 MPO figure will account for a visa grant decision recorded on 1 July 2026, which will retrospectively have the effect of increasing the total by one in 2025–26. Based on the grant date this visa decision should be considered attributable to the 2026–27 financial year.

Table 9: Migration program places delivered by stream

Visa program	Component	Outcome	Planning level
Skilled Migration Program	Employer sponsored	44,022	44,000
	Skilled independent	16,900	16,900
	State/Territory nominated	33,000	33,000
	Regional	33,000	33,000
	Talent and innovation[61]	5,300	5,300
Australian Family Program	Partner	40,500	40,500
	Parent	8,500	8,500
	Other family	500	500
	Child	3,022	3,000
Special Eligibility	Special eligibility	256	300
Total		**185,000**	**185,000**

TARGET 23
Median visa processing times across 4 of the 6 key demand driven programs improve or are maintained.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, the median visa processing times[62] for demand driven visa categories[63] were: • 192 days for Second Stage Skilled (Permanent), which decreased from 211 days in 2024–25 • 268 days for Partner (Permanent) which decreased from 271 days in 2024–25 • 96 days for Skilled (Temporary) which increased from 66 days in 2024–25 • 29 days for Student which decreased from 34 days in 2024–25 • less than 1 day for Visitor, maintained from 2024–25 • less than 1 day for Working Holiday Maker, maintained from 2024–25.	This target was met as median visa processing times across 5 of the 6 key demand driven programs improved or were maintained.

61. The Talent and Innovation category includes the National Innovation Visa, as well as the Global Talent, Distinguished Talent and Business Innovation & Investment visas, which are closed to new applications. The 2025–26 planning level has been adjusted to reflect this.
62. Results calculated in calendar days.
63. Processing times for Visitor and Working Holiday Maker visas include applications finalised through computer assisted processing arrangements.

Supporting performance information

The department monitors program performance and processing times monthly, supporting the identification and consideration of cross-program opportunities for improvement. Maintaining or improving visa processing times for migration and temporary entry programs supports tourism, international education, family reunion and helps employers address temporary and permanent skill shortages.

The time taken to assess on-hand applications is influenced by factors such as application completeness, lodgement volumes, and for some programs, ministerial priorities.

The target focuses on demand-driven programs because processing times for programs that are not demand driven are influenced by factors beyond the department's control, including application rates, migration planning levels and government decisions on caps and ceilings.

Median processing times for Skilled (Temporary) visa applications increased by 30 days compared with 2024–25. During 2025–26, the Department refined risk and resourcing settings, enhanced risk-based processing arrangements, and delivered guidance and stakeholder engagement activities aimed at supporting visa applicants and sponsors to submit complete, decision ready applications.[64] The average number of visas finalised per FTE is detailed in Target 24.

Table 10: Demand-driven visa categories—median processing times[65]

Component	2024–25 Median (days)	2025–26 Median (days)
Crew and Transit*	Less than 1	Less than 1
Resident Return/ADV*	Less than 1	Less than 1
Second stage skilled (Permanent)	211[66]	192
Partner (Permanent)	271	268
Skilled (Temporary)	66	96
Special Category*	Less than 1	Less than 1
Student	34	29
Temporary Resident (Other Employment)*	16	12
Visitor	Less than 1	Less than 1
Working Holiday Maker	Less than 1	Less than 1

64. Visa applicants can find information on submitting a decision-ready application on the 'Check twice, submit once' webpage of the department's website.
65. Visa categories marked with an asterisk (*) are not "key" demand driven targets and do not contribute to the performance result.
66. The 2025–26 processing time for Second Stage Skilled (Permanent) excludes the Subclass 191 Hong Kong Regional stream, as this stream forms part of the Migration Program and as such is not demand driven and is excluded from this target. As a result, the 2024–25 processing time increases from 206 (reported in 2024–25 Annual Report) to 211 (reported on revised 2025–26 calculation).

TARGET 24

Average number of finalisations per Full Time Equivalent (FTE) visa processing officers increases or is maintained across both permanent and temporary visa caseloads.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, the monthly average number of visa application finalisations was 189.68 applications per FTE per month, increasing from 176.06 applications per FTE in 2024–25. This included: • 50.14 applications per FTE for Permanent visa caseloads, increased from 42.04 applications per FTE in 2024–25[67] • 273.40 applications per FTE for Temporary visa caseloads, increased from 263.32 applications per FTE in 2024–25.	The target was met as the monthly average of visas (across both permanent and temporary visa caseloads) finalised per FTE increased from 2024–25. This exceeded the target by 13.62 applications per FTE per month.[68]

Supporting performance information

Targets 22 to 25 collectively measure the migration system's effectiveness in delivering government priorities, processing applications efficiently, and maintaining the integrity of decision-making. Together, these meet the government's objectives and support workforce needs, productivity, tourism, international education and family reunification, contributing to Australia's economic prosperity while safeguarding community confidence, program integrity and broader national interests.

This target reports on the department's efficiency in manually finalising visa applications per processing FTE. Efficient processing supports responsive permanent and temporary visa entry programs.

Permanent visas allow people to remain in Australia indefinitely and include certain skilled and family visas. Temporary visas are designed for specific purposes such as studying, working holidays or other specialist activities.

Compared with 2024–25, both total visa finalisations and processing productivity increased in 2025–26. Total finalisations increased by 3.83%, while finalisations per processing FTE increased across both permanent and temporary caseloads, producing an overall increase of 7.74%. As processing resources may be moved between programs, performance against the target is reported as a combined result. The department also tracks performance across each program to inform ongoing improvement.

The calculation per FTE is based on applications that are manually finalised by a visa processing officer, which are typically more complex and resource intensive than those processed through computer assisted processing. Only low risk visa grants are finalised through computer assisted processing, with all other applications diverted to a delegated officer for manual processing. During 2025–26, the department continued to enhance visa processing, primarily through workflow optimisation. While the department is beginning to explore expanded use of technology-enabled assessment processes, these were not a major contributor to increased efficiency in visa processing in 2025–26.

Overall, the department has finalised 9,808,466 million visa applications in the Migration and Temporary visa programs—Table 11 refers.

67. In 2025–26, Subclasses 461 and 870 were reclassified into the Family (Temporary) category to provide clearer categorisation and improve program reporting and to align with the operational management of family visa products. As a result of the re-categorisation, finalisations per FTE figures have been recalculated for 2024–25 using the revised category structure and may differ from those previously reported.
68. 'Both permanent and temporary visa caseloads' means that the results, outputs, or values from the two programs are combined by addition or aggregation, without applying any weighting, prioritisation, or proportional adjustments to either program. The contribution of each program is counted at its full value.

Table 11: Total visa finalisations by category[69]

Visa program	Visa Category	Financial year	
		2024–25	2025–26
Migration Program	Family	113,166	129,991
	Other Permanent	1,119	3,683
	Skilled	159,507	173,377
	Special Eligibility	385	279
Migration Program Total		**274,177**	**307,330**
Resident Return and ADV	Resident Return/ADV	187,988	148,359
Resident Return and ADV Total		**187,988**	**148,359**
Temporary Visa Program	Crew and Transit	460,210	477,239
	Other Temporary	17,763	29,085
	Special Category	1,873,536	1,935,599
	Student	473,634	448,642
	Temporary Resident (Other Employment)	272,034	299,279
	Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)	139,660	154,354
	Visitor	5,422,394	5,678,954
	Working Holiday Maker	325,510[70]	329,625
Temporary Visa Program Total		**8,984,741**	**9,352,777**
Grand Total		**9,446,906**	**9,808,466**

69. This table provides the total number of visas finalised by the department in 2024–25 and 2025–26 and includes applications finalised by visa processing officers and computer assisted grants.
70. The number of Working Holiday Maker finalisations for 2024-25 was reported as 25,510, the correct figure was 325,510.

TARGET 25

Error rates for visa and citizenship decisions subject to quality management activities do not exceed the pre-determined error rate benchmarks.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, error rates for visa and citizenship decisions across all 15 programs subject to quality management activities[71] did not exceed the pre-determined error rate benchmarks.	This target was met as 100% of error rates for visa and citizenship decisions subject to quality management activities, did not exceed the pre-determined error rate benchmarks.

Supporting performance information

Quality management assurance activities are undertaken across visa and citizenship programs by managers and experienced staff within program delivery teams. As set out in the Quality Management Plans, these activities focus on internal process controls and management controls, informed by the strategic priorities and risks of each caseload. Quarterly reporting facilitates senior executive oversight of performance against pre-determined error rate benchmarks and provides cross-program insights into errors, recurring trends and potential remedial actions.

Maintaining low error rates supports accurate, fair and consistent visa and citizenship decisions, strengthening program integrity, national security and public confidence in the integrity of the migration system. Reliable decision-making also supports the effective delivery of programs that contribute to Australia's workforce, international education, tourism and broader economic and national interests.

During 2025–26, quality assurance reporting arrangements were updated to reflect evolving program features, strategic risks and organisational priorities. The changes included:

- implementing updated quality management plans in October 2025 including updates to error rates and sample rates for Family, Employer Sponsored and citizenship programs
- commencing reporting on Bridging Visa E refusals error rates under Target 25 from quarter 2
- implementing revised error rate benchmarks from quarter 3, in line with the updated Quality Management Plan
- reinstating the 5% benchmark for Skilled visa streams following an assessment that risk were comparable with those of similar programs
- updating the sample rate target structures and corresponding error rate tables for Onshore Protection.

71. Quality management activities include quality control (QC) and/or quality assurance (QA). QC is the pre-decision examination of specific deliverables to ensure they are compliant with the relevant standards and specifications, with corrective action initiated where necessary. QA is the post-decision examination and analysis (measurement, monitoring and comparison) of standards, policies, processes and outcomes to provide confidence that quality goals are likely to be (or have been) met. Reporting on quality management activities for citizenship decisions reflects QA only.

Table 12: Error rates for citizenship and visa decisions from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Citizenship program	Decisions subject to quality management activities[72]	Percentage of errors identified (error rate)	Pre-determined error rate benchmark	Error rate versus benchmark (percentage points)
Conferral	237,886	2.11%	≤5%	-2.89%
Descent	21,387	0.97%	≤5%	-4.03%
Evidence of Australian citizenship	40,724	1.22%	≤5%	-3.78%
Visa program	**Decisions subject to quality management activities**	**Percentage of errors identified (error rate)**	**Pre-determined error rate benchmark**	**Error rate versus benchmark (percentage points)**
Temporary Visas	2,531,394	0.37%	≤5%	-4.63%
Family Visas	173,709	0.55%	≤5%	-4.45%
Skilled Visas – Employer Sponsored (1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025)	111,131	0.44%	≤1%	-0.56%
Skilled Visas – Employer Sponsored (ES) (1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026)	116,698	1.08%	≤5%	-3.92%
Skilled Visas – Independent Skills and Innovation (ISI) (1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025)	27,080	0.91%	≤2%	-1.09%
Skilled Visas – Independent Skills and Innovation (1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026)	24,394	0.80%	≤5%	-4.20%
Pacific and Working Holiday Maker	149,848	0.23%	≤5%	-4.77%
Short Stay Work	109,278	0.10%	≤5%	-4.90%
Maritime Crew Visa (MCV) and Transit Visas	168,358	0.24%	≤5%	-4.76%
Offshore humanitarian visas	17,075	0.39%	≤5%	-4.61%
Onshore Protection Permanent s866 (PPV)	18,325	2.79%	≤5%	-2.21%
Bridging Visa E (Grants)	45,601	4.58%	≤5%	-0.42%
Bridging Visa E (Refusals) (1 October 2025 to 30 June 2026)	3,453	1.74%	≤5%	-3.26%
General visa cancellations	33,187	0.65%	≤2%	-1.35%

72. Figures are based on a sample of cases selected from each program. Reporting on quality management activities for citizenship decisions reflects QA only.

TARGET 26
Reduce the on-hand citizenship caseload to 80,000

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 67,253 citizenship applications[73] on-hand across all citizenship caseloads. This is a reduction of 92,865 of the citizenship on-hand caseload since 30 June 2025 (160,118).	This target was met as the department reduced the on-hand citizenship caseload to 67,253. This exceeded the target by 12,747 cases.

Supporting performance information

Efficient delivery of the Citizenship Program is balanced with ensuring decisions are made in line with legislative and policy requirements. The department has systems and processes to identify, assess, control and mitigate risks in the Citizenship Program delivery and uses this information to support corrective action and quality assurance through an evidence-based approach. These measures provide confidence that Australian citizenship is granted to people who meet legislative requirements and have a genuine connection to Australia.

The department has a significant role and responsibility for delivering Australia's Citizenship Program in accordance with the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007*, including the effective assessment of citizenship applications and associated eligibility requirements. The target recognises the importance of Australian citizenship in enabling people to fully participate in the Australian community and supports the department's focus on reducing the on-hand caseload across all included citizenship application categories by 30 June 2026, while maintaining the integrity and quality of decision-making. Reducing the on-hand citizenship caseload supports a strong and cohesive Australian society by promoting multiculturalism, Australian values and active citizenship.

In 2025–26, program efficiency was measured by whether the on-hand caseload across all included citizenship application categories was reduced to 80,000 or fewer by 30 June 2026. This target aligns to the government's longer-term objective of reducing the total on-hand caseload across all citizenship application categories to 40,000 by the end of program year 2026–27.

All citizenship application categories included in the target recorded reductions during 2025–26, as shown in Table 13.

73. The definition of 'citizenship applications' was amended during the reporting period from the definition originally published in the *Department of Home Affairs 2025–26 Corporate Plan* to include applications for Australian citizenship for children adopted under full Hague Convention or bilateral arrangements and applications to resume Australian citizenship. These application streams are a smaller component of the program and will not influence the overall objective of this target but will support completeness in reporting for the Citizenship Program.

Table 13: On-hand all caseloads[74] from 30 June 2025 to 30 June 2026

Month	Conferral	Descent	Adoption	Evidence	Resumption	Total on-hand
June 2025	152,859	6,294	5	878	82	**160,118**
July 2025	143,076	6,425	8	854	82	**150,445**
August 2025	130,493	6,459	12	1,009	77	**138,050**
September 2025	120,692	6,584	14	723	74	**128,087**
October 2025	109,398	6,314	6	793	66	**116,577**
November 2025	95,912	6,179	7	775	65	**102,938**
December 2025	90,880	6,074	7	784	60	**97,805**
January 2026	88,062	6,220	-	865	63	**95,210**
February 2026	79,770	5,997	5	711	57	**86,540**
March 2026	74,292	5,827	7	541	56	**80,723**
April 2026	70,151	5,492	8	756	55	**76,462**
May 2026	62,084	4,430	6	821	59	**67,400**
June 2026	62,683	3,898	<5	622	<50	**67,253**

Several administrative improvements were implemented across the citizenship program during 2025–26, including consolidating application streams into national caseloads and regularly calibrating national processing priorities. These measures supported consistent processes and streamlined administrative activities. Combined with stable staffing across citizenship delivery teams and the use of overtime, these improvements contributed to achievement of the target.

These changes supported the following outcomes during 2025–26:

- The department finalised 350,505 citizenship applications across all included categories, 45% more than the 241,765 applications finalised during 2024–25.
- A total of 227,482 citizenship-by-conferral applicants acquired citizenship, 37.7% more than the 165,193 applicants who acquired citizenship during 2024–25.
- Minor system enhancements supported processing efficiency, including updates to online conferral application forms, correspondence templates and processing systems.

74. Includes Conferral, Descent, Evidence, Adoption and Resumption applications. Where applicable, as per current privacy guidelines, the Department of Home Affairs' policy is to mask numbers which are less than 5 as "<5". Other numbers may be masked where required to ensure values under 5 cannot be determined from totals. Data for the 2025–26 financial year is drawn from a dynamic system environment and is correct at the time of publication but may differ from previous or future reporting. The Department of Home Affairs must be consulted regarding any requests to use this data for purposes not originally intended or discussed.

Priority: Refugee, humanitarian and settlement services	
Key activity: Humanitarian Program	
Measure: Delivery of Australia's Humanitarian Program reflects government priorities and Australia's international protection obligations.	**Met** **100%**

TARGET 27

The Humanitarian Program is delivered consistent with the planning levels and onshore/offshore composition ratio set by the government.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, the department delivered all 20,000 Humanitarian Program places,[75] comprising: • 15,500 places delivered under the offshore component • 4,500 places delivered under the onshore component.[76]	This target was met as the Humanitarian Program was delivered within the planning ceiling and the onshore/offshore composition set by the government.

Supporting performance information

The department is committed to generous and flexible Humanitarian and Settlement Programs that meet Australia's international protection obligations, and position Australia as a global leader in international resettlement efforts.

The Humanitarian Program offers:

- resettlement for refugees and others overseas who are in humanitarian need
- protection for people who arrive lawfully in Australia and engage Australia's protection obligations.

This gives effect to Australia's international protection obligations and deliver on Australia's commitment to refugee resettlement and global burden-sharing. This program also supports social cohesion and multiculturalism through the reuniting of families and the resettlement of vulnerable refugees consistent with planning levels set by government, taking account the views of the community through Ministerial consultations every year.

This target is a measure to demonstrate the effectiveness of the department's delivery of the Humanitarian Program, consistent with the planning ceiling and the onshore/offshore composition set by government. The target result directly aligns to the number of humanitarian places set by government to ensure Australia delivers on its global resettlement commitments and continue to benefit from the significant contributions of humanitarian entrants.

On 27 May 2026, the government agreed to adjust the composition of the Humanitarian Program to transfer 500 places from the offshore allocation to onshore Protection visa applications.[77] This adjustment was made within the planning ceiling and was due to the growing onshore Protection visa grant pipeline, noting the volume of remittals from the Administrative Review Tribunal. The department was able to pivot to accommodate this in-year change through proactive identification of indicatively positive cases and streamlined processing approaches to expand the grants pipeline accordingly. Ongoing weekly and daily monitoring of data reports also ensured progress remained on track to deliver all planned places within the reporting period.

75. As at 30 June 2026, the onshore/offshore composition set by government for the Humanitarian Program was 15,500 offshore places and 4,500 onshore places.
76. The reporting for Target 27 does not capture onshore protection visas granted in 2025–26 where a previous Offshore Humanitarian or Protection Visa had already been counted towards the reported result for the current or prior reporting period. For 2025–26, 56 Onshore Protection Visas, were excluded from total places delivered under the onshore component.
77. Prior to this, for 2025–26, the Humanitarian Program planning ceiling was set by government as 20,000 places, comprising of 16,000 offshore places and 4,000 onshore places.

TARGET 28 Deliver at least 30,000 Protection (subclass 866) visa finalisations.		
Performance rating	**Performance against target**	**Justification for result**
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 30,482 Protection (subclass 866) visa finalisations. Of these: • 4,556 visas were granted • 23,481 visas were refused • 2,445 visas were withdrawn.	This target was met as the department delivered 30,482 Protection (subclass 866) visa finalisations. This exceeded the target by 482 visa finalisations.

TARGET 29 At least 50% of refused Protection visa applications finalised under the real time processing model are finalised within 90 days from the date of application.		
Performance rating	**Performance against target**	**Justification for result**
Met	• As at 30 June 2026, there were 16,621 refused Protection (subclass 866) visa applications finalised under the real time processing model. • Of these, 9,398 were finalised within 90 days from the date of application.	This target was met as 56.54% of refused Protection visa applications finalised under the real time processing model were finalised within 90 days from the date of application. This exceeded the target by 6.54 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

These targets reflect the Australian Government's commitment to ensuring the Protection visa system serves its intended purpose – to provide protection to those who are in genuine need and are found to meet Australia's protection obligations. Timely Protection visa decision-making helps ensure people found to engage Australia's protection obligations can access protection without unnecessary delay, while those who do not meet the requirements are identified efficiently and lawfully. This supports the integrity of Australia's protection framework and Australia's ability to meet its international obligations and contributes to social cohesion through supporting public confidence in the program.

These targets measure the department's effectiveness in processing Protection visa applications, including under the real-time processing model. Under this model, specific applications are allocated and assessed as they are lodged, reducing the time applicants spend on Bridging visas with work rights and dis-incentivising misuse of the Protection visa system. The list of nationalities and cohorts that form the real time processing cohort is dynamic and updated to reflect changes in government priorities and real-world events. Applicants who meet either a real time processing nationality or cohort are prioritised for finalisation.

The program implemented measures to ensure delivery of at least 30,000 finalisations in 2025–26, which included setting ambitious monthly finalisation targets and the implementation of efficiency measures such as batching, decision support tools and applying global case management principles to increase productivity. Targeted operational measures focused primarily on creating a pipeline and decision finalisations were implemented to support delivery of the target.

Finalisation numbers are for all applicants included on an application and includes grants, refusals and withdrawals. This equates to an average of 7,621 finalisations per quarter. The Protection (subclass 866) visa applications on-hand caseload decreased in 2025–26 in comparison to 2024–25:

- 22,211 Protection (subclass 866) visas were on-hand as at 30 June 2026, representing a decrease from 28,635 as at 30 June 2025.

Of the 30,482 Protection (subclass 866) visa finalisations:

- 4,556 visas were granted, compared with 4,010 granted in 2024–25
- 23,481 visas were refused, compared with 25,018 refused in 2024–25
- 2,445 visas were withdrawn, compared with 1,437 withdrawn in 2024–25.

Under section 49 of the *Migration Act 1958* (Migration Act), applicants may withdraw a visa application at any time during processing, after which the department updates its records and notifies the applicant. In a negligible number of cases, individuals may have multiple Protection visa finalisations, most commonly where a child is included as a dependant on applications lodged by both parents (per Regulation 2.08 of the Migration Regulations 1994) and each application must be finalised, consistent with the legislation.

The success of protection visa reform has been demonstrated through lower monthly lodgement rates, which have stabilised at approximately 1,890 per month (from a high of approximately 2,300 per month in mid-2024). The median processing time for all refusals is 116 days.

This success has resulted in the composition of the on-hand Protection visa caseload shifting over the past year, with fewer low-complexity prima facie refusal applications available for processing and an increase in both sensitive claims and higher-complexity, grant producing country profiles. In addition, Unlawful Providers of Immigration Assistance are also changing their behaviour in response to Protection visa reform and are employing more sophisticated lodgement practices that take longer to assess.

In 2025–26, the department also:

- continued to prioritise applications processed under the real time processing model, with cases generally assessed on a last-in, first-out basis
- used specialised expertise, decision-support tools and country information to support efficient and consistent decision-making
- applied global case management principles to progress applications as far as possible and finalise them at the earliest opportunity
- allocated applications according to complexity, enabling straightforward cases to be processed efficiently while more complex matters received additional consideration.

Key activity: Settlement services	
Measure: The management and delivery of settlement and translating and interpreting services support refugees and vulnerable migrants in contributing to and participating in the Australian community.	**Met** **99.36%**

TARGET 30

85% of humanitarian entrants exiting the Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP) have the skills and knowledge to use services in Australia.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, 11,410 humanitarian entrants had exited the HSP. Of these, 10,483 were assessed (by their provider)[78] as having the skills and knowledge to use services in Australia.[79] Of these, 272 (2.59%) had a N/A assessment for the majority or all outcomes	This target was met as 91.88% of humanitarian entrants exiting the HSP were assessed as having the skills and knowledge to use services in Australia. This exceeded the target by 6.88 percentage points.

78. The performance results are based on self-reporting by third party providers. The department does not internally verify the legitimacy and accuracy of reported results.
79. Aligned with the 2023–24 reporting approach, the performance result includes clients who have achieved the required outcome independently or with some level of assistance.

Supporting performance information

The HSP supports humanitarian entrants and refugees during their initial settlement in Australia by providing practical assistance and developing skills and knowledge across 10 orientation outcomes. The target measures whether clients exiting the program have the skills and knowledge to identify, access and use the settlement, mainstream and specialist services and systems relevant to these outcomes. These may include services relating to housing, health, financial management, transport, family support, legal matters, education and employment. This supports participation in Australian community life, continued access to services following settlement, a strengthened sense of belonging and social cohesion.

The HSP is delivered nationally through contracted service providers. Eligible clients include holders of Refugee visas and Global Special Humanitarian visas. The department works closely with the service providers to ensure clients receive individualised case management and support tailored to their circumstances, needs and settlement goals.

Performance was measured through a mandatory assessment completed by service providers when clients exited the program. Service providers assessed clients against 10 orientation outcomes and recorded achievement at the levels of awareness, knowledge or application. The performance result includes clients assessed as having achieved the required outcome independently or with some level of assistance.

Quality and assurance mechanisms are in place to measure and monitor service delivery quality and address performance issues, including monitoring service level standards and key performance indicators. Individual client experience is also monitored by the department through client interviews regarding their experience as a HSP client receiving settlement services.

When clients are ready to exit the HSP, typically 12-18 months after they arrive in Australia, their HSP case manager conducts an exit interview to confirm they have achieved their settlement outcomes. Case managers assess the client's competency across the 10 orientation outcomes and confirm they have the skills and knowledge to use services after exiting the HSP.

The 10 orientation outcomes are 'settlement services', 'housing', 'health', 'managing money', 'feeling at home in Australia', 'transport', 'family functioning', 'Australian law', 'education' and 'employment'.

The reported outcomes for this target are drawn from a mandatory survey provided by the department and completed by HSP service providers for each entrant when they exit the HSP.

The service provider assesses client capacity against these outcomes and records their achievement at 3 different levels of 'awareness', 'knowledge' and 'application'. Generally, all clients should achieve their outcomes at the 'application' level. Where this is not possible due to exceptional circumstances, a 'not applicable (N/A)' assessment may be submitted by service providers for relevant outcomes during the client's exit review.

A total of 272 (2.59%) of humanitarian entrants who were assessed, were recorded as 'not applicable' across the majority of orientation outcomes, however were included in the performance result in accordance with the established reporting approach. The 'not applicable' assessments reflected individual circumstances where outcomes were not relevant or achievable during the HSP period due to acute or complex needs. Examples include clients with significant health conditions or caring responsibilities whose support focused on connection to healthcare, specialist services and other essential supports. Clients who require ongoing support after exiting the HSP, such as those who were assessed as not having the skills and knowledge to use services in Australia, may be referred to other settlement programs, including Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) services.

TARGET 31

80% of Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) clients assessed rated 3 or above (5-point rating scale) as a measure of the achievement of a client's individual goals required to support their independence, participation and wellbeing.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	In 2025–26,[80] 62,552 clients received SETS services. Of these, 38,198 clients were assessed by SETS providers.[81] Of the assessed clients, 35,117 clients rated 3 or above (on a 5-point rating scale) in relation to the client's individual goals across 6 domains.[82]	This target was met as 91.93% of SETS clients assessed rated 3 or above (5-point rating scale) as a measure of the achievement of a client's individual goals required to support their independence, participation and wellbeing. This exceeded the target by 11.93 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

SETS provides flexible, low to medium intensity assistance to refugees and vulnerable migrants, with services tailored to the needs of the client. The department manages the delivery of the SETS as part of a suite of settlement services to support refugees and vulnerable migrants in contributing to and participating in the Australian community and contributes to broader social cohesion objectives. Providers prioritise identified groups, including people who arrived in Australia less than 5 years ago, while retaining flexibility to support clients outside of the priority groups based on client need, budget limitations and relevant program outcomes.

This target aims to measure the effectiveness of SETS in equipping humanitarian entrants, other vulnerable migrants and their communities with the knowledge, tools and support needed to address settlement needs and improve social and economic participation, community connectedness, wellbeing and independence. Services may include settlement-related information and advice, referrals to mainstream and other relevant services, employment readiness activities, conversational English classes, health and legal information and activities addressing social isolation.

SETS clients are assessed using Standard Client Outcomes Reporting (SCORE) data from the Department of Social Services' (DSS) Data Exchange (DEX) system. SCORE measures outcomes from a client's interaction with a funded service and supports consistent reporting across different service delivery approaches. SCORE assessments may be reported through a practitioner assessment, a client self-assessment, support person assessment, or a joint assessment.

SCORE is generally recorded near the beginning and end of a client's engagement with a service to assess change over time, interim assessments may also be recorded where services are provided over a longer term. Clients must have at least 2 Goal SCORE assessments to be included in the target result. Clients who interact with the service only once, or for whom assessment is not practicable, are excluded.

Goal SCORE ratings of 3, 4 and 5 are counted as positive outcomes, representing limited progress with strong engagement, moderate progress and full achievement of the client's goal, respectively. Across the 6 Goals SCORE domains, the most commonly assessed were changed knowledge and access to information and engagement with relevant support services. All domains recorded a positive average change between client's earliest and latest assessments, indicating progress towards their recorded settlement goals.

80. The performance results are based on self-reporting by third-party providers through DEX data, managed by the Department of Social Services. The department accesses SETS data through the Qlik reporting interface and does not directly access DEX source data to internally verify the accuracy of the self-reporting.
81. SETS providers are required to report outcomes for 50-60 per cent of their clients. For 2025–26, ratings were provided for 61.07% of SETS clients.
82. The 6 Goal domains captured by this target are: changed knowledge and access to information, changed skills, changed behaviours, empowerment, choice and control to make own decisions, engagement with relevant support services, and changed impact of immediate crisis.

Providers are encouraged to collect SCORE assessments in ways best suited to their service delivery context. While the department does not directly access DEX source data to internally verify the accuracy of the assessments made, a DEX attestation process was introduced in 2025–26 to strengthen assurances over the data. Additional checks of providers' DEX controls, SCORE calculations and staff training were incorporated into DSS stakeholder engagement visits throughout 2025–26. These engagements covered 22.60% of SETS providers in 2025–26, exceeding the annual sampling benchmark of 20%.

DSS also undertakes bi-annual quality assurance to confirm that DEX data is complete and consistent with other records. This process however, this does not verify the accuracy of individual Goal SCORE assessments. DEX assessments are also shared with the department to inform stakeholder engagement.

On 1 April 2026, the Australian National Audit Office published a performance audit of the SETS program which concluded there is an opportunity to improve the design and administration of the program in pursuit of its objectives to ensure effectiveness and consistency with the Commonwealth Grant Rules and Principles. The performance audit included a recommendation that the department improve how it measures whether the program is achieving its objectives, with an emphasis on whether clients are achieving their goals and improving their circumstances. This recommendation will be addressed in 2026–27 performance reporting for the SETS program.

TARGET 32

In all instances where Assisted Passage contract Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were reported as not achieved by the service provider (through quarterly reporting), the department completes an assessment and applies an abatement or requests a remediation action plan from the service provider within 10 business days.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, the service provider reported no instances in which a KPI was not achieved.	This target was met. No abatement or remediation action plan were therefore required under this target.

Supporting performance information

The Assisted Passage program supports the delivery of the Offshore Humanitarian Program through health screening, travel and medical related services to refugee visa applicants and visa holders. The department manages the program's service provider contract as part of a suite of settlement and translating services to support refugees and vulnerable migrants in contributing to and participating in the Australian community.

The department monitors the service provider's performance against 5 contractual KPIs, supporting the safe, timely and accountable delivery of Assisted Passage services. Each quarter, Toll Remote Logistics Pty Ltd (Toll) provides a Contract Status Report setting out its performance against the KPIs. The department is required to review the report within 10 business days of receipt and apply an abatement or request a remediation action plan where a KPI is not met. Toll's performance is assessed against the following 5 contractual KPIs:

- KPI 1: Timeliness of contacting panel members for Immigration Medical Examinations,
- KPI 2: Travel Timeliness,
- KPI 3: Engagement of Medical and Non-Medical Escorts,
- KPI 4: Offer and Encourage attendance at Departure Health Checks, and
- KPI 5: Achieving value for money.

For 2025–26, Toll achieved all 5 contractual KPIs in each of the quarters. For each quarter, the Assisted Passage team reviewed the Contract Status Report and, within 10 business days of receiving the quarterly KPI results, advised the service provider that no abatement would be applied, and no Remedial Action Plan was required, as all KPI performance requirements had been met.

During 2025–26, Toll delivered Assisted Passage services to 29,820 clients across a range of activities, including immigration medical examinations, departure health checks, travel arrangements, biometric services and escort support. The department undertook regular contract management and assurance activities to validate reported KPI performance, including reviewing quarterly KPI reports against supporting evidence, information from overseas posts and stakeholders, expenditure reviews and service delivery data. If any discrepancies were identified through these processes, they were explored with the service provider before performance reporting was finalised.

In June 2026, the department and service provider signed a contract amendment revising the timeframe under KPI 1 from 3 business days to 4 business days from the first business hour in Australian Eastern Standard Time and clarifying escort responsibilities under KPI 3, including requirements for accompanying visa holders throughout their travel. This amendment to KPI 1 will commence in 2026–27.

The department also continued work arising from a Management Initiated Review to strengthen assurance over value for money assessments under KPI 5. Reporting against this KPI is currently self-reported by the service provider and cannot be independently validated by the department. A quality assurance process is being implemented to support a more robust assessment of value for money.

The department also finalised the eMedical/HAP system integration project, which was successfully implemented on 17 July 2026. The integration enabled the automated transfer of health case information between Home Affairs and Toll systems, reducing reliance on manual reporting processes and improving the timeliness and efficiency of information sharing to support service delivery.

TARGET 33

85% of enrolled students who responded to the annual Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) client survey identified that they had improved across a minimum of 3 English language skills categories.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 41,685 enrolled students in the Adult Migrant English Program, with 14,201 students participating in part or in full in the annual student satisfaction survey (34.07%). Of the 13,672 responses to the survey questions related to English language skills, 12,056 indicated that they had improved across 3 or more English language skills categories.	This target was met as 88.18% of enrolled students who responded to the relevant survey question indicated that they had improved across 3 or more English language skills categories. This exceeded the target by 3.18 percentage points.

TARGET 34

85% of enrolled students who responded to the annual Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) client survey identified that they learn English for their needs including work, study and community participation.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 41,685 enrolled students in the AMEP, with 14,201 students participating in part or in full in the annual student satisfaction survey (34%).[83] Of the responses to each question: • 12,162 of 13,245 (91.82%) indicated the AMEP helps them learn English to feel part of the Australian community • 8,567 of 9,673 (88.57%) indicated the AMEP helps them learn English needed for work • 10,780 of 11,964 (90.10%) indicated the AMEP helps them learn English needed for further study.	This target was met as 90.16%[84] of enrolled students who responded to the relevant survey questions indicated that they learn English (through the AMEP) for their needs including work, study and community participation. This exceeded the target by 5.16 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

83. A total of 14,201 students participated in the survey in part or in full. Respondents were not required to answer every question and, accordingly, the number of responses varied across questions. Each performance result is calculated using the number of respondents who answered the relevant question.
84. The performance result is calculated by averaging the positive responses from the 3 relevant survey questions.

The AMEP provides free English language tuition to eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants with below vocational English proficiency. By helping participants develop the English needed for everyday life, work and further study, the program supports settlement, independence and participation in the Australian community. This contributes to broader social and economic participation and social cohesion.

Established in 1948 and legislated under the *Immigration (Education) Act 1971*, the AMEP is delivered at approximately 300 locations nationwide and is available to eligible participants aged 18 and over, with limited access for some 15–17 year olds who have completed schooling or cannot access adequate school language services. The program offers flexible learning options, including classroom-based, virtual and distance learning, and one-on-one assistance through the Volunteer Tutor Scheme. Its settlement-focused curriculum and pathway guidance help participants access services, pursue employment and education opportunities, and engage in community life.

Building proficiency in speaking, listening, reading and writing can help participants communicate more independently, understand information, build social connections and strengthen capacity to engage in community life and access employment, education, healthcare and other services. Target 33 assesses the proportion of surveyed students who report improved English proficiency in at least 3 of these 4 language skills.

The AMEP also develops English for practical settlement purposes, including community participation, work and further study. These capabilities can help participants form social connections, pursue employment and education opportunities and participate more fully in the Australian community. Target 34 assesses the proportion of surveyed students who agree that the AMEP helps them feel part of the Australian community and develop the English needed for work and further study.

Together, the targets provide insight into students' self-reported improvement in core English language skills and their views on how the program supports their broader settlement needs. These aspects of the AMEP contribute to participants' independence, social and economic participation, and connection to the Australian community.

Performance against both targets was assessed via an annual student satisfaction survey, undertaken by the AMEP Quality Assurance Provider on behalf of the department. This was conducted over a 3-week period from 5 May to 26 May 2026 and captured actively enrolled students during the survey dates.

For Target 33, the performance result is based on responses of 'improved a lot', 'improved' or 'not improved' to the following statements, with the performance result only counting 'improved a lot' and 'improved' responses as positive:

- In the AMEP
  - My speaking has…
  - My listening has…
  - My reading has…
  - My writing has…

For Target 34, the performance result is based on responses to the following questions:

- How much do you agree or disagree with these statements?
  - The AMEP helps me to feel part of the Australian community.
  - In the AMEP, I learn the English I need for work.
  - In the AMEP, I learn the English I will need for further study.

For each survey question, respondents were asked to provide a rating of either 'strongly agree', 'agree', 'not sure', 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree', with the performance result only counting 'strongly agree' and 'agree' responses as positive.

To support the student clients in accurately completing their self-assessment, the department provided guidance to the AMEP service providers on pre-survey teaching and familiarisation, tailored to the different levels of proficiency.

Considering the characteristics and vulnerable backgrounds of the cohort, the department relies on the service providers to distribute the survey to all enrolled students. Service providers can use their pre-existing relationship with enrolled students to increase the likelihood of enrolled students completing the survey and, where appropriate, provide additional support to the client to enable them to complete the survey, including assistance with question comprehension. The department relies on service providers to manage survey distribution and assist enrolled students with survey completion without influencing the responses and assessments of enrolled students. The department supports the reliability of third-party survey information through the articulation of clear requirements, regular communication with service providers, including via departmental communique, and ongoing engagement service providers to ensure consistent survey implementation and strong response rates.

The delivery of the AMEP contributes to social cohesion through supporting refugees and vulnerable migrants in contributing to and participating in the Australian community by helping improve their English language skills and settle in Australia.

TARGET 35

TIS National (Translating and Interpreting Services) are provided in a timely and reliable manner.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026: • A total of 1,556,598 Interpreting Service requests were assigned, of these, 1,418,888 (91.15%) were assigned a National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) accredited practitioner. • A total of 1,716,566 Interpreting Services requests were received, of which 1,528,501 (89.04%) were provided. • A total of 1,433,406 immediate were answered,[85] of these, 1,179,693 (82.3%) were answered within 120 seconds. • A total of 292,183 booking requests were assigned, of which 286,771 (98.15%) were assigned within one day.	This target was met as 98.08% of translating and interpreting services were provided in a timely and reliable manner.[86] The target was met as 98.08% was within the target variance of 2.50 percentage points.[87]

Supporting performance information

This target relates to the management and delivery of settlement and translating and interpreting services support for refugees and vulnerable migrants enabling them to contribute to, and participate in, the Australian community. It represents the department's delivery of TIS National, a language service which supports the participation of refugees and vulnerable migrants in the Australian community. TIS National facilitates equitable access to the information and services of government agencies, businesses and non-government organisations.

TIS National language services are available 24 hours a day for people with limited English proficiency, and agencies and businesses that need to communicate with their non-English speaking clients. Interpreting services are available through immediate phone services, and interpreter bookings are facilitated through phone, video remote and on-site channels. In addition to departmental staff providing these services, the department also manages the panel of accredited language practitioners available to deliver interpretation services and ensuring that practitioner levels are maintained to meet client demand.

85. 'Immediate' refers to calls that were not pre-booked and that were made via TIS National's 24 hours phone interpreting service.
86. The result is calculated by aggregating together the results for each of the 4 components against their individual benchmarks, as published in the *Department of Home Affairs' 2025–26 Corporate Plan.*
87. Measures and targets have been assessed as 'met' where reported performance varied by less than 2.50 percentage points from the benchmark, as published in the *Department of Home Affairs 2025–26 Corporate Plan*. Please see 'Performance ratings' on page 22 of this report.

As of 1 July 2025, TIS National began delivering the Free Translating Service, which offers up to 10 personal document translations to eligible visa holders at no cost. Whilst not included in the target measure, this service provides additional support to migrants settling in Australia and encourages their participation in employment, education and community engagement.

In 2025–26, demand increased across all interpreting service channels, continuing the year-on-year growth observed in previous reporting periods. The department sought to work creatively within resourcing limitations to support reliable and timely service delivery through strengthened service capacity and resilience and increased access to appropriately credentialled interpreters. This included:

- Strengthening workforce capacity through supplementary personnel to maintain responsive immediate phone interpreting services, aligned with target benchmarks.
- Implementing quarterly assurance reporting for immediate phone interpreting services, improving visibility of call-flow trends and supporting targeted quality and efficiency improvements.
- Appointing 130 NAATI accredited interpreters in 48 languages to the TIS National panel, strengthening interpreter availability and language coverage.
- Supported 5 practitioners through the TIS National Capacity Building Program to undertake TAFE courses and obtain NAATI credentials.
- Undertook targeted engagement with 322 practitioners to encourage and incentivise them to become NAATI accredited, with a focus on NAATI-tested and high-demand languages, including French.
- Partnered with NAATI to facilitated no-cost credential extensions for 84 practitioners while they pursue recertification, supporting continued credential validity until September 2027.
- Streamlined data collection requirements for immediate calls in consultation with agency clients, reducing administrative burdens and improving call-handling efficiency.

Priority: Multicultural affairs

Key activity: Multicultural affairs engagement and grant delivery

Measure: Community engagement and multicultural grants programs support government in responding to community needs.	**Met** **99.36%**

TARGET 36

90% of grant program delivery is completed in a timely manner.[88]

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 28 grant programs being delivered[89] by the department[90] with 51 associated grant program delivery milestones scheduled for 2025–26. Of these, 50 (98.04%) were delivered in a timely manner.	This target was met as 98.04% of grant program delivery was completed in a timely manner. This exceeded the target by 8.04 percentage points.

88. The target was originally published in the *Department of Home Affairs 2025–26 Corporate Plan* as '100% of grant programs are delivered within budget and in a timely manner. During the reporting period, the target was revised to focus on the timeliness of grant program delivery, reflecting the department's grants administration responsibilities and the role of the DSS Community Grants Hub in grant delivery. The benchmark was also revised from 100% to 90% to reflect the increased volume, scale and complexity of multicultural grant programs compared to 2024–25.
89. Establishment activities for grant programs may begin before or continue after 2025–26. Target 36 reports only on milestones scheduled for completion during the 2025–26 reporting period.
90. For the purposes of reporting, 'grant program delivery milestones' refers to departmental actions related to the establishment of the grants. The broader establishment process includes designing grant opportunities, opening grant rounds, assessing applications and seeking approval of recommended grant recipients and funding amounts. The target result does not reflect delivery of activities subsequent to establishment, including dispensing of funds to recipients, or the monitoring and evaluation of deliverables by grant recipients.

Supporting performance information

In 2025–26, the department sought to prioritise the establishment of new multicultural grants, with performance against the target demonstrating the department was able to complete key actions supporting the timely establishment of multicultural grants.

The department seeks to promote national prosperity and social cohesion through the delivery and effective management of Australia's multicultural and citizenship programs. As a key element of this, grants enable the government to fund community organisations to deliver activities that respond to community needs and advance government priorities. As a whole, multicultural grants support Multicultural Affairs purposes and broader social cohesion by helping to ensure that all Australians, regardless of their cultural or linguistic background, can participate fully in national life.

The department is accountable for multicultural grants across the Commonwealth Grants Lifecycle and works in partnership with the DSS Grants Hub to administer grant opportunities. The lifecycle extends from program design, assessment and selection through to grant establishment, payment and ongoing management, including monitoring the delivery of funded activities and evaluating whether delivery of the government's desired outcomes were achieved. The department retains policy and program responsibility throughout the lifecycle and engages the DSS Grants Hub to undertake agreed grants administration activities on its behalf.

The target represents departmental actions undertaken during the Design, Assess and Establish phases of the Commonwealth Grants Lifecycle, which involve designing the grant opportunity and its requirements, assessing applications and selecting recommended recipients, and progressing outcomes towards approval and grant establishment. Reporting is based on two milestones: whether each grant round opened on time once the appropriate approvals were in place, and whether advice on recommended grant recipients and funding amounts were provided to the approving delegate by the agreed date. These milestones measure key actions substantially within the department's control that support the timely progression and establishment of grants.

During 2025–26, the department operated in a significantly expanded and more complex grants environment, with increases in both the number and total value of grants requiring delivery and management. This reflected the implementation of the Modernised Multicultural Grants Program, including Multicultural Grassroots Initiatives, Multicultural Peak Body Project Funding and Infrastructure for Multicultural Communities, as well as requirements arising from the 2024 Multicultural Framework Review and election commitments. The large number of grant applications and assessment rounds undertaken during the year also meant that, proportionally, multicultural grants activities for 2025–26 focused more on grants establishment, then managing established grants.

Updates made to the target during 2025–26 also ensured that the Target 36 result would only reflect actions for which the department was directly responsible, rather than administrative activities undertaken by the DSS Community Grants Hub. The reference to delivery "within budget" was removed from target wording noting disbursement of funds occurs after grant establishment and, additionally, is administered through DSS Community Grants Hub processes.

While the target focuses on activities supporting grant establishment, centrally conducted reconciliations of the department's financial records provide information on payments made to grant recipients. Of the 28 grant programs covered by the target, 25 of these had payments to grant recipients scheduled to occur before 30 June 2026, representing 482 payments. Of the 482 payments, 481 were delivered according to the timeframe outlined in their relevant grant agreement. The remaining payment will be made once an outstanding grantee deliverable is achieved, which is in line with the payment conditions of the grant agreement.

Across both newly established and existing grants, the department delivered $157 million (94.28%) of the $167 million in administered expenditure expected in 2025–26 in line with expectations, including payments for programs established in earlier reporting periods that are not captured by the target.

TARGET 37

80% of surveyed community stakeholders (who responded to the survey) indicated that engagement with the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) Network has helped them feel supported and included in the Australian community.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 2,066 community stakeholders that engaged with the CLO Network Of the total stakeholders, 1,585 were surveyed,[91] with 249 stakeholders providing a valid response[92] (15.71%).[93] Of the 249 valid responses: • 198 respondents indicated that their engagement with the Network helped them feel supported in the Australian community • 194 respondents indicated that their engagement with the Network helped them feel included in the Australian community.	This target was met as 78.72%[94] of surveyed community stakeholders indicated that engagement with the CLO Network has helped them feel supported and included in the Australian community. The target was met as 78.72% was within the target variance of 2.50 percentage points.[95]

Supporting performance information

The CLO Network, now operating as the Community Engagement Network (CEN) (the Network), is the Office for Multicultural Affairs' principal community engagement capability. The Network comprises departmental CLOs across 4 regional Community Engagement Teams covering New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory, Victoria/Tasmania, Queensland/Northern Territory and Western Australia/South Australia.

Through regular, culturally appropriate engagement, the Network builds trusted relationships with multicultural communities and supports two-way communication between communities and government. Its strategic objective is to support participation, inclusion, belonging and community resilience, while ensuring that community experiences, priorities and concerns help inform evidence-based government policies, programs and responses.

Community engagements are defined as substantive two-way exchanges between CLOs and community stakeholders in which information, feedback, perspectives, concerns or insights relevant to government policies, programs or responses are shared. Engagement may occur in person, by video conference, telephone or email, and may involve individuals, organisations or multiple stakeholders.

91. The annual survey was limited to stakeholders who engaged with the CLO Network between 1 July 2025 and 31 March 2026. Consequently, the survey population of 1,585 stakeholders represents a subset of the 2,066 community stakeholders engaged by the Network during 2025–26.
92. For the purposes of reporting, responses were deemed invalid if they did not include an answer to the relevant survey question/s or if they were duplicative. Of the 256 survey responses received, 7 responses were deemed invalid and therefore excluded from the overall result, resulting in 249 valid responses.
93. For response rates less than 50%, the department notes that results may not fully reflect the views of the broader stakeholder population.
94. The reported result represents the average of the positive response rates for the 2 survey questions.
95. Measures and targets have been assessed as 'met' where reported performance varied by less than 2.50 percentage points from the benchmark, as published in the *Department of Home Affairs 2025–26 Corporate Plan*. Please see 'Performance ratings' on page 22 of this report.

During 2025–26, the Network engaged with multicultural communities through meetings, consultations, community events, information sessions, webinars and issue-specific discussions. These activities supported positive outcomes for multicultural communities by:

- strengthening relationships with community leaders, organisations and stakeholders through regular engagement
- sharing timely and accessible information
- identifying barriers to participation and inclusion
- providing channels for community perspectives to be heard by government
- coordinating engagement during periods of disruption, uncertainty and heightened community sensitivity.

Together, these activities aimed to support trust, participation and stronger connections between multicultural communities and government, while providing direct insights to inform policy development, program design, service delivery, communications and responses to emerging community needs.

The department measured performance against this target through a stakeholder survey conducted over a 3-week period from 15 May to 5 June 2026. The survey was issued to community stakeholders who engaged with the Network between 1 July 2025 and 31 March 2026.

The performance result is based on responses to the following 2 questions:[96]

- How much have Community Liaison Officers helped you/your community to feel supported in the Australian community?
- How much have Community Liaison Officers helped you/your community to feel included in the Australian community?

Responses to the questions are in the form of a rating from 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest), with responses of 6 or above counted as positive responses.

The Network operated in a complex environment in 2025–26, shaped by ongoing social cohesion challenges, international events in affecting communities in Australia, heightened public debate, differing regional operating environments and evolving stakeholder expectations.

The flexible approach taken by the Network supported both sustained relationship-building and timely responses to emerging issues. This included engagement on community concerns relating to antisemitism and Islamophobia. Following the December 2025 Bondi tragedy, the Network undertook targeted engagement with affected communities, faith leaders, community organisations and other stakeholders to understand emerging concerns, monitor community sentiment, identify social cohesion risks and support timely advice to government.

These factors provide important context for interpreting the survey results, as they influenced both engagement delivery and stakeholder perceptions during the reporting period.

Qualitative feedback highlighted the Network's value as a trusted link between government and multicultural communities. Stakeholders described CLOs as approachable, professional, culturally aware and responsive, and valued access to government information and opportunities to raise issues directly. Feedback also identified opportunities to:

- increase the frequency of face-to-face engagement
- broaden engagement beyond established community leaders
- improve follow-up on issues raised
- increase awareness of the Network's role
- provide clearer feedback on how community views inform government decision-making.

The department uses survey findings to understand stakeholder experiences and expectations, identify strengths and gaps in engagement delivery, and inform engagement planning, capability development, communication approaches and service improvements.

96. The survey questions included a minor variation from the approved wording through the addition of the phrase 'you/your community'. This variation did not alter the intent of the questions and was not assessed as materially affecting the results.

Priority: Immigration compliance and integrity

Key activity: Visa cancellation and refusals

Measure: Character cancellation finalisations and Bridging Visa E application processing contributes to community safety and support those to stay lawfully in Australia.	**Met** **100%**

TARGET 38

The median Bridging Visa E (BVE) application processing time is:

- 15 business days or less for all online applications
- 12 business days or less for paper applications.[97]

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026,[98] the median BVE application processing times were: • 11 business days for online applications • 8 business days for paper applications.	This target was met as median processing times were within the predetermined processing time benchmarks for both online and paper applications.

Supporting performance information

A BVE (subclasses 050 and 051) enables a non-citizen to remain lawfully in Australia while finalising an immigration matter, awaiting a decision or arranging departure.

The department administers a range of initiatives that support voluntary compliance with visa conditions, facilitate status resolution outcomes, and contribute to the protection of the Australian community. Key priorities include achieving status resolution outcomes for non-citizens who do not hold a valid visa, ensuring that any detention of non-citizens remains lawful, and progressing these outcomes as efficiently as possible. The grant of BVEs is an important mechanism in supporting these objectives.[99]

Processing times are measured from the valid lodgement of an application to the final decision outcome, including grants, refusals and withdrawals. They may include periods during which the department awaits additional information from the applicant or the applicant's attendance at an interview. Applications can involve complex immigration histories which must be assessed holistically to maintain the integrity of the migration program. This includes consideration of validity and eligibility requirements, the appropriate basis for visa grant and any conditions needed to support ongoing compliance with BVE requirements. An enhanced prioritisation model was also introduced in 2025–26 to streamline the processing of lower risk cases and improve workflow efficiency.

As part of ongoing internal monitoring of processing operations and caseload characteristics, it was identified that the original processing time benchmark required revision to provide a meaningful assessment of departmental performance. Processing outcomes were influenced by changes in caseload composition, the introduction of additional government priorities, and an increase in more complex cases requiring intensive client engagement.

During 2025–26, the department processed a total of 53,578 BVE applications, comprising:

- 50,561 online applications, of which 30,738 were processed within 15 business days
- 3,017 paper applications, of which 1,946 were processed within 12 business days.[100]

97. The target was originally published in the 2025–26 Corporate Plan as 'The median Bridging Visa E (BVE) application processing time is:
    - 8 business days or less for all online applications
    - 10 business days or less for paper applications.'

    For the purposes of reporting, business days were calculated as Monday to Friday, excluding Thursday 25 December 2025, Friday 26 December 2025, Monday 29 December 2025, Tuesday 30 December 2025, Wednesday 31 December 2025, Thursday 1 January 2026, Monday 26 January 2026, Friday 3 April 2026 and Monday 6 April 2026.
98. This includes cases processed under regulation 2.25 of the Migration Regulations 1994 which do not require an application to be submitted. These cases cannot be excluded due to system and process limitations however do not have a significant impact on the performance result.
99. During the 2025–26 reporting period, there were no BVE subclass 051 applications finalised.
100. The volume figures are the proportion of applications processed within the relevant timeframes (15 business days for online applications and 12 business days for paper applications). Performance against Target 38 is assessed using the median processing time for all finalised online and paper applications, rather than the proportion processed within the benchmark timeframes.

TARGET 39

90% of submissions for ministerial intervention consideration are provided to Home Affairs Portfolio ministers within 20 business days of receiving all required information such as Medical results and Character checks.[101]

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	• As at 30 June 2026, 195 submissions for ministerial intervention consideration[102] were provided to Home Affairs Portfolio Ministers. • Of these, 189 were provided within 20 business days of receiving all required information.[103]	This target was met as 96.92% of submissions for ministerial intervention consideration were provided to Home Affairs Portfolio Ministers within 20 business days of receiving all required information such as medical results and character checks. This exceeded the target by 6.92 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

Introduced in 2025–26, this target measures the timeliness of the department's preparation and referral of ministerial intervention submissions. Timely processing helps ensure that relevant health, character and community safety information remains current when provided to a Minister's office, supporting informed consideration of individual cases and the integrity of immigration decision-making. While the BVE processes covered in Target 38 provide a mechanism for individuals to remain lawfully in Australia while this determination is being made, Target 39 provides assurances that the department is working adjacently to support timely determinations by Home Affairs Portfolio Ministers.

Requests for ministerial intervention under sections 351 and 501J of the Migration Act must be submitted in writing by non-citizens, or their authorised representatives, while physically present in Australia. Departmental case officers cannot independently initiate or refer a case to a Minister. The process consists of 2 stages including an initial departmental assessment against criteria set by the Minister, followed by the preparation of a submission for eligible cases for the Minister's consideration.

While previously based on broad discretion, Ministerial Instructions introduced in September 2025 established updated requirements for first-stage assessments, comprising statutory prerequisites and objective, high-threshold criteria. These included a final Administrative Review Tribunal decision, with no ongoing judicial or prior ministerial review, and circumstances such as urgent medical needs, international obligations, or substantial national benefits. Requests meeting the requirements for referral progress to the second stage, during which the department obtains updated information. Once the required information has been received, the department prepares a formal submission for a Minister's consideration.

Section 195A of the Migration Act specifies that a Portfolio Minister may grant a visa to a person who is in detention under section 189 of the Migration Act. The section 195A power is personal and non-compellable, and the Minister is under no duty or obligation to exercise or consider exercising this power. The exercise of the power under section 195A of the Migration Act is conditioned on the Minister's judgement of that decision being in the public interest. The term 'public interest' has been described by the High Court as having no fixed and precise content and involves a value judgement often to be made by reference to undefined matters. The information required for the Minister to make a public interest judgement is non-specific, varied and wide-ranging. The department prepares and escalates formal submissions to the Minister as soon as practicable following collection and collation of all relevant materials.

101. For the purposes of reporting, business days were calculated as Monday to Friday, excluding Monday 6 October 2025, Thursday 25 December 2025, Friday 26 December 2025, Thursday 1 January 2026, Monday 26 January 2026, Friday 3 April 2026, Monday 6 April 2026, Monday 27 April 2026 and Monday 8 June 2026.
102. This target only reports on second stage Ministerial Intervention submissions, which have met the requirements of the first stage assessment.
103. "All required information" is determined according to the circumstances of each case and is not limited to health and character checks. It may include other checks, evidence and supporting documentation required to progress the submission. The reported result is based on the initial referral of a submission to a Home Affairs Portfolio Minister following receipt of all required information. Subsequent referrals relating to the same matter are not included in the measure.

Target reporting captures the processing time from when all required information has been received from the applicant and the completed submission is referred for quality assurance, to the date the submission is referred to a Minister's office. The target does not capture first-stage processing, noting timing for this process is highly dependent on external factors.

The information required is determined by the circumstances of each case and the type of visa being considered. In addition to health and character checks, required information may include evidence of overseas health insurance, evidence that a debt to the Commonwealth has been repaid, and other relevant checks or supporting documentation. This information may be provided by, or sourced from, a range of parties, including clients, health insurance providers, law enforcement agencies and other government or departmental areas.

TARGET 40

The department delivers at least 32,000 character and cancellation considerations.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, the department delivered 34,272 character and cancellation considerations.[104]	This target was met as the department delivered 34,272 character and cancellation considerations. This exceeded the target by 2,272 considerations.

Supporting performance information

Delivery of at least 32,000 character and cancellation considerations demonstrates the department's ongoing efforts to maintain the integrity of Australia's migration program and protect the Australian community.

Character considerations

Character considerations under section 501 of the Migration Act include visa cancellations, refusals and revocation decisions, including both adverse and non-adverse outcomes. These considerations enable the department to assess and, where appropriate, take action where a non-citizen presents an unacceptable risk to the Australian community. This may include refusing a visa or cancelling an existing visa, which may render the person liable for detention and removal from Australia. Decisions to cancel or refuse a visa under section 501 may also enact statutory bars that prevent non-citizens who pose a risk to the Australian community from applying for a further visa to remain in, or return to, Australia.

Most cancellation considerations under the character provisions of the Migration Act are mandatory cancellations under section 501(3A) of the Migration Act. Under section 501(3A), a visa must be cancelled where a person is serving a full-time custodial sentence for an offence committed in Australia and has been sentenced to a total period of imprisonment of 12 months or more, or has been convicted of, or had a charge proven for, a sexually based offence involving a child.

Other character-related cancellation and refusal powers are discretionary and may be exercised on a range of grounds. These include, but are not limited to, cases involving non-citizens with a substantial criminal record, those assessed as a security risk, or where there is a risk they may harass, molest, intimidate or stalk another person, vilify a segment of the Australian community, or incite discord in the community.

In response to the Bondi terrorist attack, the Australian Government introduced the *Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism (Criminal and Migration Laws) Act 2026*, which came into effect on 21 January 2026. The Act strengthened Australia's character framework by introducing visa refusal and cancellation grounds relating to hate and extremist conduct. These measures support the department to address conduct that threatens community safety and social cohesion, contributing to the protection of the Australian community and confidence in the integrity of the migration program. Of the 34,272 character and cancellation considerations delivered, 3,144 were adverse or non-adverse character consideration decisions.

104. The total does not include voluntary general cancellations, as these are administrative in nature and therefore do not reflect performance against the character and cancellation program objectives.

General cancellations

The majority of cancellation considerations contributing to this target were undertaken under the general cancellation powers in sections 109, 116 and 128 of the Migration Act. These provisions enable cancellation of a visa for a range of reasons including where a non-citizen provided false, misleading or incorrect information, failed to comply with their visa conditions, poses a risk to the community or has engaged in criminal conduct.

A small number of visas cancelled under the general cancellation powers relate specifically to those non-citizens who may pose a risk to the 'good order' of the Australian community. These cases may involve hate preachers, people advocating for or inciting violence against people in the community, or public figures who promote hateful rhetoric. Preventing these individuals from travelling to or remaining in Australia, where cancellation grounds are enlivened, supports social cohesion.

Of the 34,272 character and cancellation considerations delivered, 31,128 were adverse general cancellation decisions, including student cancellation decisions.

During 2025–26, performance against this target was supported by several departmental initiatives, including:

- An ongoing focus on student visa holders, resulting in increased consideration and cancellation of visas held by non-citizens outside Australia who provided fraudulent, false or misleading information in their visa applications, were not genuine temporary entrants, or failed to comply with visa conditions. This activity has strengthened the integrity of the international education sector.
- Continued prioritisation of visa cancellation activities targeting non-citizens who provided fraudulent, false or misleading information in support of a visa application, were not genuine entrants for the purpose of their visa, or whose circumstances had changed such that the basis on which the visa was granted no longer existed.

These initiatives support the department's management of non-compliance and its broader efforts to maintain public confidence in Australia's Migration Program.

Key activity: Immigration compliance operations	
Measure: Immigration compliance advice and referrals contributes to community safety.	**MET** **100%**

TARGET 41

80% of initial BVR grant cases are reviewed by the Community Protection Board (the Board) within 90 business days of being referred.[105]

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 April 2026,[106] there were 38 initial Bridging visa (Removal Pending) (BVR) grant cases referred to the Board for consideration.[107] All 38 cases were reviewed within 90 business days of being referred.	This target was met as 100% of initial BVR grant cases were reviewed by the Board within 90 business days of being referred. This exceeded the target by 20 percentage points.

105. For the purposes of reporting, business days were calculated as Monday to Friday. Public holidays were included as business days.
106. Data for 1 May 2026 to 30 June 2026 is not available for either Target 41 or 42 as the Community Protection Board convened for a final time in April 2026.
107. During the reporting period a cohort of individuals (4) were assessed as being no longer considered part of the NZYQ cohort for a number of reasons and therefore are not included in the reported results.

TARGET 42

90% of Chair-endorsed Community Protection Board individual recommendations are provided to the Bridging (Removal Pending) visa delegate for their consideration within 7 business days where a change in conditions has been suggested.[108]

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 April 2026, all 41 eligible[109] individual recommendations were provided to a Bridging (Removal Pending) visa delegate, within 7 business days of the Community Protection Board's deliberation, where a change in conditions was suggested.	This target was met as 100% of individual recommendations were provided to a Bridging (Removal Pending) Visa delegate within 7 business days of the Community Protection Board's deliberation, where a change in conditions was suggested. This exceeded the target by 10 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

The department contributes to the government's broader community safety frameworks by effectively managing those who do not comply with Australia's immigration laws.

Following the High Court decision in *NZYQ v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs*, affected unlawful non-citizens who could no longer be lawfully detained were released on a visa (BVR). A number of the unlawful non-citizens that were required to be released had a history of criminal offending.

The department established the Board to provide evidence-based recommendations about the post-release management of the individuals to mitigate community safety risks. Timely consideration of cases by the Board, followed by the efficient referral of recommendations, enabled departmental officers to consider whether to impose community-safety related visa conditions on a BVR holder's visa based on the latest available information. This helped ensure any discretionary visa conditions—such as electronic monitoring or curfew—were appropriately tailored to the individual's circumstances and risk factors, supporting the effective management of identified risks while the individual remained in the community.

On 18 March 2026, the High Court delivered its decision in *EGH19 v Commonwealth of Australia*, finding that the electronic monitoring and curfew visa conditions were invalid. The Board held its final meeting in April 2026.

The department continues to manage cases via decisions made by a delegate of the Minister (the delegate) following comprehensive review of an individual's circumstances. Measures are in place to ensure an individual's information is current and accurate to enable a delegate to make an informed decision to best safeguard community safety. Some of these measures include liaising with external and internal stakeholders to obtain updated criminal history checks as well as evidence of an individual's efforts to integrate into the community. Decisions to grant an individual a BVR and application of any additional community safety conditions are evidenced by comprehensive reasoning provided by the delegate.

Individuals granted BVRs with one or more of the community safety conditions imposed, have their visa reviewed every 12 months. This allows the delegate to consider whether or not to alter any of the conditions applied to an individual's BVR on an annual basis.

108. For the purposes of reporting, business days were calculated as Monday to Friday, excluding 6 October, 25, 26, 29, 30 and 31 December 2025, and 1 January and 9 March 2026.

109. An additional 8 Chair-endorsed Board individual recommendations were not 'eligible' to be provided to a delegate and therefore are not included in the reported results. The circumstances under which individual recommendations were not 'eligible' include where the BVR holder is: held in a medical facility, in criminal custody, subject to a state-based condition of a similar nature, has departed the NZYQ cohort or had their BVR ceased or is deceased.

TARGET 43

95% of Reports of Crime referred by the department through Operation AEGIS are accepted for further investigation or action by a partner agency.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, the department referred 319 Reports of Crime (ROCs) through Operation AEGIS. Of these, 307 were accepted by a partner agency.[110]	This target was met as 96.24% of ROCs referred by the department through Operation AEGIS were accepted for further investigation or action by a partner agency. This exceeded the target by 1.24 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

Operation AEGIS is a joint operation between the between the department and the AFP, established following the High Court's decision in *NZYQ v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs* and subsequent release of affected individuals from immigration detention into the community.

As outlined under Targets 41 and 42, members of the NZYQ-affected cohort were granted Bridging (Removal Pending) visas with mandatory conditions and, where appropriate, additional conditions based on assessed risk. Targets 41 and 42 report on the assessment and application of these conditions. This target reports on the subsequent assessment and referral of suspected breaches through Operation AEGIS.

Where information indicates that an individual may have failed to comply with a visa condition, the department assesses the available information and evidence to determine whether a Report of Crime (ROC) should be referred to the AFP.

Acceptance of a ROC indicates that the referral contained information relevant to the AFP's consideration of a suspected breach of BVR conditions. The department's role is to identify suspected non-compliance, assess the available information and provide a sufficiently supported referrals to enable the AFP to determine whether further investigation or enforcement action is appropriate. Through this process, Operation AEGIS provides law enforcement partners with actionable information so that potential non-compliance and associated risks can be considered promptly through the appropriate channels.

During 2025–26, ROCs related to suspected breaches of visa conditions 8401, 8561, 8552, 8614, 8616, 8620, 8621, 8623, 8624, 8625 and 8513.[111] ROCs referred through Operation AEGIS during the reporting period were associated with 119 arrests and 24 cautions. These outcomes demonstrate how ROC referrals can contribute to the investigation and management of suspected non-compliance.

Following the High Court's judgment in *EGH19 v Commonwealth of Australia* on 18 March 2026, electronic monitoring condition 8621 and curfew condition 8620 were invalid. Community safety risks continue to be managed within the current legislative framework through the remaining BVR conditions, compliance monitoring, cooperation with the AFP and state and territory police, and active case-management support.

Since 2024–25, the Operation AEGIS partnership has placed greater emphasis on evidentiary standards, prosecutorial requirements and governance considerations when assessing potential offences for referral and investigation. Increased focus on the availability of primary evidence and prosecutorial viability has supported more informed decision-making and strengthened the quality of matters progressing through the referral and investigation process.

As a result, fluctuations in ROC or charge volumes should not be interpreted as reduced operational effectiveness. Instead, they reflect a more mature, targeted and outcomes-focused approach to compliance, enforcement and investigation, designed to maximise the likelihood of successful law enforcement outcomes.

110. Data was extracted on 16 July 2026. The reported result captures ROCs which had a confirmed outcome at the time of reporting. Reporting extracted on a subsequent date will produce variances due to the dynamic nature of ROC submissions and acceptance by the AFP.
111. https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/conditions-list

Through the monitoring and enforcement of BVR conditions, Operation AEGIS forms part of the government's arrangements for managing community-safety risks associated with the NZYQ-affected cohort.

These compliance arrangements are complemented by case management and support delivered by the department and Status Resolution Support Services providers, including intensive case management, transitional accommodation, assistance to identify longer-term accommodation, employment support, connection to community services and relevant rehabilitation or adjustment programs. Together, proportionate compliance activity, cooperation with law enforcement partners and targeted support assist BVR holders to understand and comply with their visa conditions, address factors that may contribute to non-compliance and support safe and positive participation in the community, contributing to community safety and social cohesion.

Key activity: Onshore detention	
Measure: Effectively maintain a safe, secure and sustainable immigration detention network.	**SUBSTANTIALLY MET 93.61%**

TARGET 44
The number of critical incidents per 1,000 detainees in the immigration detention network remains comparable or decreases.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 22.77 critical incidents per 1,000 detainees (24 incidents). This represents a decrease from 34.59 critical incidents per 1,000 detainees (34 incidents) in 2024–25.	This target was met as the number of critical incidents per 1,000 detainees decreased by 34.17% (11.82 incidents) in comparison to 2024–25.

Supporting performance information

Incident management supports safe, secure and sustainable operation of the Immigration Detention Network (IDN) through timely and appropriate responses, reducing the risk of escalation, and supporting compliance with duty of care, legislative and oversight requirements. Although the security profile of the immigration detention cohort may influence the incident rate, effective management of the IDN, as well as effective performance by service providers, can contribute to reducing critical incidents.

While the proportion of detainees with a criminal history remained at 88.40% which is broadly consistent with 2024–25, the detainee population increased by 330 individuals to 4,805 throughout 2025–26 across the IDN[112], with the average daily population increasing by 66.37 detainees to 1,049.37 detainees.[113]

The changing complexity and composition of the cohort contributes to a challenging operating environment and can affect the nature, predictability and number of minor, major and critical incidents.

Onsite ABF officers continue to oversee service delivery and monitor operational risks through local reporting, direct engagement and contract-management forums. The ABF and the provider also continue to respond to individual behavioural risks and needs through measures such as behaviour management plans, closer supervision and engagement. In parallel, the department has a continual commitment to work with the provider to address performance under the contract.

Service providers are required to meet contractual service standards and align their operations with relevant departmental policies, including the ABF Detention Incident Reporting Guidelines, which define all detention related incident categories. The department has an ongoing assurance program to assure provider performance against contract requirement, utilising onsite ABF oversight and contract-management governance. Where required standards are not met, the contract allows the department to apply service-fee abatements.

112. Figure refers to the total number of unique individuals who were either taken into detention within the IDN between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026 (inclusive) or else were already within the IDN as at close of business on 30 June 2025.
113. For the 2025–26 financial year, daily averages are based on the 251 days for which data was available. Data was unavailable on all weekends, on Thursday 25 December 2025 (Christmas Day), Friday 26 December 2025 (Boxing Day) and Friday 3 April 2026 (Good Friday); and on a small number of other days due to technical issues.

To improve the precision of operational management and reporting and ensure processes remain fit-for-purpose, incident definitions and classifications were refined during 2025–26. Changes included:

- Revised definitions introduced in January 2026 raised the threshold for 'Industrial Action – No Labour Critical Incidents' (No Labour Incidents'), with less severe disruptions classified as 'Industrial Action – Minor Incident'. Consequently, zero No Labour Incidents were recorded in 2025–26, while 85 incidents associated with protected industrial action by Facilities and Detainee Service Provider (FDSP) staff were recorded as 'Industrial Action – Minor Incident'. The year-on-year decrease in No Labour Incidents should therefore be interpreted in the context of this classification change.
- Revised definitions introduced in July 2025 enabled the department to record sexualised behaviours that do not meet the legal threshold for sexual assault under the 'Sexual Harassment – Major Incidents' category instead. Retrospectively applying these revised definitions to the 2024–25 results reduces the 'Sexual Assault - Critical Incidents' during 2024–25 from 31[114] to 21. On a like-for-like basis, the number decreased from 21 in 2024–25 to 15 in 2025–26, indicating that part of the apparent decline reflects improved classification guidelines rather than a definitive change in actual occurrences.

In addition to the above, key trends in the critical incidents for 2025–26 included:

- One Death Incident was recorded, compared with no incidents in 2024–25. The department and ABF responded to the death in accordance with established procedures. Relevant Australian Government and state and territory authorities, including emergency services, police, the coroner, Comcare and the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman, were notified. The department, ABF and service providers are cooperating with investigations and inquiries and will consider any recommendations.
- While the number of Escape Incidents increased to 8 incidents, from 7 in 2024–25, the proportion of people located and returned to detention in fewer than 4 days increased to 100%. Of the 8 Escape Incidents, 7 are subject to assessment by the department under the relevant performance reporting process and may result in abatements for the provider. One incident was excluded because it occurred before the performance management framework commenced.

TARGET 45

Maintain capacity to appropriately accommodate 1,000 detainees within immigration detention network facilities at all times.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, the department was able to accommodate 1,000 detainees for 2025–26. This included 215 days (85.66%) where the detainee population exceeded 1,000, and all detainees were appropriately accommodated.	The target was met as the department was able to maintain capacity to appropriately accommodate 1,000 detainees within the immigration detention network through 2025–26.[115]

Supporting performance information

The IDN comprises facilities used to accommodate people held in immigration detention. Facilities include Immigration Detention Centres (IDCs), complemented by Alternative Places of Detention (APODs), which provide flexible accommodation for specific operational, medical, welfare, family and placement needs.

The department has demonstrated through reporting in 2025–26, the ability to accommodate the detainee population against the IDN's funded capacity, which is one factor relevant to the department's objective of effectively maintaining a safe, secure and sustainable immigration detention network. Reporting against this target reflects IDN capacity utilisation and whether individual detainees are appropriately placed.

114. The 2024–25 figure for Sexual Assault Incidents has been revised from 30 to 31 following an amendment to CCMD Portal records in July 2025. As the amendment occurred after reporting was finalised, it was not reflected in the 2024–25 Annual Report.
115. For the 2025–26 financial year, daily averages are based on the 251 days for which data was available. Data was unavailable on all weekends, on Thursday 25 December 2025 (Christmas Day), Friday 26 December 2025 (Boxing Day) and Friday 3 April 2026 (Good Friday); and on a small number of other days due to technical issues.

For 2025–26, the IDN had a funded capacity of 1,000 places, representing the detainee population the network was expected to accommodate within its funded resources. Most funded capacity is provided through IDCs, with APOD capacity supporting appropriate placements where there are particular individual needs. In addition, as an integrated and flexible component of the IDN, APODs support ongoing sustainability by helping manage changes in the size and complexity of the detainee population, including when demand exceeds the funded capacity of core facilities.

Hotels and apartments used as APODs provided important additional flexibility to accommodate higher population levels and changing operational requirements. Without this supplementary capacity, pressure on IDCs and the associated risk of overcrowding would have been greater, potentially affecting the safety, security and sustainability of the broader detention network. APODs may include hotels, apartments, hospitals, aged care and nursing facilities, secure mental health facilities, and IDN-based precincts.

The IDN held an average daily population of 1,049.37 detainees during 2025–26,[116] exceeding its funded capacity of 1,000 places. Based on the 251 days for which data was available, the detainee population exceeded the funded capacity on 215 days. This was an increase of 175 days for which the funded capacity was exceeded, from 40 days in 2024–25.

The majority of the detainee cohort comprises people whose visas have been cancelled under section 501 of the Migration Act. The remainder comprises visa overstayers, other visa cancellations and unauthorised arrivals, including air arrivals, unauthorised maritime arrivals and illegal foreign fishers. The department responds to changing program and cohort needs by reviewing placements, transferring detainees within the network and using APODs for short-term appropriate placements. These measures seek to improve individual and network-wide safety and security, while balancing individual placement needs with current capacity limitations, as a foundation for the network's sustainability in the long-term.

The following elements continue to pose challenges in relation to detainee placement:

- **Cohort needs and risk profiles:** As at 30 June 2026, 88.40% had a criminal history and 53.25% had their visa cancelled under the character provisions of section 501. The needs and risk profiles of the cohort can limit suitable placement options and place pressure on operational capacity and capability.
- **Inflows exceeding outflows:** During 2025–26, 3,854 people entered detention and 3,690 exited, compared with 3,600 inflows and 3,470 outflows in 2024–25. Increased operational activity to detect and deter illegal foreign fishing contributed to inflows. In addition, delays in resolving immigration status or removal from Australia can also reduce outflows and lead to pressure on the network.
- **Average time in detention:** The average time in detention for all detainees decreased from 480.6 days in 2024–25 to 454.5 days. For detainees whose visas were cancelled under section 501 (53.25% of the population), the average decreased from 489.3 days in 2024–25 to 454.1 days in 2025–26. Despite these reductions, extended periods in detention can contribute to health, welfare, behavioural and placement challenges.

During 2025–26, the department continued to work with the Facility Detention Service Provider (FDSP) on broader operational factors that impacted the delivery of some services that underpin the safe and secure management of the immigration detention network.

The department requires all detainees to be appropriately accommodated within the IDN, taking into account individual risks, needs and vulnerabilities, as well as facility safety and security. During 2025–26, the department worked with the FDSP and Secure Journeys to develop an appropriate risk assessment framework. While elements of this work remained under development as at 30 June 2026, detainee placements continued to be informed by existing risk assessments and supported by regular operational assurance and inspection activities undertaken by ABF officers to identify and mitigate safety and security risks.

The department sought to maintain oversight of detention placements through regular reviews of detainee placements and identified risks. At the facility level, the department met with the providers to review detainee placements and, at the network level, departmental teams also assessed placement and transfer options. These arrangements supported coordinated decision-making and sought to manage placement risks while the frameworks were being developed.

116. Figure refers to the total number of unique individuals who were either taken into detention within the IDN between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026 (inclusive) or else were already within the IDN as at close of business on 30 June 2025.

TARGET 46

90% of high risk detention-related recommendations identified through internal and external scrutiny are completed on or before 30 June 2026.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Not met	As at 30 June 2026, the department closed 17 of 24 recommendations which were due for closure on or before 30 June 2026.[117] Of the remaining 7 (29.17%) high risk open recommendations: • 1 has been implemented but closure was not finalised prior to 30 June 2026 • 3 did not progress for operational reasons • 3 remain in progress, with actions underway to support closure.	This target was not met as 70.83% of high-risk detention-related recommendations were closed. This missed the target by 19.17 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

Immigration detention is subject to regular internal assurance and external oversight to support the health, safety and wellbeing of detainees and staff. Recommendations from these reviews help manage risk and drive continuous improvement across the detention network. Actions may include changes to processes, policies and procedures, strengthened governance, infrastructure improvements, updates to contractual arrangements or clearer expectations for service providers.

Target 46 measures the department's progress in implementing accepted, high-risk detention-related recommendations from internal and external scrutiny bodies. It indicates the department's efforts to maintain safe, secure and sustainable management of immigration detention by addressing significant risks identified through reviews of detention operations. Recommendations may arise from internal audits, assurance activities or external scrutiny by bodies such as the Australian National Audit Office, Commonwealth Ombudsman, Australian Human Rights Commission and coroners' courts. This reporting only includes recommendations assessed as high risk, accepted by the department and due for completion by 30 June 2026.

Recommendations accepted by the department but not assessed as high risk are not monitored through this performance target, although they remain subject to implementation and business-as-usual monitoring by the department. Recommendations relating to individual detainee cases are also excluded unless they identify a systemic issue requiring broader consideration. In some cases, the operating environment, including legislative frameworks, may change before an external scrutiny body finalises and provides a recommendation to the department. Where a recommendation has already been addressed before formal receipt, implementation is not reported under this target.

During 2025–26, progress was made across a range of complex, high-risk issues within the IDN, however overall delivery was affected by the extensive consultation, assurance and evidence gathering activities required to demonstrate effective implementation to close a recommendation, as well as the need to balance these administrative activities with other operational priorities across the department and amongst key stakeholders.

High-risk recommendations continue to be prioritised through established governance and monitoring arrangements, supported by regular stakeholder engagement to identify and address barriers to progress. The 3 open high-risk recommendations which remain under development, with actions underway to support closure, relate to coronial inquests. Closure minutes are being developed, with input/evidence pending from stakeholders. Risks related to these recommendations are being managed through ongoing risk controls, including the immigration detention network's performance management framework and continuous improvements in infrastructure and service delivery, particularly mental health training.

117. Target reporting does not capture high risk detention-related recommendations identified through internal and external scrutiny due after 30 June 2026. These will be reported next year.

The 3 high-risk recommendations which did not progress have been under implementation for several years due to the complexity and sensitivity of the issues being addressed, as well as the dependencies associated with their implementation. These recommendations remain open pending finalisation of the Enhanced Assurance Framework. This work includes plans, procedural instructions and governance arrangements to strengthen first-line assurance across the IDN, the implementation of which are expected to enhance oversight and risk management. In the meantime, underlying risks continue to be managed through existing controls, including governance, training, policies and procedures, risk management processes and contractual performance management frameworks that support consistent service delivery.

The sustainability of implemented actions is supported through the department's broader control environment for the IDN. This includes first and second line assurance activity, such as performance management frameworks for detention service providers, clinical assurance reviews, policies and procedures, risk assessments and registers, governance forums, detainee feedback mechanisms, complaints processes and regular engagement with service providers. These mechanisms provide ongoing visibility of how implemented actions remain fit for purpose and continue to support the health, safety and wellbeing of detainees and staff.

Key activity: Visa and migration systems integrity

Measure: Regulation of Registered Migration Agents and implementation of migrant worker exploitation reforms supports the integrity of the visa and migration system	**MET** **100%**

TARGET 47

The median time taken to finalise Registered Migration Agent (RMA) investigations that result in regulatory outcomes was less than 210 days.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, the median time taken to finalise RMA investigations that resulted in regulatory outcomes was 42.5 days.	This target was met as the median time taken to finalise RMA investigations that resulted in regulatory outcomes was less than 210 days.

Supporting performance information

The Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (OMARA) regulates RMAs in Australia. Its regulatory activities support the integrity of Australia's visa and migration system and the migration advice profession and help protect consumers by promoting compliance with professional and legislative requirements, investigating complaints about RMAs and taking disciplinary action where necessary.

This target measures OMARA's performance in assessing and investigating allegations of RMA misconduct that may breach the Code of Conduct.[118] It reflects one of OMARA's core regulatory functions and supports the integrity of the migration system by ensuring that relevant allegations are appropriately assessed and, where they fall within OMARA's jurisdiction and have sufficient merit, investigated to determine an appropriate regulatory outcome. Regulatory outcomes may include sanction action, such as a caution, suspension or cancellation of registration, or the barring of a former RMA, addressing concerns directly with the RMA, issuing a suspected breach notice or finding that no breach occurred.

OMARA receives complaints and referrals from a range of sources, including consumers through its online complaints portal. Following triage, matters within OMARA's jurisdiction are assessed using the Case Classification Matrix and assigned to an investigation stream based on the nature, complexity and risk of the complaint. Investigations may involve multiple allegations arising from more than one complaint or referral. For reporting purposes, an investigation commences when a matter has been triaged, assessed and allocated to an investigations officer.[119]

118. www.mara.gov.au/tools-for-registered-agents/code-of-conduct
119. Some matters within the legacy caseload predate the current triage, assessment and allocation process and may have been managed under the processes in place at the time.

All matters progressed under the target are subject to investigative activity. This includes Early Resolution investigations, which remain formal regulatory investigations undertaken in accordance with established investigative requirements. Outcomes are determined by the available evidence and are not predetermined by the investigation stream.[120]

In 2025–26, OMARA finalised 122 investigations under the target. Performance was supported by continued investment in investigative capability and the ongoing maturation of operational processes supporting the effective management of complaints and referrals. The investigations resulted in the following regulatory outcomes:

Table 14: Investigation Regulatory outcomes 2025–26

Outcome	2025–26
Cancellations	10
Suspensions	9
Cautions	6
Barrings	2
Suspected Breach Notices	19
Addressed with Agent	66
No Breach	10

The department issued 27 sanction decisions arising from investigative activity in 2025–26,[121] representing a 35% increase from 20 decisions in 2024–25. These outcomes demonstrate the department's contribution to addressing non-compliance and protecting consumers of migration advice.

This target consolidates the 3 investigation measures reported separately as Targets 46, 47 and 48 in 2024–25 and covers all associated caseloads. The broader scope provides a more complete view of OMARA's investigation function and its effectiveness in addressing allegations of RMA misconduct.

120. For legacy caseload records where an investigation commencement date was not available, the original submission date was used for calculating the median time taken to finalise investigations.
121. This figure does not include one sanction during 2025–26 which was the result of monitoring activities. The sanction resulted from proactive monitoring activities undertaken by the monitoring function, which operates separately from complaints and investigations and is therefore outside the scope of this target. Further information is available at www.mara.gov.au.

TARGET 48

75% of all initial and repeat applications to become a Registered Migration Agent (RMA) are assessed within 8 weeks of lodgement.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were a total of 5,648 initial and repeat applications to become a RMA. Of these, 841 applications remained on-hand and were within the 8 weeks processing timeframe. Of the remaining 4,807 applications: • 4,441 were assessed within 8 weeks of lodgement, • 149 were assessed outside the 8 weeks processing timeframe; and • 217 had exceeded the 8 weeks processing timeframe and were yet to be assessed.	This target was met as 92.39% of all initial and repeat applications to become an RMA were assessed within 8 weeks of lodgement. This exceeded the target by 17.39 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

In addition to the activities reported under Target 47, Target 48 reflects another of OMARA's core regulatory functions: assessing initial and repeat applications for registration as a migration agent.

Applicants must meet the knowledge, character and other registration requirements set out in the Migration Act, the Migration Agent Regulations 1998 and associated legislative instruments. Through this assessment process, OMARA helps prevent unsuitable operators from entering or remaining in the profession and supports the provision of lawful and accountable migration advice and contributes to the integrity of the migration advice profession.

Applications may be refused where the relevant registration requirements are not met. Applicants may also withdraw their applications before a decision is made.

During 2025–26, 4,441 applications were assessed within the applicable 8 weeks processing timeframe, supported by continued investment in OMARA's registration capability and the ongoing maturation of operational processes supporting the effective assessment of registration applications.

Of the applications assessed within 8 weeks:

- 4,423 were approved
- 0 were refused
- 18 were withdrawn.

A further 149 applications were assessed outside the applicable 8 weeks processing timeframe. Of these:

- 135 were approved
- 0 were refused
- 14 were withdrawn.

Key activity: Regional processing

Measure: International capability and engagement activities and contract management supports offshore regional processing.	**MET** **100%**

TARGET 49

100% of Quality Failures identified through monthly performance management reporting for Naoero[122] facility and health contracts are subject to an abatement within 2 months, and have Action Plans implemented by the service provider within agreed timeframes.

122. In accordance with the formal advice to the Australian Government, the term 'Nauru' is henceforth replaced by 'Naoero' in relevant materials.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, 61 eligible[123] Quality Failures (QFs) were identified through monthly performance management reporting for Naoero facility and health contracts. Of these, all 61 eligible QFs were subject to an abatement within 2 months, and all associated Action Plans were implemented within agreed timeframes.[124] This comprised: • Facilities Service Provider (FSP) contract: 57 eligible QFs, all subject to an abatement within 2 months, addressed through 27 Action Plans, all implemented within agreed timeframes • Naoero Health Services contract: 4 eligible QFs, all subject to an abatement within 2 months, addressed through 2 Action Plans, both implemented within agreed timeframes.	This target was met as 100% of identified eligible QFs were subject to an abatement within 2 months and had Action Plans implemented within agreed timeframes.

Supporting performance information

Regional processing arrangements in Naoero are supported through the FSP contract and the Naoero Health Services contract. Under these contracts, Management and Training Corporation delivers facilities, garrison, transferee arrival and reception services, while International Health and Medical Services delivers health services. The department's engagement of these service providers enables Australia to deliver on its commitments under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Naoero for the administration and implementation of regional processing arrangements.

Both service providers are required to report against the contracts' key performance measures (KPMs), which cover operational and administrative service delivery requirements. This reporting provides assurance that the department is receiving the required level of service within contracted timeframes. Eligible QFs, abatements and Action Plans are used to address instances where these requirements or timeframes are not met. Results from monthly performance reporting across the 2 contracts are combined for the purposes of reporting against this target.

The 61 identified QFs primarily related to:

- data-entry inaccuracies
- errors in extracting or transcribing data between systems
- insufficient evidence to demonstrate compliance with contractual deliverables
- duplicate records for sites that were offline or no longer within scope of work
- incorrect priority classifications for works
- works not completed within required timeframes.

Under both contracts, an abatement regime applies where an eligible QF is identified against a KPM. The service provider is required to submit, within 10 days, an Action Plan outlining how the QF will be addressed. An Action Plan is considered implemented when the service provider confirms in writing, and provides supporting evidence, that all approved actions have been completed. This process provides a formal mechanism to remediate identified service-delivery issues and provide assurance that corrective actions have been implemented.

123. For the purposes of this reporting, an eligible QF is a failure by the service provider to satisfy or comply with an applicable key performance measure (KPM) in accordance with the relevant contract's performance management framework, excluding any failure determined by the department to be an excusable QF after considering the specific circumstances of that failure.
124. Where multiple eligible QFs identified through monthly performance reporting relate to the same KPM, they are consolidated into a single action plan that addresses all identified failures.

TARGET 50

Deliver 100% of required monthly reporting and quality review activities required under Enduring Capability subsidiary arrangements with the Republic of Naoero (Naoero).

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Unable to be determined	Performance information for this target is unavailable. As at 30 June 2026, the department completed review activities for all reports received from the Government of Naoero for 2025–26.	The target was unable to be determined as the available documentation did not sufficiently demonstrate that reports had been assessed against all requirements of the Enduring Capability Memorandum of Understanding across the full reporting period. Consistent assessment outcomes across the full reporting period were limited however updates to the quality assurance process were made, where possible.

Supporting performance information

The Enduring Capability operating model is based on the bilaterally agreed offshore regional processing funding components with the Government of Naoero. Target 50 reflects the department's review of reporting provided under the Enduring Capability Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and associated subsidiary arrangements, including agreed reporting requirements, to support oversight of regional processing capability and operational readiness.

While the Enduring Capability subsidiary arrangements set out high-level requirements for operational readiness, they do not prescribe detailed reporting structures. During 2025–26, the department continued to work with the Government of Naoero to strengthen and standardise the reporting arrangements supporting the Enduring Capability operating model. At the start of the financial year, the department developed and issued the 2025–26 Enduring Capability Assurance Suite. The suite included reporting templates, supporting guidance and agreed review processes intended to improve consistency in the collection, submission and review of reporting by the Government of Naoero. The department also engaged regularly with the Government of Naoero to confirm reporting requirements, strengthen mutual understanding of reporting obligations and refine review processes supporting oversight of regional processing capability and readiness.

Using the agreed templates and processes, the Government of Naoero provided reporting on whether agreed levels of operational readiness were being maintained for key regional processing items and procedures, consistent with the specifications in the Enduring Capability MoU. Most reporting was provided to the department through written templates. Some reporting requirements were also supported by onsite visits facilitated by the Government of Naoero and observations undertaken by departmental teams based in Naoero.

Under the department's pre-existing review process, departmental officers assessed reports against agreed reporting requirements, departmental records and operational information. During 2025–26, the methodology and documentation practices supporting these assessments were progressively enhanced to strengthen the review process and improve alignment with the requirements of the Enduring Capability Memorandum of Understanding. While all reports received were subject to review in 2025–26, the processes and outcomes of these assessments could not be consistently applied across the entire reporting period. Accordingly, the department therefore reported the result for Target 50 as 'unable to be determined'.

In April 2026, the department commenced enhancements to improve the robustness and consistency, transparency and documentation of its review activities. The enhancements included introducing a review checklist and documented review standards for assessing, reconciling and evidencing reported information. These enhanced requirements were applied to all new reports received by the department from quarter 4. While the department sought to retrospectively apply the enhanced process to reports reviewed prior to April 2026, there were some new documentation and evidentiary requirements that could not be applied retrospectively as documentation from earlier stages of the reporting period was not always directly comparable with that produced under the refined methodology.

Under both the pre-existing and enhanced process, where a report contained errors or omissions, or otherwise did not meet reporting requirements, the department provided feedback to the Government of Naoero and requested that the report be corrected and resubmitted. The department reviewed each resubmitted report using the same process and, where required, sought further corrections prior to progressing the report through the relevant invoice approval process.

Formal reporting under the Enduring Capability subsidiary arrangements is provided in arrears. While outstanding reports are being finalised, the department uses other operational and bilateral mechanisms to monitor whether readiness levels are being maintained, separate to the processes captured by Target 50 reporting. These provide additional operational assurances and include mandatory reporting from departmental contractors delivering fixed-level regional processing services and reporting from departmental employees based in Naoero.

TARGET 51

Deliver 70% of planned activities to support countering irregular migration and strengthen Australia's regional processing enduring capability.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 5 planned activities to support countering irregular migration and strengthen Australia's regional processing enduring capability. Of these,all 5 were delivered in full.	This target was met as 100% of planned activities to support countering irregular migration and strengthen Australia's regional processing enduring capability were delivered. This exceeded the target by 30.00 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

The delivery of planned activities under this target represents the department's ongoing progress in strengthening international partnerships and regional capability to counter irregular migration, support safe and regular migration pathways and sustain Australia's offshore regional processing arrangements. Engagement with source, transit and host countries, improves cooperation on identity verification, travel documentation, returns and removals and supports the identification of durable third-country resettlement opportunities for individuals in regional processing. They also help to maintain the regional cooperation, relationships and operational capabilities that underpin an effective and enduring offshore regional processing framework. Collectively, these efforts help to manage the risk of a growing and protracted regional processing population in the Republic of Naoero and mitigate associated financial, operational and reputational risks, including increased service delivery costs, reduced local community tolerance, litigation risk, and constraints on the island's capacity to manage future arrivals.

The reduction from 13 activities reported in 2024–25 under Target 81 to 5 activities in 2025–26, reflects a more focused approach to planning. Activities were selected on operational priorities, confirmed funding, governance approval and partner government support. Some activities from 2024–25 were discontinued or deferred in response to changes in arrival patterns, volumes and cohort needs, but could be reactivated as contingencies if circumstances change. The 2025–26 approach also incorporated lessons from the previous year through stronger upfront assurance of approvals and funding, active delivery monitoring and agile governance arrangements that enable new initiatives to be incorporated as opportunities arise.

The 5 planned activities provide a practical roadmap for strengthening Australia's enduring regional processing capability. These include:

- the Six Country Irregular Migration Forum, which promotes whole-of-route cooperation to counter people smuggling.
- the Regional Information, Liaison and Outreach Network (RILON) Response Group, which supports information sharing and coordination across the Andaman Sea region.
- the Land Border Revitalisation Project in Indonesia, which strengthens border governance and promotes regular migration pathways in locations linked to people smuggling routes.
- the Indonesia–Australia Peer Learning Program, which reinforces institutional partnerships and operational cooperation between border and immigration agencies.
- the re-establishment of the department's presence in Dhaka, Bangladesh, which strengthens bilateral engagement on immigration, border management, and returns and removals matters.

The 5 planned activities were underpinned by 46 milestones, with indicative deadlines developed internally to guide delivery and support monitoring throughout 2025–26. A milestone was counted as completed where it was delivered by 30 June 2026, including where it was completed after its indicative internal deadline or through an alternative approach that achieved the milestone's intended outcome. As at 30 June 2026, all 46 milestones had been delivered. Two milestones related to the RILON Response Group were adapted following the group's establishment later than expected. The group delivered its first quarterly irregular migration analysis early in quarter 4 and progressed a targeted handbook on addressing irregular migration through information campaigns, which replaced the originally proposed toolkit. These alternative deliverables achieved the intended outcomes of the milestones and supported the objectives of the broader activity.

Priority: Social cohesion

Social cohesion overview

Social cohesion is a whole-of-society responsibility, shaped by many efforts across the public service, all levels of government, civil society, communities and industry.

The department defines social cohesion as the strength of relationships and sense of belonging within a society, where individuals and groups feel connected, valued and supported. These connections help people and communities work together and feel worth, trust, belonging and acceptance. It is characterised by mutual trust, inclusivity and a shared commitment to social stability and wellbeing. During crises, social cohesion helps people feel safer and more stable, support trust in institutions, and enable communities to recover more quickly.

Within the department, the Office for Social Cohesion (the Office) was established in September 2024, extending the remit of the former Strengthening Democracy Taskforce. The Office was created to drive a more coordinated approach to whole-of-government collaboration on social cohesion policies, programs and initiatives. On 13 May 2025, the Administrative Arrangements Order (AAO) was updated to include social cohesion, reflecting the evolving policy environment and the importance of coordinated national action.

The Office's 3 key primary roles are whole-of-government coordination, delivery of targeted programs to help build a more cohesive society, and promoting research and insights to support policy and program development. During 2025–26, the Office worked to ensure social cohesion efforts were joined up across the department, other Commonwealth agencies, states and territories, local government, industry, civil society and communities.

Information on the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion can be found at Reports by external bodies on page 224.

In lieu of a dedicated performance target, the impacts and contributions of a range of targets to social cohesion objectives are detailed in their supporting performance information. Of the 21 targets identified on page 95-96 of the *2025–26 Corporate Plan*, all (100%) were assessed as 'met'. While the functions reported on through the identified targets are broadly relevant to social cohesion outcomes, results may not be indicative of social cohesion impacts. In particular, the department notes:

- Targets 30, 31, 33 and 34 and measure participant outcomes associated with settlement support and the Adult Migrant English Program. Achievement of these targets indicates that the relevant services assisted participants to develop skills and knowledge to access services, progressed towards independence, participation and wellbeing, and improved their English language skills for work, study and community participation however, the targets do not measure whether these outcomes were sustained or resulted in broader changes.
- Targets 15, 16, 18, 20 and 21 measure the delivery of activities or improvements in participant awareness and capability relating to terrorism, violent extremism and foreign interference. These results indicate whether preventative capabilities were strengthened, but do not directly measure changes in community trust or inclusion.
- Other targets, including those relating to migration, visa integrity, national security and community safety primarily measure operational or system performance. Effective delivery of these functions supports safety and public confidence which contribute to social cohesion, but the results are not direct evidence of improved social cohesion.

In 2025–26, the Office and the broader department delivered targeted programs designed to help build a more cohesive society. This included, but was not limited to:

Youth Engagement

The Office partnered with the Office for Youth within the Department of Education to support the Australian Government's Youth Advisory Groups (YAG) initiative, which provides opportunities for young people to contribute directly to government policy and program development. Through this initiative, young people bring diverse perspectives, lived experience and emerging insights to policy challenges, helping ensure government decisions better reflect the needs, priorities and experiences of Australia's youth.

During 2025–26, the Office engaged with two youth advisory and reference groups focused on social cohesion, civic participation and democratic resilience. These groups provided a structured mechanism for young people to inform policy development, test ideas and contribute to discussions on issues affecting their communities. The approach also supported the development of young leaders as advocates for participation, inclusion and positive social change.

The Office connected business areas across the department with the youth groups, enabling policy and program teams to engage directly with young people and incorporate youth perspectives into their work. This engagement strengthened the department's capability to work effectively with young people and provided insights that may not have been captured through traditional consultation approaches.

- **Civic Engagement Youth Advisory Group:** Established through the Office for Youth at the Department of Education, this group comprised 10 young people aged 16 to 25 from across Australia who provided advice and perspectives on civic engagement issues. The group concluded in March 2026, following two years of engagement and contribution to government policy discussions.
- **Social Cohesion Youth Reference Group (SCYRG):** Established in early 2025, the SCYRG was a 12-month pilot partnership between the Office, the Centre for Multicultural Youth and the department's Community Liaison Officer Network in Victoria. The group provided a youth perspective on social cohesion policy proposals and emerging frameworks, enabling young people to share their experiences, test ideas and identify practical approaches to strengthening belonging, inclusion and community connection.

In addition to the YAG initiatives directly supported by the Office, the department also delivered the Youth Advisory Council for a Safer Australia (YACSA). While managed outside the Office, YACSA complements the department's broader social cohesion objectives by incorporating youth perspectives into policies and programs that support community safety, inclusion and resilience.

Youth Advisory Council for a Safer Australia: Established in July 2025 by the department in partnership with the Office for Youth at the Department of Education, YACSA forms part of the Australian Government's Youth Advisory Groups initiative. The Council brings together 15 young people aged 16 to 25 from across Australia to provide advice on counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism policies, programs and initiatives. By creating opportunities for meaningful youth participation in national security policy, YACSA supports broader social cohesion outcomes through strengthening inclusion, community engagement, trust in government and youth resilience.

Libraries as Community Cohesion Hubs Project

The Libraries as Community Cohesion Hubs Project was a partnership between the Office and the Australian Library and Information Association designed with libraries delivering targeted place-based programs that support social cohesion outcomes in their communities from August 2025 to April 2026. This partnership has allowed the Office to uplift communities through direct engagement, tailored to the individual and unique needs of the community.

The program involved 115 public libraries and 10 university libraries to promote a sense of belonging, strengthen community ties, foster social inclusion and support vulnerable groups through safe, accessible and inclusive spaces and programs. Examples of these programs include:

- the Apollo Bay Purl Jam Knitting Circle, which brought together adults, seniors and people at risk of isolation to form connections while contributing to a group project to help the Knit One, Give One non-profit organisation
- a weeklong program of activities raising awareness of the diverse backgrounds in the Mount Gambier LGA including crafts, a 'Mapping Our Community' display, an 'Everyone Belongs' display, story time and morning tea
- two panel events delivered at the AH Bracks Library focusing on building cohesion and bridging divides, with events featuring speakers of diverse perspectives to encourage robust conversations about democracy.

OUTCOME 3

Advance a prosperous and secure Australia through trade and travel facilitation and modernisation, and effective customs, immigration, maritime and enforcement activities across the border continuum.

Table 15: Performance measures for Outcome 3

Activity	Performance measures
Border services	Delivery of facilitation and regulatory activities supports the movement of legitimate trade **– Met**
	Delivery of facilitation and technology enhancements supports improved movement of people across Australia's physical border **– Met**
Customs compliance and enforcement	Examinations, enforcement and compliance activities prevents prohibited goods crossing Australia's border and contributes to revenue protection **– Met**
	Delivery of trade services, including advice to industry contributes to the trade and traveller experience **– Met**
	Effective traveller intervention and enforcement activities supports the interdiction of travellers who pose a risk to the Australian community **– Met**
Border modernisation and regulatory advice	Delivery of program and reform activities supports trade and travel modernisation **– Not met**
Civil maritime security capability	Maintain and sustain surveillance and response capability to counter civil maritime threats **– Substantially met**
Support for Joint Agency Taskforce Operation Sovereign Borders (OSB)	Deterrence messaging, engagement and operational activity contributes to the OSB mission **– Met**

Outcome 3

Advance a prosperous and secure Australia through trade and travel facilitation and modernisation, and effective customs, immigration, maritime and enforcement activities across the border continuum.

Priority: Border management

Key activity: Border Services

Measure: Delivery of facilitation and regulatory activities supports the movement of legitimate trade.	**MET** **99.49%**

TARGET 52

Clearance rates for air and sea cargo are maintained, compared to a rolling average of clearance rates over the past 5 financial years.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026:[125] There was a total of 162,879,144 air cargo consignments. Of these: Table 16: Air cargo consignments **Cleared within:** / **Past 5-year average** / **2025–26** **24 hours** / 96.05% / 97.88% **48 hours** / 98.11% / 99.06% There was a total of 6,376,458 sea cargo consignments. Of these: Table 17: Sea cargo consignments **Cleared within:** / **Past 5-year average** / **2025–26** **3 days** / 90.73% / 88.58% **5 days** / 93.52% / 91.60%	This target was met as: Air cargo clearance rates met the benchmark: • consignments cleared within 24 hours increased by 1.83 percentage points • consignments cleared within 48 hours increased by 0.94 percentage points. The percentage of sea cargo rates substantially met the benchmark: • consignments cleared within 3 days decreased by 2.15 percentage points • consignments cleared within 5 days decreased by 1.92 percentage points. The overall clearance rate for air and sea cargo was 98.98% of the 100% benchmark and within 2.50% variance of the 100% benchmark.[126] The target was met as overall clearance rate for air and sea cargo was maintained.

125. The performance results are calculated based on reports generated by complex systems. The department was unable to provide assurances over the flow of data from these systems into the aggregated reports that are used to calculate the performance result.
126. Measures and targets have been assessed as 'met' where reported performance varied by less than 2.50 percentage points from the benchmark, as published in the *Department of Home Affairs 2025–26 Corporate Plan*. Please see 'Performance ratings' on page 22 of this report.

Supporting performance information

Maintaining effective customs clearance processes enables the secure, legal and efficient movement of legitimate goods by ensuring compliance, reducing delays and identifying illegal trade. This target represents the department's effectiveness in processing and clearing legitimate imports efficiently.

All cargo destined to enter Australia is subject to a risk assessment prior to clearance for entry to determine its legitimacy. Risk assessments can only be undertaken when full, correct and final information relating to the cargo is provided by the importer, and cargo can only be cleared following the payment of any applicable taxes and duties. The provision of complete and accurate information, together with the timely payment of taxes and duties, enables cargo to be risk assessed and cleared prior to arrival unless intervention by the ABF or other government agencies is required to confirm the legitimacy of the goods. Where clearance occurs after arrival, the ABF aims to ensure that legitimate goods are cleared quickly and with minimal delay.

External factors such as global economic conditions, geopolitical events and seasonal demand can cause short and long-term fluctuations in cargo volumes. A benchmark based on the rolling average of the previous 5 years helps smooth year-to-year variations. Analysing performance against this benchmark provides evidence to assess whether existing measures, systems and resources remain effective and sustainable, or whether improvements are required.

The nature and composition of consignments continue to evolve. In 2025–26, most imported goods arriving in Australia via air cargo are expected to be valued at less than $1,000 and reported through Self-Assessed Clearances (SACs), which support faster cargo processing and clearance times.

Total air and sea cargo volumes are expected to remain high and continue their long-term growth trend. A summary of short and long-term growth compared with previous reporting periods is provided in Table 18.

Table 18: Air and sea cargo consignment volumes

Cargo	Growth since 2020–21	2020–21	Growth since 2024–25	2024–25	2025–26
Air	150.59%	64,997,442	10.04%	148,013,123	162,879,144
Sea	-26.67%	8,695,966	-9.25%	7,026,305	6,376,458

The total volume of air cargo discharged at Australian ports increased in 2025–26 compared with 2024–25. While sea cargo volumes decreased, this was primarily due to an increase in the number of complex and resource intensive examinations conducted. This increase in complexity was a result of Campaign PRINTWALL, a major border enforcement initiative launched by the department in December 2025 to reduce the trade of illegal tobacco and vapes. Campaign PRINTWALL and associated targeting activities contributed to elevated referral volumes and increased cargo intervention activity across both air and sea cargo streams. Inspection and examination volumes were also influenced by workforce attrition, equipment reliability issues, reduced x-ray availability, infrastructure works and increased demand.

Most air cargo and sea cargo arriving in Australia continues to be concentrated in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. This concentration places ongoing pressure on Cargo and Container Terminal Operators and on departmental screening, examination and clearance activities. While increasing cargo volumes are not expected to adversely affect cargo clearance rates, they continue to place pressure on the systems that facilitate automated risk assessment and cargo clearance processes. To support the ongoing resilience, stability and capability of the Integrated Cargo System (ICS), the ICS Resilience Capital Investment Program (CIP) continues to provide a mechanism for delivering prioritised, business-driven system enhancements and improvements on a case-by-case basis.

TARGET 53

95% of Australian Trusted Traders (ATT) who do not successfully complete a remediation action either successfully implement a formal Improvement Plan, or termination of the ATT Legal Agreement is commenced.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 9 Australian Trusted Traders (ATTs) who had not successfully completed a remediation action. Of these, 1 ATT's Improvement Plan remained active and was not yet due for implementation. Of the remaining 8, all either successfully implemented a formal Improvement Plan or had termination of the ATT Legal Agreement commenced, comprising: • 1 ATT successfully implemented a formal Improvement Plan • 5 ATTs had termination of the ATT Legal Agreement commenced • 2 ATTs voluntarily initiated termination of the ATT Legal Agreement.	This target was met as 100% of ATTs who did not successfully complete a remediation action either successfully implemented a formal Improvement Plan or termination of the ATT Legal Agreement was commenced. This exceeded the target by 5.00 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

The ATT program recognises businesses with secure international supply chains and compliant trade practices. Accredited businesses receive streamlined customs processes, faster cargo movement and priority treatment at the border, supporting the efficient movement of legitimate goods and quicker access to domestic and international markets.

In return for these benefits, accredited businesses are required to meet enhanced supply chain security and trade compliance standards. ATT accreditation demonstrates that a business has a secure and compliant international supply chain and meets World Customs Organization (WCO) standards for supply chain security. This enables border resources to be directed towards areas of greater risk while facilitating trade by trusted and compliant businesses.

The ATT program is supported by an ongoing, robust compliance assessment regime. To ensure accredited ATT program members maintain the appropriate standards, the ABF compliance and remediation activities certify ATTs maintain ongoing adherence with the *Customs Act 1901* (Customs Act), *Customs (Australian Trusted Trader Programme) Rule 2025*, and the ATT Legal Agreement.

As at 30 June 2026, there were 864 accredited ATTs within the program, with membership fluctuating throughout the year as businesses joined and left the program.

During 2025–26, 849 ATTs were subject to compliance activity. These activities included:

- 848 annual declarations[127]
- 74 corrective actions[128]
- 2 matters that had not yet been actioned as at 30 June 2026.

Some ATTs were subject to more than one type of compliance activity during the reporting period. Compliance activities identified 20 ATTs that had failed to submit their annual declarations. Other instances of non-compliance were identified through border operations, including the release of cargo without authority and breaches of export permit requirements.

127. An 'annual declaration' is a formal statement submitted by an ATT to the ABF each year, confirming that the business continues to meet the qualification criteria of the Customs (Australian Trusted Trader Program) Rule 2025, and any additional conditions specified by the delegate of the ATT Program.
128. A 'corrective action' is an activity undertaken by ABF in response to non-compliance with ABF and ATT requirements under the *Customs (Australian Trusted Trader Program) Rule 2025.*

During 2025–26, 67 ATT non-compliance matters were subject to remediation action. As at 30 June 2026:

- 65 matters were successfully resolved without needing a formal Improvement Plan
- 2 matters remained active, with the remediation outcome yet to be determined.

Non-compliant ATTs are subject to remediation action to ensure they maintain appropriate standards of international supply chain security and trade compliance and to reduce the risk of similar issues reoccurring. An ATT may be required to respond to an identified non-compliance and, where relevant, provide evidence of the actions taken and controls implemented to address it.

Managing remediation actions in a timely manner supports the early resolution of non-compliance, improves oversight of ATT obligations and helps maintain confidence in the integrity of the program. This supports the continued facilitation of trade by compliant businesses while ensuring that identified risks are addressed appropriately.

Where an ATT does not successfully complete remediation, the matter is assessed to determine whether a formal Improvement Plan is appropriate. If the ATT resolves the non-compliance before an Improvement Plan is issued, a formal plan is not required. The department supports proactive resolution through measures such as direct engagement with the ATT and scheduled operational, including revalidation visits.

The timeframe for returning an ATT to a compliant status through these measures varies according to the nature and circumstances of each case.

Where a non-compliance cannot be resolved through these measures, the department may issue a formal Improvement Plan. An Improvement Plan specifies the actions an ATT must complete within an established timeframe to return to a state of compliance. ATTs are expected to sustain the improvements implemented under the plan to support long-term compliance. This target measures whether these matters result in the successful implementation of a formal Improvement Plan or the commencement of termination of the ATT Legal Agreement. If the agreement is terminated, the business loses its ATT accreditation and access to all associated trade facilitation benefits. This ensures that these benefits remain reserved for businesses that meet the program's security and compliance requirements.

Measure: Delivery of facilitation and technology enhancements supports improved movement of people across Australia's physical border.	**MET** **98.24%**

TARGET 54

Average clearance time for all air travellers is maintained or improved, compared to a rolling average clearance time over two past financial years.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026,[129] Table 19: Average clearance time for air travellers	This target was met as the overall average clearance time was 56.90 seconds, compared with the 2-year rolling average of 56.56 seconds. Inbound clearance time increased by 0.72 seconds and outbound clearance time decreased by 0.04 seconds. This target was met as the overall average clearance time achieved 99.40% of the 2-year rolling average benchmark, and was within the target variance of 2.50 percentage points.[130]

Air travellers	Average clearance time (seconds)	
	Past 2-year average	2025–26
In-bound	72.85	73.57
Out-bound	40.26	40.22
Overall	56.56	56.90

TARGET 55

Percentage of eligible air travellers processed through the border using SmartGate technology remains consistent with the previous financial year.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Substantially met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 47,960,665 total air travellers, with 43,929,042 eligible for proceeding through the border using SmartGate technology (91.59%).[131] Of those eligible, 33,052,959 were processed through the border using SmartGate technology.	This target was substantially met as 75.24% of eligible air travellers were processed using SmartGate technology. This was 2.26 percentage points below the 2024–25 benchmark of 77.50%.[132]

129. The performance results are calculated based on reports generated by complex systems. The department was unable to provide assurances over the flow of data from these systems into the aggregated reports that are used to calculate the performance result.
130. Measures and targets have been assessed as 'met' where reported performance varied by less than 2.50 percentage points from the benchmark, as published in the *Department of Home Affairs 2025–26 Corporate Plan*. Please see 'Performance ratings' on page 22 of this report.
131. The performance results are calculated based on reports generated by complex systems. The department was unable to provide assurances over the flow of data from these systems into the aggregated reports that are used to calculate the performance result.
132. Measures and targets have been assessed as 'substantially met' where performance fell within 92.50% to lower than 97.50% of the published target benchmark, as published in the *Department of Home Affairs 2025–26 Corporate Plan*. Please see 'Performance ratings' on page 22 of this report.

Supporting performance information

SmartGate and officer-led clearance channels support the secure and efficient movement of people through Australia's international airports. Maintaining timely traveller processing while accommodating growth in passenger volumes contributes to border integrity, traveller experience, tourism and economic activity.

Traveller clearance times remained broadly stable during 2025–26, with average processing times largely consistent with the rolling two-year benchmark.[133] [134] This indicates the department maintained efficient traveller facilitation despite increased demand across international airports.

SmartGate use was 75.24% in 2025–26, compared with 77.50% in 2024–25,[135] a reduction of 2.26 percentage points. Proportionally, this was a modest reduction against an 18.47% increase in the number of eligible travellers processed using SmartGate, from approximately 27.9 million to 33.1 million.

Total SmartGate volumes increased significantly following the expansion of eligibility arrangements, including extending arrivals access to additional ePassport holders and lowering the minimum eligible age to 7 years.

The department continues to invest in traveller facilitation capability through enhancements to SmartGate technology and border processing infrastructure. This includes a mid-life upgrade to the Departures SmartGate system, incorporating enhanced biometric algorithms, upgraded passport scanning technology and other system improvements, as well as partnerships to increase arrivals kiosk capacity. These initiatives are intended to strengthen system performance and reliability while supporting efficient processing as traveller volumes continue to grow.

The department also intends to further expand SmartGate eligibility in 2026–27 by enabling the use of SmartGate for travellers holding non-ePassports, supporting automated arrivals processing for all travellers aged 7 years and over and further improving access to self-service border clearance.

133. Target 54 captures the time it takes for a traveller to pass through the SmartGate or be processed through the system at a primary line. It does not include the time spent at the airport or in queues prior to immigration clearance, baggage collection or customs clearance.
134. Any clearance that takes more than 3 minutes (5 minutes for groups at the primary lines), or where an alert or referral is triggered, are excluded from the calculation of the average times.
135. This figure differs from those previous published in the 2024–25 Annual Report; eligible for proceeding through the border using SmartGate technology was 79.33%, with 76.80% processed through the border using SmartGate technology. This figure has been updated because of updates and corrections made to movement and SmartGate records post the end of the reporting period.

Key activity: Customs compliance and enforcement	
Measure: Examinations, enforcement and compliance activities prevents prohibited goods crossing Australia's border and contributes to revenue protection.	**MET** **100%**

TARGET 56

Percentage of air and sea cargo examined by ABF officers that leads to an enforcement result remains consistent with previous financial year.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 107,977 air and sea cargo consignments examined by ABF officers of which 29,178 led to enforcement results.[136] For the same period last year 101,960 air and sea cargo consignments were examined by ABF officers of which 21,351 (29.30%) led to enforcement results. Air cargo There were 91,649 air cargo consignments physically examined by ABF officers of which 26,854 (29.30%) led to enforcement results. For the same period in 2024–25, there were 85,283 air cargo consignments physically examined by ABF officers of which 18,995 (22.27%) led to enforcement results. This was an increase of 7.03 percentage points compared with 2024–25. Sea cargo There were 16,328 sea cargo consignments physically examined by ABF officers of which 2,324 (14.23%) led to enforcement results. For the same period in 2024–25, there were 16,677 sea cargo consignments physically examined by ABF officers of which 2,356 (14.13%) led to enforcement results. This was an increase of 0.10 percentage points compared with 2024–25.	This target was met as 27.02% of air and sea cargo examinations resulted in an enforcement outcome, compared with the 2024–25 benchmark of 20.94%. This exceeded the target by 6.08 percentage points.

136. The performance results are calculated based on reports generated by complex systems. The department was unable to provide assurances over the flow of data from these systems into the aggregated reports that are used to calculate the performance result.

Measure: Delivery of trade services, including advice to industry contributes to the trade and traveller experience.	**MET** **99.30%**

TARGET 57

Maintain the number of sea cargo inspections and examinations and air cargo examinations nationally.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026,[137] a. Air cargo examinations included: Table 20: Air cargo examined b. Sea cargo examinations included: Table 21: Sea cargo inspected Table 22: Sea cargo examined	This target was met as the overall intervention activity was 99.30% of the previous year's benchmark: • air cargo examinations increased by 6,366 consignments (100%) • sea cargo inspections increased by 4,631 consignments compared with 2024–25 and sea cargo examinations decreased by 349 consignments. (98.60%) This target was met as the overall intervention activity was 99.30% of the previous year's benchmark was within the target variance of 2.50 percentage points.[139]

Air Cargo	Examined 2024–25	Examined 2025–26	Variance
Total	85,283 consignments	91,649 consignments	+ 6,366 consignments

Sea Cargo	Examined 2024–25	Examined 2025–26	Variance
Total	27,070 consignments (42,682 TEU)	31,701 consignments (50,845 TEU)[138]	+ 4,631 consignments (+8,163 TEU)

Sea Cargo	Examined 2024–25	Examined 2025–26	Variance
Total	16,677 consignments	16,328 consignments	- 349 consignments

137. The performance results are calculated based on reports generated by complex systems. The department was unable to provide assurances over the flow of data from these systems into the aggregated reports that are used to calculate the performance result.
138. TEU: Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit
139. Measures and targets have been assessed as 'met' where reported performance varied by less than 2.50 percentage points from the benchmark, as published in the *Department of Home Affairs 2025–26 Corporate Plan*. Please see 'Performance ratings' on page 22 of this report.

Supporting performance information

Cargo inspections, examinations and enforcement activities are an important component of the department's approach to preventing prohibited goods crossing Australia's border and protecting Commonwealth revenue.

Intelligence-led targeting, risk assessment and technology-assisted detection methods are used to identify high-risk air and sea cargo for intervention.

Cargo inspections involve the non-intrusive screening of articles or consignments through ABF-managed X-ray equipment, while cargo examinations involve further physical intervention by ABF officers, including opening a container or consignment.

Throughout 2025–26, the department demonstrated its continued focus on identifying and disrupting border risks across cargo pathways through these performance results.

The effectiveness of cargo targeting also improved during the year as demonstrated in the performance result for Target 56, reflecting the department's continued use of intelligence-led and risk-based intervention strategies.

Cargo pathways continued to be a significant source of detections of illicit tobacco and vaping products. During 2025–26, the number of illicit vaping goods prevented from entering Australia increased from 5.87 million to 12.79 million, while 2,012.6 tonnes[140] of illicit tobacco was prevented from entering Australia. These results highlight the important role cargo intervention activities play in protecting the Australian community and supporting revenue protection.

Throughout the reporting period, cargo examination activity was supported by targeted operations, including Campaign PRINTWALL, and operational responses such as intelligence-led targeting, expanded screening capabilities and targeted deployment of resources.

140. This figure is the total number of illicit tobacco detections inclusive of air and sea cargo, mail and those abandoned by passengers.

TARGET 58

The annual revenue leakage value of the Compliance Monitoring Program (CMP) sample is less than 5%.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, the department reported total Customs duty revenue of $6.932 billion. Of this, $2.051 billion (29.59%) was included in the CMP sample. The CMP estimated that Customs duty was overstated by $62.1 million.	The target was met as the revenue leakage estimate was 3.03%.

Supporting performance information

Trade Compliance activities aim to foster economic prosperity, maintain the security of the supply chain, disrupt unlawful trade-related activities and reduce the economic impact of revenue leakage and evasion. Areas of focus within these activities involve engaging and educating industry to encourage voluntary compliance, coupled with increased compliance monitoring and appropriate follow up action where necessary.

The CMP assists in assuring overall industry compliance with customs related law and provides a statistically valid estimate of revenue leakage during the import declaration process for Customs Value of Goods (CVAL), Customs Duty (Duty) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST). This is achieved through the assessment of a random stratified sample of 6,000 import lines minimum each financial year.

Developed in 2009, the design of the CMP operates by sampling import declaration lines from Full Import Declarations (FIDs) and conducting real-time audits of the selected lines. CMP assessments are determined by profile matches operating within the Integrated Cargo System (ICS). CMP profiles are reviewed annually to ensure they are representative of the import population. It is reasonable to recognise revenue based on the amounts declared on import declarations. In the event of an overpayment, the amount paid still meets the recognition criteria as revenue until such point as an importer lodges a revised declaration and seeks a refund.

The table below presents the net estimates of revenue leakage for CVAL, Duty and GST, and their percentage compared to total CVAL, total Duty and total GST.

Table 23: Revenue leakage for CVAL, Duty and GST[141]

Estimated revenue leakage			
Category	Population ($ million)	($ million)	Against category population (%)
CVAL	$490,213	-$1,710.6	-0.35
Duty	$2,051	$62.1	3.03
GST	$46,345	-$144.3	-0.31

141. The net estimates of revenue leakage are determined from an analysis of misstatements (both over and under) on import declaration lines. Positive figures and percentages represent an overall overpayment, whereas negative figures and percentages represent an overall underpayment (leakage). The point estimate of revenue leakage is based on a 95% confidence interval range between an understatement (leakage) of $128.02 million and overpayments of $252.24 million. The performance results are limited to measuring CMP which is only a small component of overall revenue leakage.

The CMP provides a statistically valid estimate of potential misstatement within a 95% confidence interval. The planned sample size for 2025–26 was for approximately 6,000 import declaration lines, as per the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis sample design. The size of the actual sample for 2025–26 was 6,614 import declaration lines, drawn from the total of 16,310,000 import lines. Customs duty is the largest single item reported in the department's financial statements related to administered revenue and is the basis for reporting against this target, noting:

- GST is collected by the department on behalf of the Australian Taxation Office, who include GST-related revenue results in their own annual reporting products
- CVAL itself is not considered revenue but is captured in the CMP considering it is the basis for calculating duties and taxes.

Due to the large volume of transactions, 100% customs duty compliance is not practicable. As an overt activity, the CMP serves as an effective measure in relation to the department's compliance framework, providing both preventative and detective capability which discourages industry from non-compliant actions. In addition to providing insight into revenue leakage, data obtained through CMP is used to educate and inform industry regarding identified and emerging compliance matters. This education is primarily shared through the Goods Compliance Update publication.

The CMP represents a subset of import lines and excludes the following categories:

- imports of Excise Equivalent Goods (EEGs) as there are alternative procedures to evaluate these imports
- all import lines with a line value CVAL less than or equal to $1,000 as there are alternative procedures to evaluate these imports
- imports that are not required to be cleared on an FID
- nature 20 warehouse declarations (i.e. goods warehoused and not released into domestic consumption).

The CMP is one of multiple compliance and risk-management measures undertaken by the department to oversee compliance and mitigate revenue risk. In 2025–26, detection and disruption of illegal tobacco and vapes in traveller, cargo and mail streams at the border resulted in $4,714,252,479 of revenue protection.

Other compliance activities span pre-arrival, at border and post-arrival and may be conducted in collaboration with other government agencies to ensure a comprehensive oversight. In 2025–26, this included:

- 47,125 Pre Clearance Interventions, where risk-based assessments are conducted on targeted consignments at the border, through which 15,614 errors were detected
- 141 Post Transaction Verifications, undertaken as retrospective audits of selected import cases which provides assurance on the accuracy of declaration, through which 130 errors were detected
- 1,821 verifications of refund claims, ensuring that revenue is not lost through non-compliant refunds or incorrect calculations after clearance, through which 618 errors were detected.

Together, these activities operate alongside CMP to provide both preventive and corrective oversight, reinforcing the department's ability to detect non-compliance, mitigate revenue leakage, and uphold the integrity of Australia's trade and border systems.

Measure: Effective traveller intervention and enforcement activities supports the interdiction of travellers who pose a risk to the Australian community.	**MET** **100%**

TARGET 59

Percentage of air traveller interventions that led to an enforcement result improves or remains consistent with the rolling average over past 3 financial years.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were a total of 264,221 air traveller interventions, of which 90,925 (34.41%) had an outcome of enforcement results, while the rolling average over the previous 3 financial years was 27.01%.[142]	The target was met as the strike rate improved when compared to the average over the past 3 financial years.

Supporting performance information

The department plays a critical role in ensuring the safety and security of the Australian community through interventions targeting air travellers. Ensuring community safety contributes to social cohesion by fostering public confidence in national border security measures, promoting a shared sense of trust and belonging, and reducing the risk of harm that can undermine social stability. Through proportionate, intelligence-led and non-discriminatory interventions, the department supports secure international movement to and from Australia while upholding Australia's values of fairness, inclusion and respect for diversity.

During 2025–26, the department continued to apply intelligence-led border interventions to identify and mitigate risks associated with international air travel. These activities contributed to the detection of customs and immigration non-compliance, supporting the integrity of Australia's border framework while facilitating the efficient movement of legitimate travellers. Strike rates remained broadly consistent with, or improved on, historical performance, demonstrating the effectiveness of traveller intervention and enforcement activities in supporting the interdiction of high-risk travellers.

Table 24: Customs Enforcement strike rate

Customs Enforcement (%)	2022–23 to 2024–25	2025–26	Variance percentage points
Inbound	12.30%	12.25%	-0.50
Outbound	11.93%	13.04%	1.11

The completion of the Central Movement Alert List (CMAL) review supported these outcomes by removing low-value alerts, reducing unnecessary interventions and focusing resources on higher-risk travellers.

Table 25: Immigration strike rate

Immigration Enforcement (%)	2022–23 to 2024–25	2025–26	Variance percentage points
Inbound	22.35%	27.92%	5.57
Outbound	45.31%	64.22%	18.91

142. The performance results are calculated based on reports generated by complex systems. The department was unable to provide assurances over the flow of data from these systems into the aggregated reports that are used to calculate the performance result.

Vape and Tobacco insights

Detection of undeclared or excess quantities of vapes and tobacco in air traveller stream were generally low volume but high frequency compared to other avenues of importation. ABF uses passenger analytics and intelligence-led measures to identify high risk travellers for intervention. Travellers' education and awareness campaigns about import limits and prohibitions are used to help deter illicit imports.

As the prohibition on vapes came into effect on 1 January 2024, a comparison against a 3 year rolling average is not available. Accordingly, performance is assessed against the results from the previous financial year (2024–25) only. Illicit tobacco detections remained relatively consistent with previous financial years, while detections of illicit vaping goods increased significantly compared with the previous year, consistent with broader trends across the border continuum.

Table 26: Vape and tobacco seizures

Seizure	2022–23 to 2024–25	2024–25	2025–26	Variance percentage points
Number of Vapes	N/A	128,410	158,539	+23.5
Tobacco (tons)	12.66	12.38	12.48	-1.42

Key activity: Border modernisation and regulatory advice

Measure: Delivery of program and reform activities supports trade and travel modernisation.

NOT MET
90.56%

TARGET 60
100% of key department-led milestones for design phases of the standalone facilities at Western Sydney Airport scheduled are completed.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, there were 2 key department-led milestones related to design phases of the standalone facilities at Western Sydney Airport scheduled for completion in 2025–26. Of these, both were completed as scheduled.	The target was met as 100% of key department-led milestones were completed as scheduled.

Supporting performance information

As at 30 June 2026, Western Sydney International Airport (WSI) was scheduled to commence cargo operations in July 2026 and passenger operations in October 2026. To support its operational commencement and the modernisation of border processing, the department worked with other organisations to co-design, coordinate and deliver enhanced border and trade services at WSI. This work supported the department's broader efforts to modernise trade and travel processes and strengthen future border-processing capability.

Airport The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (DITRDCSA) is the lead Commonwealth agency for the delivery of WSI, working with Western Sydney Airport Corporation (WSA Co), a Government Business Enterprise established to deliver the new airport. The ABF, as a Commonwealth border agency with statutory responsibilities at international airports, has worked with WSA Co to ensure border and security operational requirements are incorporated into the airport's design.

As part of the overall design and construction schedule for each of the standalone buildings at the WSI precinct, WSA Co and its partners established interim completion milestones. During 2024–25, the department provided operational requirements for the canine facility and command centre as part of the iterative detailed design process undertaken between border agencies and WSA Co. In 2025–26, the focus of these activities shifted to the cargo Joint Examination Facility (JEF).

In 2025–26, this target focused on completion of the 50% and 90% design phases for the cargo JEF. These phases were selected as key milestones because they reflected practical indicators of substantial design progress towards a facility capable of supporting secure and efficient cargo examination and border processing. A milestone was considered complete when the relevant design phase was finalised within the agreed delivery schedule.

The 50% design phase was completed in the first half of 2025–26 and established the facility's core layout, operational workflows and integration of security requirements. The 90% design phase was completed before the end of the financial year, in line with the agreed schedule, confirming that the design was sufficiently advanced to support final review and delivery planning.

Completion of both milestones represented an important step towards delivering modern border infrastructure designed to support efficient trade processes while maintaining strong border security. The design was also intended to provide flexibility to accommodate future trade and travel modernisation initiatives and evolving operational requirements.

Throughout the design process the department maintained close engagement with WSA Co. Structured reviews and established governance arrangements were used to manage operational requirements, design risks and the financial impacts of design decisions.

TARGET 61

80% of department-led milestones to deliver reforms under the Simplified Trade System scheduled are completed in full.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Substantially Met	As at 30 June 2026, a total of 27[143] department-led milestones to deliver reforms under the Simplified Trade System (STS) were scheduled for completion in 2025–26. Of these: • 21 department-led milestones were completed as scheduled • 6 department-led milestones were not completed as scheduled.	The target was substantially met[144] as 77.78% of department-led milestones were completed as scheduled. The target was substantially met as the result achieved was 97.23% of the target benchmark.

Supporting performance information

During 2025–26, the department led a range of initiatives under the STS agenda. These initiatives supported the modernisation of Australia's border through simpler regulation, digitised processes and streamlined operating models designed to facilitate trade while maintaining effective border controls.

The 27 department-led milestones scheduled for completion in 2025–26 were associated with the following 8 overarching projects:

- The **Future Cargo Reporting Model** project published a discussion paper outlining reporting model options and providing an opportunity for industry comment. Responses to the discussion paper, together with feedback received through a formal consultation session with industry representatives, informed initial analysis of the options and further research and analysis of reporting model elements. This input will support the co-design of future-state cargo reporting arrangements that meet regulator needs and assist industry to meet obligations in a streamlined and modern way.
- The **Trade Identity** project completed two deliverables around developing a policy position and summary report around opportunities and considerations in managing digital identity in trade, particularly how non-citizens, offshore entities and other participants are identified. These deliverables drew on earlier work to establish common requirements, definitions and insights into relevant trade cohorts Trusted digital identity is foundational to modern trade, and this work will guide efforts to manage digital identity for all trade cohorts in a proportional and inclusive way to appropriately manage risk.

143. Of the 31 originally set milestones, 4 milestones were removed from target reporting to align with decisions to close the Border Intermediaries project early.
144. Measures and targets have been assessed as 'substantially met' where performance fell within 92.50% to lower than 97.50% of the published target benchmark, as published in the *Department of Home Affairs 2025–26 Corporate Plan*. Please see 'Performance ratings' on page 22 of this report.

- Two **Border Controls** milestones were not met in 2025–26. Finalisation of governance arrangements between the department and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) was delayed due to a dependency on the negotiation of a new memorandum of understanding between the 2 agencies. Legislation to remove redundant border controls following implementation of the Border Controls Policy Framework did not progress through Parliament during the reporting period. Completion of both milestones was dependent on processes outside the department's direct control. The milestones have been reviewed and will be carried forward into 2026–27 reporting, with additional priority placed on both tasks.
- The **Streamlining Cargo Intervention Models (SCIM)** project is designing, testing and evaluating new cargo intervention models for cross-border trade, including a trial at a selected high-volume seaport. The project completed a joint DAFF and department air cargo trial, 2D and 3D X-ray comparative testing at the Sydney Gateway Facility and established an image library and intervention decision support system to support and test remote cargo screening. The planned establishment of the Sea Cargo Trial Remote Control Centre capability and commencement of the Sea Cargo trial were not completed during the reporting period. The Sea Cargo trial is now expected to be conducted in 2027.
- The **Digital Trade Accelerator Program (DTAP)** Connect project successfully completed the design, functionality testing and system integration testing required to deliver Release 1 and Release 2 functionality ready for industry integration. Through these releases, the project delivered two Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to enhance government-to-business sharing of cross-border trade data on cargo status changes.
- The **DTAP Risk** project progressed work to deliver enhanced biosecurity risk assessments. The remaining technical testing and cyber security protocol milestones were not completed in 2025–26 and will continue in early 2026–27, when the project is expected to be finalised.
- The **Rules as Code** project concluded with a comprehensive lessons learned and insights assessment of a proof-of-concept that explored permit requirements for selected tobacco products. The assessment captured key findings on the feasibility of delivering government rules in a machine-executable format through the whole-of-government GovCMS platform and identified considerations to inform future Rules as Code implementations.
- The **Border Intermediaries** project completed consultation with industry members through an appropriate industry forum, identifying opportunities to reform the regulation of licensed customs brokers.

While the STS program concluded on 30 June 2026, elements of the reform agenda will continue across government. Responsibility for the remaining STS regulatory reform activities will transition to the Department of Finance, while the department will continue to progress trade modernisation initiatives within the remit of the Home Affairs portfolio.

Completion of these milestones represents substantial progress in the department's delivery against the STS agenda for the benefit of industry and provides a strong foundation for a broader trade modernisation agenda. The department is committed to the delivery of remaining regulatory and technology STS reforms under its remit in 2026–27.

TARGET 62

90% of redline drawback claims are finalised within 30 days of receipt of all required information.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Substantially Met	As at 30 June 2026, a total of 1,288 (including 37 rejected claims) redline drawback claims[145] were finalised.[146] Of these: • 1,086 (84.32%), including 15 rejected claims, were finalised (paid or rejected) within the 30-day timeframe. • 202 claims (including 22 rejected) were not finalised within the 30-day timeframe.	The target was substantially met, as 84.32% of drawback claims were finalised in a timely manner. The target was substantially met as the result achieved was 93.69% of the target benchmark.[147]

Supporting performance information

The Australian Government's duty drawback scheme supports exporters by refunding customs duties paid on imported goods that are then exported and are either unused, or treated, processed, or incorporated into other goods before export.

By reducing exporters' costs, the scheme facilitates legitimate trade, supports industry competitiveness and economic prosperity, and contributes to revenue protection and compliance.

The department manages the scheme according to self-assessment principles and applies a risk-based approach to processing duty drawback claims. The exporters are required to ensure their duty drawback claims comply with the Customs Act and Customs Regulations.

Claims may be lodged manually or electronically through the ICS, which applies a 30-day service standard.

Redline claims undergo risk assessments and quality assurances by ABF officers, with high-value claims reviewed by senior officers. Incomplete or inaccurate claims may exceed the service standard where more information is required from those submitting the claim.

While claim volumes only marginally increased from 1,428 claims in 2024–25 to 1,492 claims in 2025–26, there was an increase in the value, complexity, and risk of claims overall. This was primarily driven by a rise in high-value tobacco-related drawback claims during the first half of the financial year and into the early months of the second half, following changes to Australia's tobacco packaging and labelling laws that came into effect on 1 July 2025. In addition, all 215 green-line claims[148] were finalised and 17 claims were cancelled.

Although tobacco-related claim volumes declined during the latter half of 2025–26, demand remained elevated due to the ongoing complexity of claims, fluctuations in export activity, and seasonal increases in claim lodgements towards the end of the financial year. Processing timeframes were also affected in some instances by incomplete or inaccurate claim submissions, which required further information to support assessment and decision-making.

145. Red-line claims refer to claims meeting a profile/alert match requiring officer intervention, these are manual assessments.
146. This figure excludes 17 claims that were cancelled by the applicant or the ABF officer. Reasons claims were cancelled include claim duplication, claim being less than $100, the claimant not being the legal owner, revoked Export Declaration Number (EDN), invalid EDN, EDN out of time, insufficient documents, no response provided by the claimant when additional information request, Free on Board (FOB) price of less than 25%, or import duty already refunded. As at 30 June 2026, 1,492 claims were submitted in which the allowed 30-day processing time would not have lapsed.
147. Measures and targets have been assessed as 'substantially met' where performance fell within 92.50% to lower than 97.50% of the published target benchmark, as published in the *Department of Home Affairs 2025–26 Corporate Plan*. Please see 'Performance ratings' on page 22 of this report.
148. Green-line claims refer to claims where no impediment or profile match is encountered and the claim is paid automatically.

TARGET 63

85% of advice is provided to industry on tariff classification, valuation and rules of origin within 30 days of receipt of all information.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Not Met	As at 30 June 2026, the department received a total of 1,665 requests from industry related to tariff classification, valuation of imported goods, and rules of origin. Of these, 1,386 requests had been finalised and 279 remained outstanding. Of the 1,386 finalised requests: • 772 requests had advice provided within the 30 day timeframe • 614 requests had advice provided outside the 30 day timeframe.	This target was not met as 55.70% of requests for advice were provided within 30 days of receipt of all information. This missed the target by 29.30 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

The department provides written advice on tariff classification, customs valuation and rules of origin to assist importers to understand their customs obligations and support the efficient movement of goods across Australia's border. This advice provides greater certainty regarding the treatment of imported goods, supports compliance with customs legislation and contributes to the trade and traveller experience.

Advice is provided across 3 service streams: tariff classification, valuation and rules of origin. A request is counted as finalised when written advice is issued and the 30 day processing timeframe commences when the department receives all information required to assess the request.

Table 27 provides a breakdown of finalised requests by advice type and the proportion finalised within the 30 day processing timeframe.

Table 27: Finalised requests for advice from industry

Advice Type	Requests Finalised	Finalised within 30 days	Percentage finalised within 30 days
Tariff Classification	1070	584	54.58%
Valuation	225	153	68.00%
Rules of origin	91	35	38.46%
Total	**1,386**	**772**	**55.70%**

Timeliness varied across the 3 advice types. Valuation requests recorded the highest proportion finalised within 30 days (68%), compared with 54.58% of tariff classification requests and 38.46% of rules of origin requests, as shown in Table 27.

Demand for specialist trade advice remained strong throughout 2025–26. Compared with 2024–25, tariff classification applications decreased by 19.97% , while valuation applications increased by 28.74% and rules of origin applications increased by 212.90%. These changes reflect a shift in the composition of demand across the 3 advice streams, including increased demand for more specialised and technically complex advice services.

In addition to the requests finalised during 2025–26, 279 requests remained on-hand as at 30 June 2026. Table 28 provides a breakdown of these requests by advice type, including requests that had already exceeded the 30 day processing timeframe.

Table 28: Outstanding requests for advice from industry

Advice Type	Requests outstanding	Already outside 30 day target	Percentage outside 30 day target
Tariff Classification	242	113	46.69%
Valuation	28	10	35.71%
Rules of origin	9	3	33.33%
Total	**279**	**126**	**45.16%**

As shown in Table 28, most outstanding requests related to tariff classification advice, which accounted for 242 of the 279 requests on-hand. Of the remaining outstanding requests, 28 related to valuation advice and 9 related to rules of origin advice.

Of the 279 outstanding requests, 126 had exceeded the 30 day processing timeframe as at 30 June 2026. This included 113 tariff classification requests, 10 valuation requests and 3 rules of origin requests. The remaining 153 outstanding requests were still within the applicable processing timeframe as at 30 June 2026.

For the purposes of reporting, requests that remained on-hand as at 30 June 2026 were not included in the performance result.

In addition, tariff concession order applications, which are outside the scope of this target but require technical assessment by the National Trade Advice Centre, increased from 242 applications in 2024–25 to 367 applications in 2025–26, an increase of 51.65%.

As demand for specialist tariff classification, valuation and rules of origin advice continues to evolve, the department is progressing initiatives to enhance its capacity to respond to industry needs and improve the timeliness of advice, while maintaining the quality and integrity of technical assessments.

Priority: Civil maritime security

Key activity: Civil maritime security capability

Measure: Maintain and sustain surveillance and response capability to counter civil maritime threats.	**Substantially Met** **96.45%**

TARGET 64
90% of planned ABF surveillance flying hours are flown.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, 14,869 of the 15,000 planned ABF surveillance flying hours were flown.	The target was met as 99.13% of planned ABF surveillance flying hours were flown. This exceeded the target by 9.13 percentage points.

Supporting performance information

Civil maritime security safeguards and promotes Australia's national interests by actively addressing non-military risks within Australia's maritime domain. It plays a crucial role in ensuring the country can continue to exercise its sovereign rights and fulfil its responsibilities across all maritime-related activities. Australia's civil maritime security includes both human-related maritime activities and the protection and management of the ocean and marine environment.

Aerial surveillance is a critical element of Australia's civil maritime security arrangements. It contributes to enhanced situational awareness, the detection and monitoring of activities across Australia's maritime domain, deterrence of unlawful activities, support for multi-agency operations, and surveillance of remote and difficult-to-access areas. Maintaining planned surveillance flying hours helps ensure the department can continue to identify, assess and respond to civil maritime threats. Delivering planned surveillance hours is a key indicator of the ABF's ability to maintain and sustain maritime surveillance coverage, generate maritime domain awareness, detect potential civil maritime security threats, and support timely operational responses.

In 2025–26, aerial surveillance delivery was closely aligned with the planned levels and exceed the performance target. In addition to planned surveillance activity, surge capability was used to further support operational requirements. An additional 587 Fixed Wing aerial surveillance hours and 607 Rotary Wing logistics hours (from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026) were delivered through surge capability in 2025–26 to support operational responsibilities and sustain efforts to counter Australia's civil maritime threats. As this is not a like-for-like replacement, these figures are not included it in the broader calculations of flying hours.

Factors with the potential to affect performance—including aircraft serviceability, unscheduled maintenance, adverse weather conditions and aircrew availability—were actively managed through established operational planning and contract management arrangements. During 2025–26, aircraft availability performance continued to improve and increased by 10.13% from the previous financial year, driven by expanding pilot ranks, robust contract management,[149] and more proactive support by the contractor.

The ABF and its aerial surveillance service provider continued to work closely throughout the reporting period, supported by established contract management, performance monitoring and operational planning arrangements. This approach facilitated the effective allocation of aircraft and aircrew resources, mitigated operational risks and ensured the ongoing availability of aerial surveillance capability to support maritime domain awareness and operational response activities.

TARGET 65

90% of planned ABF Vessel Availability Days for vessels in the ABF Blue Water Fleet are achieved.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Substantially Met	As at 30 June 2026, 2,458 of the 2,940 planned ABF Vessel Availability Days were achieved.	The target was substantially met as 83.61% of planned ABF Vessel Availability Days for vessels in the ABF Blue Water Fleet were achieved. This was 6.39 percentage points below the target benchmark of 90%.[150]

Supporting performance information

The department protects Australia's national interests by maintaining awareness of activity within Australia's maritime domain and responding to civil maritime security threats. These threats include illegal activity in protected areas, illegal exploitation of natural resources, maritime pollution, prohibited imports and exports, unauthorised maritime arrivals, biosecurity risks, piracy and violence at sea, and maritime terrorism.

The ABF Blue Water Fleet provides a key maritime capability supporting surveillance, response, law enforcement, border protection and other operational activities across Australia's maritime domain. The fleet's long-range, ocean-going patrol vessels are capable of operating throughout Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone and around offshore territories, enabling intelligence-informed and risk-based operations in areas beyond the reach of smaller coastal and port assets. These smaller assets are not included in the assessment of this target.

149. Robust contract management: Refers to daily monitoring of the Service Provider's performance; weekly contract meetings with the Service Provider to discuss contract performance and resolve issues in a timely manner; application of abatements for occurrences of underperformance; six-weekly Business Process Review Meetings with the Service Provider and Maritime Border Command (MBC) to discuss any performance issues and agree on actions need to rectify them; ABF oversight including escalation to DC Strategy & Capability if required; monthly performance reporting to the relevant ABF; 6-monthly health checks including the Service Provider's self-assessment of its performance; annual contract reviews conducted by the ABF; and internal and external audits of the contract as required (last internal audit was conducted August–November 2024).
150. Measures and targets have been assessed as 'substantially met' where performance fell within 92.50% to lower than 97.50% of the published target benchmark, as published in the *Department of Home Affairs 2025–26 Corporate Plan*. Please see 'Performance ratings' on page 22 of this report.

Throughout the reporting period, the achieved level of vessel availability supported the department's delivery of intelligence-informed and risk-based maritime operations across Australia's maritime domain. Operationally available vessels were deployed to support patrol, surveillance and response activities, contributing to the department's capacity to monitor, deter and respond to civil maritime security threats. Maintaining a high level of availability remains an important indicator of the department's ability to sustain maritime surveillance and response capability and respond to emerging maritime threats and operational requirements. This demonstrates that fleet capability was largely maintained despite the maintenance, serviceability and workforce challenges experienced during the year.

Vessel availability was affected by a range of factors during 2025–26. Delays in the completion of mandatory 10-year Depot Level Maintenance (DLM) periods for Cape Class vessels and emergent capability defects reduced the availability of several vessels during the reporting period. In addition, vessel serviceability issues and contractor performance accounted for 351 lost vessel availability days, while crewing shortfalls[151] contributed a further 96 lost availability days, reducing the number of days vessels were available for operational deployment.

To mitigate these impacts, the department actively sought to introduce 4 Flex Fighter Max (FFM) vessels to supplement fleet capacity during major maintenance periods and support operations in northern Australian waters. Alternative operating models such as contracted crewing arrangements for Bay Class vessels and Thaiyak were also implemented to support vessel availability and operational coverage. As vessels greater than 24 metres in length, the FFM vessels are included within the ABF Blue Water Fleet and contribute to the achievement of this target.

Despite maintenance and workforce challenges during the reporting period, these mitigation measures supported fleet capability and operational coverage, enabling the department to continue maritime surveillance and response activities across Australia's maritime domain.

Priority: Operation Sovereign Borders

Key activity: Support for Joint Agency Taskforce Operation Sovereign Borders

Measure: Deterrence messaging, engagement and operational activity contributes to the OSB mission.	**Met 100%**

TARGET 66

The ABF effectively supports the Joint Agency Taskforce Operation Sovereign Borders (JATF OSB) mission to deny an irregular maritime pathway to settlement in Australia.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Met	As at 30 June 2026, 28 maritime people smuggling ventures were successfully resolved under Operation Sovereign Borders (OSB). Of these, all persons from all 28 ventures (100%) were turned back, returned to country of origin, or transferred to a regional processing country.	The target was met as 100% of identified ventures did not achieve a pathway to settlement in Australia through an irregular maritime voyage.

Supporting performance information

Through the ABF's effective support to the Joint Agency Taskforce Operation Sovereign Borders (JATF OSB), the department enabled the prevention and deterrence of irregular maritime migration. During the reporting period, JATF OSB denied a pathway to settlement in Australia for persons attempting to arrive irregularly by boat through disruption and deterrence, detection, interception and return, and transfer to regional processing.

During the reporting period, JATF OSB successfully resolved 28 maritime people smuggling ventures with 225 persons targeting Australia under the OSB Framework, with no identified ventures achieving a pathway to settlement. Of these 28 ventures resolved during the reporting period:

- 167 persons were returned to their country of origin or departure
- 58 persons were transferred to a regional processing country.

151. Crewing shortfalls stem from a range of matters such as qualification requirements for specific vessel classes, and crew illness especially for key positions.

Deterrence and Disruption

JATF OSB supports Australia's efforts to deterring people smuggling and irregular maritime migration through a combination of targeted deterrence, strategic engagement and disruption activities, working closely with regional and international partners to support border security activity.

International engagements undertaken by JATF OBS Executive (ABF Officers)

JATF OSB Executive conducted 44 international engagements. Engagements are carefully chosen to reaffirm commitment to cooperation on countering criminal people smuggling and irregular migration in our region, and to share information with international partners who are working to counter the same threats. Maintaining international engagements are critical to OSB, supporting trusted regional relationships and enabling coordinated, effective response to people smuggling and irregular migration.

JATF OSB Strategic Communications (ABF) Offshore Deterrence Messaging

As part of a multi-layered deterrence approach, the ABF continues to implement a targeted, communication program through a range of advertising and community engagement channels offshore to deter irregular maritime travel to Australia. Our approach to strategic communications continues to evolve to meet the evolving threat, informed by current evaluation, past reviews, and real time intelligence learnings. OSB delivered strategic communication and community engagement activities in 15 source and transit countries in 18 languages.

TARGET 67

80% of ABF-led high risk recommendations identified in Post Activity Reports are actioned within 3 months.

Performance rating	Performance against target	Justification for result
Unable to be determined	The performance result is unable to be determined as sufficient evidence was not available to verify a complete result. As at 30 June 2026, 5 high-risk recommendations had been identified in Post Activity Reports. The department verified that 2 recommendations were actioned within 3 months. Sufficient evidence was not available to verify whether the remaining 3 recommendations had been actioned and within 3 months.[152]	The target was unable to be determined because sufficient evidence was not available to verify whether 3 of the 5 high-risk recommendations had been actioned.

Supporting performance information

Maritime people smuggling threats are complex and evolving. Following operations to resolve maritime people smuggling ventures, the JATF OSB conducts After Action Reviews (AARs) and Post Activity Reports (PARs). This enables JATF OSB to remain adaptive in protecting Australia's maritime borders from people smugglers.

High risk recommendations that result from review must be implemented as a matter of urgency. High-risk recommendations endorsed by the Deputy Commander JATF OSB represent issues assessed as having the potential to impede operational effectiveness, mission success, workforce sustainability, or the management of significant operational risks in denying an irregular maritime pathway to settlement in Australia.

Recommendations are considered actioned once all identified requirements within them, that are the responsibility of ABF, have been completed and implemented such that they are repeatable. Any remaining requirements that are not the responsibility of ABF, have been transferred to an appropriate work area and are implemented. As a result, 3 recommendations counted as 'actioned' in target reporting remain open as they continue to be implemented over the longer term by agencies other than the ABF to enable the necessary evidence to be considered completed.

While the recommendations contain operationally sensitive details, the following points provide a high-level overview of their intended outcomes without disclosing specific operational information. Collectively, these recommendations are intended to:

- strengthen JATF OSB's ability to identify, manage and mitigate high-risk issues in a timely and effective manner
- improve operational efficiency through continuous improvement and the implementation of lessons identified during operations
- support workforce wellbeing through the review and refinement of relevant policy settings in consultation with appropriate internal and external stakeholders
- improve procedural consistency by ensuring operational documentation is used appropriately and accurately reflected in relevant procedures.

During 2025–26, 5 high-risk recommendations were identified in Post Activity Reports. The department verified that 2 recommendations were fully actioned within 3 months. For the remaining 3 recommendations, sufficient evidence was not available to verify whether these had been actioned and within 3 months. Consequently, performance against the target was unable to be determined.

152. The 3 recommendations for which sufficient evidence of implementation was not available relate to the same issue identified through Post Activity Reports.

APPENDIX A—(OF THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT) 2025–26 DATA LIMITATIONS

Target	Limitation type	Limitation description
1, 3, 20 and 37	Survey response rate	As a result of the survey response rate, performance results may not be reflective of the broader population.
11	Incomplete performance information	The performance result was unable to be determined as the survey methodology was inconsistently applied and the timing and recipients of the survey were not executed as intended.
30 and 31	Verifiability issues with data source	Verifiability issues with data source the performance results are based on self-reporting by third party providers, that are not verified by the department.
33 and 34	Verifiability issues with data source	The performance results are based on client satisfaction surveys administered by service providers who also manage survey distribution and assist participants with completion. The department does not verify individual responses.
50	Incomplete performance information	The target was unable to be determined as the available documentation did not sufficiently demonstrate that reports had been assessed against all requirements of the Enduring Capability Memorandum of Understanding across the full reporting period.
52, 54, 55, 56, 57 and 59	Verifiability issues with data source	The performance results are calculated based on reports generated by complex systems. The department was unable to provide assurances over the flow of data from these systems.
67	Incomplete performance information	The performance result was unable to be determined as sufficient evidence was not available to verify a complete result.

PART 3:
REPORT ON FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

REPORT ON FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The complete departmental results for 2025–26 are available in the financial statements that form Part 4 of this Annual Report.

Departmental operating result

The 2025–26 financial statements report a $306.1 million operating deficit compared with the $300.1 million operating deficit in 2024–25. The Australian Government has not funded depreciation and amortisation expenses since 2010–11 and introduced new net cash reporting arrangements in 2019–20 to reflect lease accounting arrangements under AASB 16 Leases.

The 2025–26 operating result is a deficit of $16.3 million. This represents less than 1 per cent of the department's operating budget for 2025–26. This reflects adjustments for $545.6 million in depreciation and amortisation expenses (including for right-of-use leased assets) and $255.9 million in principal repayments for leased assets.

Administered program performance

The department's 2025–26 administered expenses were $2.7 billion, compared to $2.2 billion in 2024–25. The increase is primarily attributable to costs associated with the Third Country Reception Agreement with the Republic of Naoero, infrastructure grants and initiatives supporting multicultural communities.

Net assets

Overall, the department's 2025–26 net asset position of $0.8 billion (assets minus liabilities) decreased marginally compared with the net asset position in 2024–25 of $0.9 billion.

PART 4:
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT





INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Home Affairs

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Department of Home Affairs (the Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2026:

(a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and

(b) present fairly the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2026 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Entity, which I have audited, comprise the following as at 30 June 2026 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Secretary and Chief Finance Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement;
- Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income;
- Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities;
- Administered Reconciliation Schedule;
- Administered Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to the financial statements, comprising material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements for financial statement audits conducted by the Auditor-General and their delegates. These include the relevant independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) to the extent that they are not in conflict with the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

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Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in my professional judgement, were of most significance in my audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of my audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming my opinion thereon, and I do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Key audit matter	How the audit addressed the matter
Accuracy of customs duty *Refer to Note 2.1A 'Taxation revenue'* The Entity recognises revenue for customs duty arising on imported goods. The calculation of duty payable is dependent upon information provided by importers. Due to the self-assessment nature of customs duty collections, the Entity has developed risk-based profiles to conduct targeted compliance activities. I focused on this area given: • the significant value of customs duty revenue and the geographically dispersed revenue collection points; • the importance that targeted compliance activities play in the accuracy of customs duty declarations; and • the complexity of the information technology (IT) environment and processes, and inputs used to manage and calculate customs duty. For the year ended 30 June 2026, $6.93 billion of customs duty revenue was recognised.	To audit the accuracy of customs duty, I performed the following procedures: • evaluated key customs duty revenue IT systems and tested relevant application and manual controls including controls used to identify risk, system calculations and reconciliations; • evaluated the appropriateness of tariff rates to relevant legislation and exchange rates being applied and by testing a sample of transactions to supporting documentation; and • performed a substantive recalculation of customs duty revenue and evaluating a sample of transactions against tariff rates, supporting calculations, exchange rates and supporting documentation.
Accuracy of visa application charges *Refer to Note 2.1A 'Taxation revenue'* The Entity recognises revenue for visa applications. I focused on this area given: • the significant value of visa application charges; and • the complexity of the IT environment used to collect and process visa application charges. For the year ended 30 June 2026, $4.66 billion visa application charges revenue was recognised.	To audit the accuracy of visa application charges and receivables, I performed the following procedures: • reperformance of reconciliation processes between revenue and financial reporting systems; • evaluated IT application controls relevant to the accuracy of visa revenue; • assessed the accuracy of visa pricing applied within business systems to published schedules; and • tested visa applications and receipts. This testing included substantive recalculation of total visa application charge revenue.

Accountable Authority's responsibility for the financial statements

As the Accountable Authority of the Entity, the Secretary is responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (the Act) for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the rules made under the Act. The Secretary is also responsible for such internal control as the Secretary determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Secretary is responsible for assessing the ability of the Entity to continue as a going concern, taking into account whether the Entity's operations will cease as a result of an administrative restructure or for any other reason. The Secretary is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Authority;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Accountable Authority regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

From the matters communicated with the Accountable Authority, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

Australian National Audit Office



Kristian Gage

Acting Group Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra

16 September 2026

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY AND CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

Department of Home Affairs
Statement by the Secretary and the Chief Finance Officer

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsection 41(2) of the PGPA Act

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Department of Home Affairs will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due

Signed 

Stephanie Foster PSM
Secretary

14 September 2026

Signed 

Andrew Harvey
Chief Finance Officer

14 September 2026

Department of Home Affairs
Statement of comprehensive income
For the period ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	Original Budget $'000
Net cost of services				
Expenses				
Employee benefits	6.1A	**2,234,138**	1,993,514	1,969,694
Suppliers	1.1A	**1,677,817**	1,587,293	1,638,412
Depreciation and amortisation[a]	3.2	**545,619**	496,524	460,092
Impairment loss on trade and other receivables		**13,192**	19,530	-
Write-down and impairment of non-financial assets	1.1B	**9,246**	21,778	-
Finance costs	1.1C	**44,939**	41,947	39,336
Other expenses	1.1D	**5,021**	6,691	3,605
Total expenses		**4,529,972**	4,167,277	4,111,139
Own-source income and gains				
Own-source revenue				
Revenue from contracts with customers	1.2A	**306,733**	288,287	219,218
Rental income	1.2B	**4,561**	5,444	3,978
Other revenue	1.2D	**4,744**	6,920	6,452
Total own-source revenue		**316,038**	300,651	229,648
Gains	1.2E	**4,133**	5,381	-
Total gains		**4,133**	5,381	-
Total own-source income		**320,171**	306,032	229,648
Net cost of services		**(4,209,801)**	(3,861,245)	(3,881,491)
Revenue from Government		**3,903,751**	3,561,146	3,627,329
Deficit attributable to the Australian Government		**(306,050)**	(300,099)	(254,162)
Other comprehensive income				
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services				
Changes in asset revaluation reserve		**33,668**	781	-
Total other comprehensive income		**33,668**	781	-
Total comprehensive loss		**(272,382)**	(299,318)	(254,162)

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Refer to Note 8.3 for explanations of major budget variances.

a. Right-of-use assets are included in depreciation and amortisation.

Department of Home Affairs
Statement of financial position
As at 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	Original Budget $'000
Assets				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	3.1A	**6,123**	8,126	9,212
Trade and other receivables	3.1B	**691,225**	670,926	570,789
Other financial assets		**1,098**	1,223	1,299
Total financial assets		**698,446**	680,275	581,300
Non-financial assets[a]				
Land	3.2	**20,558**	20,328	19,925
Buildings	3.2	**1,655,468**	1,770,930	1,736,260
Leasehold improvements	3.2	**368,139**	378,437	371,028
Vessels	3.2	**289,306**	261,284	234,849
Plant and equipment	3.2	**601,583**	570,555	512,830
Computer software	3.2	**327,532**	312,843	424,331
Inventories held for distribution		**17,921**	14,920	17,347
Prepayments		**121,244**	127,472	63,841
Total non-financial assets		**3,401,751**	3,456,769	3,380,411
Total assets		**4,100,197**	4,137,044	3,961,711
Liabilities				
Payables				
Suppliers	3.3A	**287,794**	323,424	260,571
Other payables	3.3B	**165,100**	92,216	74,122
Total payables		**452,894**	415,640	334,693
Interest bearing liabilities				
Leases	3.4	**2,162,618**	2,210,479	2,106,713
Total interest bearing liabilities		**2,162,618**	2,210,479	2,106,713
Provisions				
Employee provisions	6.1B	**602,286**	561,035	505,959
Restoration obligations	3.5	**72,737**	70,660	69,314
Total provisions		**675,023**	631,695	575,273
Total liabilities		**3,290,535**	3,257,814	3,016,679
Net assets		**809,662**	879,230	945,032
Equity				
Contributed equity		**4,667,091**	4,464,277	4,707,804
Asset revaluation reserve		**633,013**	599,345	598,559
Accumulated deficit		**(4,490,442)**	(4,184,392)	(4,361,331)
Total equity		**809,662**	879,230	945,032

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Refer to Note 8.3 for explanations of major budget variances.

a. Right-of-use assets are included in land, buildings and plant and equipment.

Department of Home Affairs
Statement of changes in equity
For the period ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	Original Budget $'000
Contributed equity				
Opening balance as at 1 July				
Balance carried forward from previous period		**4,464,277**	4,226,550	4,484,298
Transactions with owners				
Distributions to owners				
Return of appropriations[a]		**(22,039)**	(36,336)	-
Contributions by owners				
Equity injection – appropriations		**67,398**	116,874	57,606
Departmental capital budget		**166,199**	157,189	165,900
Restructuring	8.2A	**(8,744)**	-	-
Total transactions with owners		**202,814**	237,727	223,506
Closing balance as at 30 June		**4,667,091**	4,464,277	4,707,804
Asset revaluation reserve				
Opening balance				
Balance carried forward from previous period		**599,345**	598,564	598,559
Adjusted opening balance		**599,345**	598,564	598,559
Comprehensive income				
Other comprehensive income				
Changes in asset revaluation surplus				
Non-financial assets		**34,845**	-	-
Provision for restoration		**(1,177)**	781	-
Total comprehensive income		**33,668**	781	-
Closing balance as at 30 June		**633,013**	599,345	598,559

a. Reflects prior year appropriations withheld under s51 of the PGPA Act.

Accounting Policy

Restructuring

Net assets received from or relinquished to another Government entity under a restructuring of administrative arrangements are adjusted at their book value directly against contributed equity.

Department of Home Affairs
Statement of changes in equity
For the period ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	Original Budget $'000
Accumulated deficit				
Opening balance				
Balance carried forward from previous period		**(4,184,392)**	(3,884,293)	(4,107,169)
Comprehensive income				
Deficit for the period		**(306,050)**	(300,099)	(254,162)
Total comprehensive income		**(306,050)**	(300,099)	(254,162)
Closing balance as at 30 June		**(4,490,442)**	(4,184,392)	(4,361,331)
Total equity		**809,662**	879,230	945,032

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
Refer to Note 8.3 for explanations of major budget variances.

Department of Home Affairs
Cash flow statement
For the period ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	Original Budget $'000
Operating activities				
Cash received				
Appropriations		**4,302,432**	3,940,586	3,856,752
Goods and services[c]		**290,966**	266,604	122,312
Net GST[a] received		**183,340**	158,840	119,061
Other[c]		**12,680**	5,384	106,065
Total cash received		**4,789,418**	4,371,414	4,204,190
Cash used				
Employees		**2,131,928**	1,920,559	2,093,597
Suppliers		**1,880,077**	1,752,553	1,632,299
Section 74 receipts transferred to OPA[b]		**474,910**	436,926	227,521
Interest payments on lease liabilities		**42,390**	39,402	39,336
Other		**361**	4,221	3,605
Total cash used		**4,529,666**	4,153,661	3,996,358
Net cash from operating activities		**259,752**	217,753	207,832
Investing activities				
Cash received				
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		**506**	55	-
Total cash received		**506**	55	-
Cash used				
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		**258,208**	253,165	226,958
Total cash used		**258,208**	253,165	226,958
Net cash (used by) investing activities		**(257,702)**	(253,110)	(226,958)

a. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

b. Official Public Account (OPA)

c. $93.660 million has been reclassified from Other cash received to Goods and services cash received in the comparative figures for 2024-25 to better align the nature of the transactions presented in 2025-26.

Department of Home Affairs
Cash flow statement
For the period ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	Original Budget $'000
Financing activities				
Cash received				
Contributed equity		**251,856**	247,109	223,506
Total cash received		**251,856**	247,109	223,506
Cash used				
Principal payments of lease liabilities		**255,909**	212,838	204,380
Total cash used		**255,909**	212,838	204,380
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities		**(4,053)**	34,271	19,126
Net decrease in cash held		**(2,003)**	(1,086)	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		**8,126**	9,212	9,212
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	3.1A	**6,123**	8,126	9,212

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
Refer to Note 8.3 for explanations of major budget variances.

Department of Home Affairs
Administered schedule of comprehensive income
For the period ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	Original Budget $'000
Net cost of services				
Income				
Revenue				
Taxation revenue				
Customs duty	2.1A	**6,931,967**	11,967,791	11,349,450
Visa Application Charges	2.1A	**4,659,562**	4,154,314	4,199,016
Passenger Movement Charges	2.1A	**1,483,508**	1,354,080	1,337,100
Import Processing Charges	2.1A	**485,689**	469,609	462,000
Total taxation revenue		**13,560,726**	17,945,794	17,347,566
Non-taxation revenue				
Revenue from contracts with customers	2.1B	**129,537**	135,490	148,725
Other revenue	2.1C	**10,542**	9,264	9,032
Total non-taxation revenue		**140,079**	144,754	157,757
Total revenue		**13,700,805**	18,090,548	17,505,323
Gains	2.1D	**17,467**	19,247	-
Total gains		**17,467**	19,247	-
Total income		**13,718,272**	18,109,795	17,505,323
Expenses				
Suppliers	2.2A	**1,731,667**	1,770,844	2,018,101
Personal benefits	2.2B	**64,296**	77,752	97,193
Gifting, grants and contributions	2.2C	**801,350**	183,696	217,426
Depreciation and amortisation	4.2	**85,391**	93,060	71,942
Write-down and impairment of financial assets	2.2D	**11,919**	59,585	4,286
Write-down and impairment of non-financial assets	2.2E	**2,676**	17,336	-
Interest on lease liabilities		**2**	3	112
Other expenses	2.2F	**1,992**	948	1,414
Total expenses		**2,699,293**	2,203,224	2,410,474
Net contribution by services		**11,018,979**	15,906,571	15,094,849
Surplus		**11,018,979**	15,906,571	15,094,849
Other comprehensive income				
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services				
Changes in asset revaluation surplus	4.2	**45,333**	-	-
Total other comprehensive income		**45,333**	-	-
Total comprehensive income		**11,064,312**	15,906,571	15,094,849

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
Refer to Note 8.3 for explanations of major budget variances.

Department of Home Affairs
Administered schedule of assets and liabilities
As at 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	Original Budget $'000
Assets				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	4.1A	**162,816**	141,102	120,670
Taxation receivables	4.1B	**320,874**	341,356	380,134
Trade and other receivables	4.1C	**36,331**	32,021	26,066
Total financial assets		**520,021**	514,479	526,870
Non-financial assets[a]				
Land	4.2	**125,297**	125,129	125,129
Buildings	4.2	**433,571**	460,095	500,085
Leasehold improvements	4.2	**79,926**	77,136	83,840
Vessels	4.2	**132,125**	38,394	132,748
Plant and equipment	4.2	**281,081**	265,746	285,174
Computer software	4.2	**1,370**	1,827	240
Prepayments		**563**	8,850	19,099
Total non-financial assets		**1,053,933**	977,177	1,146,315
Total assets administered on behalf of Government		**1,573,954**	1,491,656	1,673,185
Liabilities				
Payables				
Suppliers		**302,733**	291,328	222,314
Personal benefits	4.3A	**6,443**	8,759	17,428
Grants and contributions		**5,915**	8,596	1,759
Unearned income		**26,842**	34,412	31,048
Other payables	4.3B	**17,218**	15,748	56,710
Total payables		**359,151**	358,843	329,259
Interest bearing liabilities				
Leases	4.4	**59**	196	326
Total interest bearing liabilities		**59**	196	326
Provisions				
Bonds and security deposits	4.5	**6,302**	7,616	8,255
Total Provisions		**6,302**	7,616	8,255
Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government		**365,512**	366,655	337,840
Net assets		**1,208,442**	1,125,001	1,335,345

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
Refer to Note 8.3 for explanations of major budget variances.
a. Right-of-use assets are included in buildings and plant and equipment.

Department of Home Affairs
Administered reconciliation schedule
For the period ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July		**1,125,001**	1,209,129
Net contribution by services			
Income		**13,718,272**	18,109,795
Expenses		**(2,699,293)**	(2,203,224)
Other comprehensive income			
Administered revaluations taken to reserves	4.2	**45,333**	-
Transfers (to)/from the Australian Government			
Appropriation transfers from the OPA			
Annual appropriation for administered expenses		**2,703,696**	2,046,601
Administered assets and liabilities appropriations		**121,452**	61,385
Special appropriations (unlimited)			
Payments to entities other than corporate Commonwealth entities		**1,746,658**	830,959
Appropriation transfers to the OPA			
Transfers to the OPA		**(15,584,329)**	(18,929,644)
Restructuring	8.2B	**31,652**	-
Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June		**1,208,442**	1,125,001

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Accounting policy

Administered cash transfers to and from the OPA

Revenue collected by the department for use by Government, rather than the department, is classified as administered revenue. Collections are transferred to the OPA maintained by the Department of Finance. Conversely, cash is drawn from the OPA to make payments under Parliamentary appropriation on behalf of Government. These transfers to and from the OPA are adjustments to the administered cash held by the department on behalf of Government and reported as such in the administered reconciliation schedule and the administered cash flow statement.

Department of Home Affairs
Administered cash flow statement
For the period ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Operating activities			
Cash received			
Customs duty		**6,982,189**	11,908,441
Visa Application Charges		**4,653,412**	4,192,178
Passenger Movement Charge		**1,448,611**	1,301,109
Import Processing Charges		**485,840**	470,189
GST received		**131,085**	104,423
Contracts with customers[a]		**128,613**	132,366
Fines penalties and prosecution		**8,220**	9,929
Special account		**4,997**	3,788
Bonds received		**1,050**	1,125
Security deposits		**4,073**	842
Other		**7,919**	3,502
Total cash received		**13,856,009**	18,127,892
Cash used			
Suppliers		**1,854,627**	1,792,004
Personal benefits		**66,642**	85,373
Grants and contributions paid		**804,057**	176,212
Tourist Refund Scheme		**355,811**	318,721
Refunds of GST (on imports), WET[b] and LCT[c]		**23,727**	32,803
Bonds paid		**890**	1,740
Security deposits		**5,547**	866
Employees		**765**	287
Interest payments on lease liabilities		**2**	3
Other		**64**	121
Total cash used		**3,112,132**	2,408,130
Net cash from operating activities		**10,743,877**	15,719,762
Investing activities			
Cash used			
Purchase of non-financial assets		**122,354**	60,079
Total cash used		**122,354**	60,079
Net cash (used by) investing activities		**(122,354)**	(60,079)

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
a. Revenue from contracts with customers are disclosed in Note 2.1B
b. Wine Equalisation Tax (WET)
c. Luxury Car Tax (LCT)

Department of Home Affairs
Administered cash flow statement
For the period ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Financing activities			
Cash received			
Contributed equity		**121,452**	61,385
Restructuring		**33,313**	-
Total cash received		**154,765**	61,385
Cash used			
Principal payments on lease liabilities		**137**	130
Total cash used		**137**	130
Net cash from financing activities		**154,628**	61,255
Net increase in cash held		**10,776,151**	15,720,938
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		**141,102**	120,671
Cash from the Official Public Account			
Appropriations		**4,450,354**	2,877,560
Refunds of GST (on imports), WET[a] and LCT[b]		**23,727**	32,803
Tourist Refund Scheme		**358,019**	320,649
Total cash from the Official Public Account		**4,832,100**	3,231,012
Cash to the Official Public Account			
Administered receipts		**15,584,329**	18,929,591
Return of Tourist Refund Scheme drawings		**2,208**	1,928
Total cash to the Official Public Account		**15,586,537**	18,931,519
Cash on hand or on deposit at the end of the reporting period		**144,963**	137,037
Cash in special accounts at the end of the reporting period		**17,853**	4,065
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	4.1A	**162,816**	141,102

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
a. Wine Equalisation Tax (WET)
b. Luxury Car Tax (LCT)

Overview

Objectives of the Department

The department is an Australian Government controlled not-for-profit, non-corporate Commonwealth Entity. The department is responsible for leadership and central coordination of policy, programs, regulations and operations relating to national security and resilience, law enforcement, migration and citizenship, multicultural affairs, and border management and security.

Details of planned activities for the year can be found in the department's 2025-26 Portfolio Budget Statements which have been tabled in Parliament.

The continued existence of the department in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing funding by Parliament for the department's administration and programs.

The department is structured to meet three outcomes.

Outcome	Activity
Outcome 1: Deliver national coordination regulation and policy that safeguard Australia's domestic interests from national security threats, including cyber threats.	**Program 1.1:** Transport Security (departmental) **Program 1.2:** National Security and Resilience (departmental and administered) **Program 1.3:** Cyber Security (departmental and administered) **Program 1.4:** Counter Terrorism (departmental and administered) **Program 1.5:** Regional Cooperation (departmental and administered)
Outcome 2: Support a united and prosperous Australia through effective coordination and delivery of immigration and citizenship policy and programs underpinned by robust integrity and assurance.	**Program 2.1:** Migration (departmental) **Program 2.2:** Visas (departmental and administered) **Program 2.3:** Refugee, Humanitarian, Settlement and Migrant Services (departmental and administered) **Program 2.4:** Unauthorised Maritime Arrival (UMA) Offshore Management (departmental and administered) **Program 2.5:** Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship (departmental and administered)
Outcome 3: Advance a prosperous and secure Australia through trade and travel facilitation and modernisation, and effective customs, immigration, maritime and enforcement activities across the border continuum.	**Program 3.1:** Trade Facilitation and Industry Engagement (departmental) **Program 3.2:** Border Management (departmental and administered) **Program 3.3:** Border Revenue (departmental and administered) **Program 3.4:** Border Enforcement (departmental and administered) **Program 3.5:** Onshore Compliance and Detention (departmental and administered)

Basis of preparation of the financial statements

These financial statements are required by section 42 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and have been prepared in accordance with:

- the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015* (FRR); and
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations – simplified disclosures for Tier 2 Entities under AASB 1060 issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that apply for the reporting period except leases which are reported under Tier 1 requirements.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities which have been reported at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance has been made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified.

The accounting policies described throughout the notes to the financial statements are applied consistently across all activities, whether departmental or administered. Disclosures about administered accounting policies include only items or treatments which are specific to administered activities.

Reporting of departmental activities

Departmental activities involve the use of assets, liabilities, income and expenses controlled or incurred by the department in its own right whereas administered activities are controlled or incurred by Government.

Reporting of administered activities

Administered revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and cash flows are disclosed in the administered schedules and related notes. Except where otherwise stated, administered items are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for departmental items, including the application of Australian Accounting Standards.

New Accounting Standards

Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

There were no new or amending Australian Accounting Standards issued prior to the signing of the Statement by Secretary and Chief Finance Officer applicable to the current reporting period that had a material impact on the department's financial statements.

Taxation

The department is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax and GST. Receivables and payables are recognised inclusive of GST. All other revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities are recognised net of GST except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Key accounting judgements and estimates

In applying the department's accounting policies, management has made a number of accounting judgements and applied estimates and assumptions to future events. Judgements and estimates that are material to the financial statements are found within the following notes:

- 2.1 Administered - Income
- 3.1 Departmental – Financial assets
- 3.2 Departmental – Non-financial assets
- 3.4 Departmental – Interest bearing liabilities
- 3.5 Departmental – Provisions
- 4.1 Administered – Financial assets
- 4.2 Administered – Non-financial assets
- 6.1 Departmental – Employee expenses and provisions

Events after the reporting period

Change in classification of Civil Maritime Capability contracts

As part of the 2025-26 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook and 2026-27 Budget processes, the Government determined that payments for certain third-party contracts in the department's Civil Maritime Capability program will be funded from administered appropriations from 1 July 2026. These include aerial surveillance and vessel lease contracts, and contracts to construct Evolved Cape Class Patrol vessels. Payments under these contracts, where relevant, were met from departmental appropriations in 2025-26 and previous years.

The change in classification will result in the reclassification of certain Right-of -Use assets and Lease liability balances from 1 July 2026 in addition to the change in related contract payments from the departmental to administered schedules in the 2026-27 financial year.

The following departmental lease related balances will be reclassified as administered leases from 1 July 2026 and disclosed in the restructuring note to the 2026-27 financial statements

	$000
Right-of-Use assets – Vessels	47,606
Right-of-Use assets – Property, plant and Equipment	3,827
Lease liability	52,751

Department of Home Affairs
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

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1. Departmental financial performance

1.1 Expenses

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Note 1.1A: Suppliers		
Goods and services supplied or rendered		
Information technology and communications	**342,327**	328,041
Contractors	**316,911**	332,661
Vessel expenses	**210,399**	164,479
General operational expenses	**174,465**	162,897
Coastal surveillance	**132,914**	122,014
Insurance, legal and litigation	**129,819**	112,899
Staff related expenses	**73,904**	80,392
Client operations	**65,684**	55,844
Property operating	**62,064**	62,776
Bank and merchant fees	**56,106**	49,191
Travel	**54,012**	73,857
Consultants	**4,325**	12,020
Audit fees[a]	**1,305**	1,761
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	**1,624,235**	1,558,832
Other suppliers		
Workers compensation expenses	**24,565**	21,845
Short-term leases	**24,142**	2,421
Variable lease payments	**4,875**	4,195
Total other suppliers	**53,582**	28,461
Total suppliers	**1,677,817**	1,587,293

a. Audit fees includes $1.140 million relating to financial statement audit fees (2024-25: $1.140 million) provided by the Australian National Audit Office (refer Note 1.2D).

The department has short-term lease commitments of $1.523 million as at 30 June 2026 (2024-25: $46.032 million).

Accounting Policy

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The department has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of assets that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (less than $10,000 per asset). The department recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Short term leases mainly comprise the lease of vessels and aircraft for initial periods of up to twelve months where it was not reasonably certain that extension options would be exercised at the commencement of the leases.

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Note 1.1B: Write-down and impairment of non-financial assets		
Land and buildings	**4,002**	2,094
Plant and equipment	**3,245**	8,544
Leasehold improvements	**1,716**	2,465
Computer software	**272**	2,197
Vessels	**11**	-
Inventories held for distribution	**-**	6,478
Total write-down and impairment of non-financial assets	**9,246**	21,778
Note 1.1C: Finance costs		
Interest on lease liabilities	**42,390**	39,402
Unwinding of discount	**2,540**	2,539
Other interest	**9**	6
Total finance costs	**44,939**	41,947
Note 1.1D: Other expenses		
Grants and contributions	**4,649**	2,400
Loss of disposal of non-financial assets	**-**	48
Foreign exchange losses	**-**	2,570
Revaluation of make-good provision	**-**	1,114
Other expenses	**372**	559
Total other expenses	**5,021**	6,691

Accounting Policy

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

1.2 Own-source revenue and gains

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Note 1.2A: Revenue from contracts with customers		
Rendering of services	**305,005**	287,329
Sale of goods	**1,728**	958
Total revenue from contracts with customers	**306,733**	288,287
Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers		
Cost recovery	**77,452**	74,561
Translating and Interpreting Service	**62,775**	55,375
ATO service agreement	**60,037**	59,218
Recovery of credit card merchant fees	**55,341**	49,377
Electronic Travel Approvals	**31,583**	29,834
Other	**19,545**	19,922
Total revenue from contracts with customers	**306,733**	288,287

Note 1.2B: Rental income		
Sub-leasing right-of-use assets	**4,561**	5,444
Total rental income	**4,561**	5,444

The department has sub-leases for commercial properties with other government agencies. Due to the nature of these arrangements, the risks associated with any rights the department retains in the underlying assets are low.

The following table sets out a maturity analysis of lease payments from sub-leasing arrangements to be received in the future. The amounts are undiscounted.

Note 1.2C: Rental income - Maturity analysis		
Within 1 year	**2,371**	3,836
One to two years	**1,736**	3,123
Two to three years	**1,576**	1,881
Three to four years	**1,562**	1,716
Four to five years	**1,562**	1,784
More than 5 years	**2,464**	4,846
Total undiscounted lease payments receivable	**11,271**	17,186

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Note 1.2D: Other revenue		
Resources received free of charge		
Comcover insurance premium offset	**3,051**	3,051
Remuneration of auditors	**1,140**	1,140
Property related	**-**	2,147
Other revenue	**553**	582
Total other revenue	**4,744**	6,920
Note 1.2E: Gains		
Foreign exchange gains	**2,822**	-
Gain on early termination of leases	**678**	1,907
Existing assets first recognised	**522**	316
Gain on sale of non-financial assets	**111**	-
Reversal of make-good provision	**-**	1,424
Gain arising from other liabilities	**-**	1,734
Total gains	**4,133**	5,381

Accounting policy

Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue from contracts with customers is recognised when all associated performance obligations have been met, either at a point in time where the ownership or control of the goods or services is passed to the customer or over time where the services are provided and consumed simultaneously. Contracts are considered to be enforceable through equivalent means where there are specific rights specified in agreement, the parties can reasonably be expected to act on their obligations, there are consequences for non-performance and/or unspent funds must be refunded. A contract liability for unearned revenue is recorded for obligations under contracts for which payment has been received in advance. Contract liabilities unwind as revenue from contracts with customers upon satisfaction of the performance obligations under the terms of the contract. The department reports contract liabilities as unearned income in Note 3.3B.

The department requires customers to pay in accordance with payment terms. Trade receivables are due for settlement within 30 days.

Cost recovery

Significant contributors to this category include recovery of legal costs and the undertaking of functions or incurring costs on behalf of other Australian Government entities in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or similar agreement. Revenue is recognised over time as costs are incurred where there is an expectation that they will be recovered.

ATO service agreement

The department has entered into an MoU with the Australian Taxation Office to support the administration of GST relating to taxable importations. The agreed annual service fee under the MoU is recognised proportionally over the course of the year.

Translating and Interpreting Service

The Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) provides an interpreting service for non-English speakers, and for agencies and businesses that need to communicate with their non-English speaking clients. TIS operates on a user-pays basis and sets its fees to recover its costs depending on the type of services provided. Revenue is recognised over time as costs are incurred and where there is an expectation costs will be recovered.

Recovery of credit card merchant fees

Merchant fees are charged to the department by financial service providers where departmental clients make payments using credit card or PayPal facilities. Under the Citizenship, Customs and Migration Regulations, these merchant fees are recoverable from clients and recognised point in time via a credit card or PayPal surcharge.

Electronic Travel Approvals

Electronic Travel Approvals are an electronically issued and stored authority that permit short-term travel to Australia for tourism or business purposes. Revenue is recognised point in time when the service is provided, measured as service fee revenue less merchant fees and refunds.

Resources received free of charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as revenue when the fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. The use of these resources is recognised as an expense. Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as gains at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another Government entity as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements.

Comcover insurance premium offset

As part of the 2024-25 Budget, the Comcover special account received ongoing appropriations from 2024-25 to assist Comcover Fund Members to manage increased insurance premiums arising from significant increases in claim expenses over the past five financial years. In accordance with advice from the Department of Finance, the department has recognised the full cost of its insurance premium within supplier expenses (Note 1.1A) with the amount offset recognised as a resource received free of charge.

2. Income and expenses administered on behalf of Government

2.1 Administered – income

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Note 2.1A: Taxation revenue		
Indirect tax		
Customs duty	**6,931,967**	11,967,791
Visa Application Charges	**4,659,562**	4,154,314
Passenger Movement Charges	**1,483,508**	1,354,080
Import Processing Charges	**485,689**	469,609
Total taxation revenue	**13,560,726**	17,945,794
Note 2.1B: Revenue from contracts with customers		
Rendering of services	**129,537**	135,490
Total revenue from contracts with customers	**129,537**	135,490
Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers		
Immigration fees	**100,981**	108,692
AusCheck	**16,467**	14,771
Licence fees	**11,413**	11,125
Other	**676**	902
Total revenue from contracts with customers	**129,537**	135,490
Note 2.1C: Other revenue		
Fines, penalties and prosecution	**8,046**	6,128
Special Account	**2,315**	2,988
Recovery of removal costs	**181**	148
Total non-taxation revenue	**10,542**	9,264
Note 2.1D: Gains		
Reversal of impairment loss - customs duty receivables	**9,092**	-
Reversal of impairment loss - other financial assets	**2,765**	-
Recovery of prior year expenditure	**5,525**	9,247
Acquisition of assets for no consideration	**-**	7,218
Existing assets first recognised	**85**	2,782
Total gains	**17,467**	19,247

Accounting policy

Administered revenues relate to ordinary activities performed by the department on behalf of Government.

Taxation revenue

Administered taxation revenue is recognised when the Government gains control of, and can reliably measure or estimate, the future economic benefit that will flow to the Government from the revenue items administered by the department. Revenues are measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable. In line with the relevant applicable legislative provisions, the revenue recognition policy adopted for the major classes of administered revenues is described as follows.

Customs duty

Customs duty comprises Commonwealth charges levied on imported goods as a condition of their importation. These charges are determined by the classification of goods under the *Customs Tariff Act 1995*. Customs duty rates vary depending on factors, such as the type of goods and country of origin. Customs duty is reported by the department in the financial statements on a net basis, reflecting gross duty collected less refunds paid and duty drawbacks. Customs duty is levied on the following items:

- excise equivalent goods, including petroleum products, tobacco products and alcohol;
- passenger motor vehicles;
- textiles, clothing and footwear; and
- other goods, including machinery, base metals, plastics and rubber, furniture, live animals, foodstuffs, chemical products, pulp and paper.

Revenue is recognised at the point in time goods are entered for home consumption in Australia, except for tobacco products where revenue is recognised at the time of importation into Australia.

Visa application charges

Visa and migration application charges are imposed under the *Migration Act 1958* and the *Migration (Visa Application) Charge Act 1997*. As these charges are refundable only in specific, prescribed circumstances, administered revenue is recognised when collected by the department. In some instances, payments are received in Australia in advance of visa applications being lodged overseas. These payments are not recognised as revenue until matched with a lodged visa application.

Passenger movement charge (PMC)

PMC is levied under the *Passenger Movement Charge Act 1978*. It is collected by carriers under formal arrangements with the Government. PMC revenue is recognised when a passenger departs Australia, subject to legislative exemptions.

Import processing charges (IPC)

IPC recover the costs associated with the department's trade activities for goods imported by air, sea, mail, or other means. These charges are set under the *Import Processing Charges Act 2001* and are levied on Full Import Declarations relating to goods with a value greater than $1,000.

Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue from contracts with customers is recognised when all associated performance obligations have been met, either at a point in time where the ownership or control of the goods or services is passed to the customer or over time where the services are provided and consumed simultaneously. Contracts are enforceable through equivalent means where there are specific rights specified in an agreement, the parties can reasonably be expected to act on their obligations, there are consequences for non-performance and/or unspent funds must be refunded.

Immigration fees

A citizenship fee is the fee imposed on Australian citizenship applications. Fees vary depending on the type of application being submitted. Fees are imposed in accordance with the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007*. Revenue is recognised at the point in time when both an application has been submitted and the associated fee paid.

Licence fees

Licences are considered to be non-contractual licences arising from statutory requirements. They consist of depot, warehouse, and broker licences issued under the *Customs Act 1901*, and migration agent licenses issued under the *Migration Act 1958* (Migration Act). Revenue is recognised at the point in time when a licence is issued or on a straight-line basis over the licence term, dependent on the nature of the licence.

AusCheck

The Background Checking services coordinated by AusCheck help manage insider threat risks in Australia's security-sensitive critical infrastructure sectors, including the aviation, maritime and national health security sectors, as well as for declared Major National Events. AusCheck operates on a cost recovery basis. Revenue is recognised over time as costs are incurred where there is an expectation costs will be recovered.

Other

Other revenue relates to various miscellaneous revenue collected by the department, including visitor and working holiday makers. Revenue is recognised at the point in time when an application has been submitted and the associated fee has been paid.

Other revenue

Fines, penalties and prosecutions

Other border related collections are fines which are charged for non-compliance with the Migration Act 1958 and Customs Act 1901. Administered fines are recognised in the period in which the breach occurs.

Recovery of removal costs

Recovery of removal costs relates to costs incurred by the department in removing or deporting non-citizens, where the non-citizen is liable for those costs under the *Migration Act 1958*. Revenue is recognised when it becomes probable that the amount will be received.

Key accounting judgements and estimates

Customs duty

An estimate for Customs duty is recognised for goods that have entered home consumption during the reporting period, but for which duty has not yet been paid. Under legislative arrangements, goods can be moved into home consumption with certain importers permitted to defer payment. The value of revenue recognised for this period is estimated based on receipts subsequent to the reporting date.

2.2 Administered – expenses

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Note 2.2A: Suppliers		
Services rendered		
Support and settlement services	**969,741**	970,570
Garrison, accommodation and security	**432,366**	519,367
Health services	**121,891**	105,745
Travel and transport	**92,917**	71,303
Advertising	**30,658**	17,925
Property	**26,398**	31,666
Insurance, legal and litigation	**19,385**	20,773
Contractors	**15,105**	14,203
Information technology and communications	**17,159**	18,407
Consultants	**505**	61
Other	**5,542**	824
Total suppliers	**1,731,667**	1,770,844
Note 2.2B: Personal benefits		
Status resolution, refugee and humanitarian services		
Direct	**24,710**	21,929
Indirect	**17,380**	29,213
State payments – refugee minors – indirect	**22,206**	26,332
Total status resolution, refugee and humanitarian services	**64,296**	77,474
Other services – direct	**-**	278
Total personal benefits	**64,296**	77,752

Accounting policy

Direct personal benefits comprise current transfers provided directly to individuals or households. Indirect personal benefits comprise benefits provided to households as social transfers and delivered by a third party (for example, medical and pharmaceutical benefits). Personal benefits are recognised when payments are made, or the department has a present obligation either to a service provider or directly to recipients. Personal benefits do not require any economic benefit to flow back to Government.

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Note 2.2C: Gifting, grants and contributions		
Gifting of public property[a]	**4,620**	8,318
Current grants and contributions		
Non-profit organisations	**357,334**	169,372
State and territory governments	**14,016**	-
Overseas organisations[b]	**417,433**	5,292
Private sector organisations	**7,947**	714
Total current grants and contributions	**796,730**	175,378
Total gifting, grants and contributions	**801,350**	183,696

a. Gifting of public property in 2025-26 includes $2.300 million for the Border Management System for the Government of Fiji, purchased under the International Capacity Building Program. Comparative information for 2024-25 included a maritime surveillance aircraft with a fair value of $6.400 million that was gifted to the Government of Sri Lanka as part of an assistance package to combat people smuggling.
b. Overseas grants include $388 million paid into the Intergenerational Trust Account and $20 million in establishment costs under the Third Country Reception Arrangement with the Republic of Naoero.

Accounting policy

Gifting of public property

Gifting of public property comprise transfers of assets that are surplus to Government requirements and expressly authorised by law. Public property is gifted in circumstances where the assets are of low value and otherwise uneconomical to dispose. Gifting may also occur in circumstances that support the achievement of Government policy objectives or where there is special significance to the proposed recipient and compelling reasons justifying gifting to that recipient. An expense equal to the carrying amount of the gifted assets is recognised when control of the underlying property is transferred.

Current grants and contributions

The department administers a number of grant schemes on behalf of the Government. Grant liabilities are recognised to the extent (i) the service required to be performed by the grantee have been performed or (ii) the grant eligibility criteria have been satisfied, but payments due have not been made. When the Government enters into an agreement to make these grants and services but services have not been performed or criteria satisfied, this is considered a commitment.

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Note 2.2D: Write-down and impairment of financial assets		
Passenger movement charge receivables	**11,919**	6,879
Customs duty receivables	**-**	51,885
Other financial assets	**-**	821
Total writedown and impairment of financial assets	**11,919**	59,585
Note 2.2E: Write-down and impairment of non-financial assets		
Land and buildings	**248**	8,722
Plant and equipment	**2,398**	3,032
Leasehold improvements	**30**	5,582
Total writedown and impairment of non-financial assets	**2,676**	17,336
Note 2.2F: Other expenses		
Act of grace payments	**1,000**	-
Employee salary and entitlements	**765**	287
Foreign exchange losses – non-speculative	**212**	661
Losses from asset sales	**13**	-
Debt waivers	**2**	-
Total other expenses	**1,992**	948

3. Departmental financial position

3.1 Financial assets

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Note 3.1A: Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash at bank	**6,001**	8,010
Cash on hand or on deposit	**122**	116
Total cash and cash equivalents	**6,123**	8,126
Note 3.1B: Trade and other receivables		
Goods and services receivables (gross)	**29,897**	40,436
Appropriation receivables		
Existing programs	**552,653**	581,207
Accrued for additional outputs	**7,240**	6,836
Variable workload agreement	**45,666**	(15,704)
Total appropriation receivables (gross)	**605,559**	572,339
Total appropriations receivables	**605,559**	572,339
Other receivables		
Legal recoveries	**89,163**	77,578
Statutory receivables	**40,315**	42,030
Other	**17,269**	23,379
Total other receivables (gross)	**146,747**	142,987
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	**782,203**	755,762
Less expected credit loss allowance	**(90,978)**	(84,836)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	**691,225**	670,926

Accounting policy

Financial assets are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less allowances for impairment losses. Contractual receivables arising from the sale of goods, rendering of services and recovery of costs have 30 day trading terms and are initially recognised at the nominal amounts due. Allowances for impairment losses on contractual receivables are recognised using a simplified approach for calculating expected credit losses (ECLs). Receivables that are statutory in nature are amounts determined under legislation or by court order. Allowances for impairment losses on statutory receivables are recognised when:

- indicators that an impairment loss event occurring exist; and
- the expected recoverable amount is less than the statutory value.

Key accounting judgements and estimates

Impairment of financial assets

Impairment losses are recognised for contractual and statutory receivables. The allowance for contractual receivables is determined based on historical credit loss experience which is used to estimate future ECLs. The allowance based on historical credit loss experience is adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to individual debtors. The recoverable amount for statutory receivables is assessed either for individual debtors when a particular loss event is identified or based on historical loss experience when debtors are assessed collectively. Impairment losses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

3.2 Non-financial assets

Note 3.2: Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment and intangibles

	Land $'000	Buildings $'000	Leasehold improvements $'000	Vessels $'000	Plant and equipment $'000	Computer software $'000	Total $'000
As at 1 July 2025							
Gross book value	21,416	2,605,650	446,693	289,163	1,147,067	1,743,929	6,253,918
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(1,088)	(834,720)	(68,256)	(27,879)	(576,512)	(1,431,086)	(2,939,541)
Total as at 1 July 2025	20,328	1,770,930	378,437	261,284	570,555	312,843	3,314,377
Additions							
Purchased or internally developed	-	6,902	12,911	1,732	126,003	106,975	254,523
Right-of-use assets	-	31,695	-	75,508	134,590	-	241,793
Existing assets first recognised	-	-	-	-	484	-	484
Remeasurement of right-of-use assets	55	19,202	-	-	(49,695)	-	(30,438)
Restructuring	-	-	-	-	-	2,262	2,262
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	468	1,027	34,110	5,854	(6,614)	-	34,845
Reclassifications	-	156	3,042	-	(11,093)	7,895	-
Depreciation and amortisation	-	(4,502)	(58,645)	(26,826)	(89,176)	(102,171)	(281,320)
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	(293)	(165,940)	-	(27,902)	(70,164)	-	(264,299)
Writedowns and impairments of right-of-use assets	-	(3,994)	-	-	(2)	-	(3,996)
Disposals	-	-	-	(333)	(62)	-	(395)
Writedowns and impairments	-	(8)	(1,716)	(11)	(3,243)	(272)	(5,250)
Total as at 30 June 2026	20,558	1,655,468	368,139	289,306	601,583	327,532	3,262,586

Department of Home Affairs
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 3.2: Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment and intangibles

	Land $'000	Buildings $'000	Leasehold improvements $'000	Vessels $'000	Plant and equipment $'000	Computer software $'000	Total $'000
Total as at 30 June 2026 represented by							
Gross book value – fair value (recurring)							
Assets under construction	-	7,096	15,733	1,895	97,004	-	121,728
Other assets in use	19,200	61,558	377,857	247,054	345,132	-	1,050,801
Gross book value – at cost							
Internally developed – assets under construction	-	-	-	-	-	131,087	131,087
Internally developed – assets in use	-	-	-	-	-	1,513,740	1,513,740
Purchased	-	-	-	-	-	137,289	137,289
Right-of-use assets	2,739	2,562,540	-	75,508	699,868	-	3,340,655
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment							
Right-of-use assets	(1,381)	(975,339)	-	(27,902)	(497,511)	-	(1,502,133)
Other assets in use	-	(387)	(25,451)	(7,249)	(42,910)	(1,454,584)	(1,530,581)
Total as at 30 June 2026	20,558	1,655,468	368,139	289,306	601,583	327,532	3,262,586
Carrying amount of right-of-use assets	1,358	1,587,201	-	47,606	202,357	-	1,838,522

There are no material property, plant and equipment or intangibles expected to be sold or disposed of within the next twelve months. No indicators of impairment, other than those adjusted for, were found for property, plant and equipment or intangibles as at 30 June 2026.

Revaluation of non-financial assets

All revaluations were conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated below. The department engaged the services of CIVAS (NSW) Pty Ltd (Colliers) to conduct a desktop assessment of all asset classes reported at fair value, as at 31 March 2026 in accordance with the department's three-year valuation cycle.

Colliers confirmed there had been no changes in economic or other factors that would materially change their opinion as at 30 June 2026.

Contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets

As at 30 June 2026, contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets amounted to $27.167 million (2024-25: $23.211 million).

Accounting policy

Non-financial assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor's accounts immediately prior to restructuring.

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located. Where an obligation exists under a lease arrangement to restore a property to its original condition, an initial estimate of these costs is included in the value of the department's leasehold improvements and a corresponding provision for the restoration obligations is recognised.

Asset recognition threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the statement of financial position, except for purchases costing less than $5,000, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are $30,000 or greater in total).

The department's intangible assets primarily comprise purchased and internally developed computer software for internal use. The recognition thresholds for internally developed software (IDS) are $250,000 for new IDS assets, $100,000 for enhancements to existing IDS assets, and $100,000 for purchased software. Purchases below these thresholds are expensed in the year of acquisition.

Leased right-of-use (ROU) assets

Leased ROU assets are capitalised at the commencement date of the lease and comprise the initial lease liability amount, initial direct costs incurred when entering into the lease less any lease incentives received. These assets are accounted for by Commonwealth lessees as separate asset classes to corresponding assets owned outright, but included in the same column as where the corresponding underlying assets would be presented if they were owned. The department has elected not to recognise ROU assets that are low value (less than worth $10,000 per asset) or where the lease term is twelve months or less.

Revaluations

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment (excluding ROU assets) are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets do not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The department has adopted a strategic three year revaluation cycle based on an assessment as to the volatility of movements in market conditions and other inputs affecting the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reversed a previous revaluation decrement recognised for the same asset class. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in the deficit attributable to the Australian Government except to the extent that they reverse a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset is then restated to the revalued amount.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. In all but limited cases, new assets acquired during 2024-25 and 2025-26 are assigned useful lives as identified below. In some limited cases, specific management advice may result in a useful life for a particular asset being assigned outside these ranges.

- Buildings on freehold land – up to forty years
- Leased land – the lease term
- Leasehold improvements – up to fifteen years and usually aligned with the initial lease term
- Vessels – five to twenty years
- Plant and equipment – three to thirty years

Intangible assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Computer software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life. The useful life of the department's software is three to ten years. Useful lives of intangible assets are determined by the business unit responsible for the asset upon capitalisation based on its expected usage. Cloud computing and software as a service arrangements are generally expensed unless there is evidence of control over the economic benefits.

The remaining useful lives and residual values for non-financial assets are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current and future reporting periods.

Componentisation of non-financial assets

Major assets, such as vessels and internally developed software, are componentised if it is likely that the components will have useful lives that differ significantly from the other parts of the asset. The useful lives of components are determined with reference to the individual component or the primary asset, whichever is shorter.

Impairment

All non-financial assets including ROU assets are assessed for impairment at the end of the reporting period where indicators of impairment exist. An impairment adjustment is made if the asset’s estimated recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount. The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs of disposal and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset’s ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the department were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its current replacement cost.

Assets under construction

Assets under construction (AUC) are initially recorded at acquisition cost. They include expenditure to date on various capital projects carried as AUC. AUC projects are reviewed annually for indicators of impairment and all AUC older than twelve months at reporting date are externally revalued to fair value. Prior to rollout into service, the accumulated AUC balance is reviewed to ensure accurate capitalisation of built and purchased assets.

De-recognition

Non-financial assets are derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefit is expected from its use or disposal. The difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset is recognised as a gain or loss in the period of de-recognition.

Key accounting judgements and estimates

Fair value measurement

The department conducts a three-year revaluation cycle that comprises a full revaluation in the first year, materiality review in the second year and desktop valuation in the third year. The 2025-26 financial year is the third year and the department engaged the services of an independent valuer to conduct a desktop valuation review of all non-financial assets held at fair value as at the reporting date. The fair value of property, plant and equipment is determined using either the Market Approach or the Cost Approach.

Market Approach

The Market Approach seeks to estimate the current value of an asset in its highest and best use with reference to recent market evidence including transactions of comparable assets. Certain items of land, buildings, leasehold improvements, vessels, plant and equipment are valued using the Market Approach. Inputs utilised under the Market Approach comprise market transactions of comparable assets adjusted to reflect differences in price sensitive characteristics including:

- recent market sales of comparable land and buildings adjusted for size and location;
- sales of comparable commercial offshore supply vessels; and
- current prices for comparable or substitute items of leasehold improvements, plant and equipment available within local second-hand markets or adjusted for location.

Cost Approach

The Cost Approach seeks to estimate the amount required to replace the service capacity of an asset in its highest and best use. In cases where sufficient observable market evidence is unavailable, the Cost Approach is applied and determined as either the Replacement Cost of New Assets (RCN) or the Current Replacement Cost (CRC).

AUC is valued at RCN determined as the amount a market participant would pay to acquire or construct a new substitute asset of comparable utility and relevant to the asset's location. Inputs including current local market prices for asset components such as materials and labour costs are utilised in determining RCN.

Certain items of land, buildings, leasehold improvements, vessels, plant and equipment are valued using CRC. Under CRC, the replacement costs of new assets are adjusted for physical depreciation and obsolescence such as physical deterioration, functional or technical obsolescence and conditions of the economic environment specific to the asset. This is determined based on the estimated physical, economic and external obsolescence factors relevant to the asset under consideration. For all leasehold improvements, the consumed economic benefit/asset obsolescence deduction is determined based on the term of the associated lease. Physical depreciation and obsolescence for buildings, vessels, plant and equipment is determined based on the asset's estimated useful life.

3.3 Payables

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Note 3.3A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors and accruals	**287,794**	323,424
Total suppliers	**287,794**	323,424

Settlement is usually made within 20 days (2024-25: 20 days).

Note 3.3B: Other payables		
Separations and redundancies	**67,102**	11,610
Wages and salaries	**60,535**	51,126
Unearned income	**27,263**	21,031
Superannuation	**10,067**	8,329
Other	**133**	120
Total other payables	**165,100**	92,216

Accounting policy

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received irrespective of whether an invoice has been received.

3.4 Interest bearing liabilities

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Note 3.4: Leases		
Lease liabilities	**2,162,618**	2,210,479
	2,162,618	2,210,479
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows[a]		
Within 1 year	**233,894**	231,011
Between 1 to 5 years	**761,356**	785,359
More than 5 years	**1,400,011**	1,479,494
Total leases	**2,395,261**	2,495,864

a. Contractual undiscounted cash flows of $53.836 million relating to leased vessel and Torres Strait aircraft are disclosed instead in administered Note 4.4, reflecting the funding reclassification effective from 1 July 2026, consistent with the Events after reporting date notes.

The total cash outflow for leases in 2025-26 was $329.535 million for the year ended 30 June 2026 (2024-25: $262.906 million).

The department has a large, diverse and geographically dispersed lease portfolio which includes land, property, aircraft, motor vehicles, vessels and equipment. The majority of the lease liability balance relates to onshore property leases which are typically long term and contain both extension options and escalation clauses.

The department in its capacity as lessee has leasing arrangements with below market terms. These are mainly located at International Airports and Sea Ports around Australia and are used for operational purposes.

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1A, 1.1C, 1.2B and 3.2.

Accounting policy

For all new contracts entered into, the department considers whether the contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use a specifically identifiable asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'.

Once it has been determined that a contract is, or contains a lease, the lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, if that rate is readily determinable, or the department's incremental borrowing rate.

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability is reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification to the lease. When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset or profit and loss depending on the nature of the reassessment or modification.

Key accounting judgements and estimates

Lease term assessment

The department makes a number of judgements and estimates in classifying and measuring Right-of-Use assets and lease liabilities. These include identification of specific underlying assets, separation of lease and non-lease components in a contract for the use of an asset, and assessment of the lease term.

The department has adopted a practical expedient to include extension options in lease terms, based on historic precedent, where the potential lease liability is less than $10 million. The department undertakes a specific assessment of the probability of exercising extension and termination options to establish the lease term where the potential lease liability is over $10 million. In these cases, the extension or termination options are included in the lease term where it is reasonably certain they will be exercised taking into account a range of factors. Assessment of the lease term is determined at the inception of the lease and is only re-

3.5 Provisions

Note 3.5: Restoration obligations

	Restoration obligations[a] $'000
As at 1 July 2025	**70,660**
Additional provisions made	**846**
Amounts used	**(2,486)**
Revaluation recognised in other comprehensive income	**1,177**
Unwinding of discount	**2,540**
Total as at 30 June 2026	**72,737**

a. The department has 98 (2024-25: 97) agreements for leased premises both in Australia and overseas with obligations that require the premises to be restored to their original condition at the conclusion of the lease. The department has made a provision to reflect the present value of these obligations.

Accounting policy

Provisions are recognised when the department has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic resources will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. If the effect of the time value of money is material, provisions are discounted using a rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. When discounting is used, the increase in the provision due to the unwinding of the discount or change in the discount rates is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

Provision for restoration obligations

Provisions for restoration obligations are recognised where the department is required to restore premises upon termination of a lease. The original estimates for future costs associated with restoration obligations are determined by independent valuation and discounted to their present value. The original provisions are adjusted for changes in expected future costs and the discount rate.

Key accounting judgements and estimates

Fair value measurement

The department conducts a three-year revaluation cycle that comprises a full revaluation in the first year, materiality review in the second year and desktop valuation in the third year. The department engaged Colliers to undertake a desktop valuation review of fixed assets and associated make-good components in 2025-26. This advice was considered in the revision of estimates for restoration of premises as at 30 June 2026.

Revaluation adjustments made in 2025-26 reflect changes to expected settlement of provisions.

4. Assets and liabilities administered on behalf of Government

4.1 Administered – financial assets

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Note 4.1A: Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	**144,963**	137,037
Cash in special accounts	**17,853**	4,065
Total cash and cash equivalents	**162,816**	141,102
Note 4.1B: Taxation receivables		
Indirect tax		
Customs duty	**469,171**	517,242
Passenger Movement Charge	**241,225**	218,247
Visa Application Charges	**6,396**	8,577
Import Processing Charges	**885**	1,036
Total taxation receivables (gross)	**717,677**	745,102
Less impairment loss allowance	**(396,803)**	(403,746)
Total taxation receivables (net)	**320,874**	341,356
Note 4.1C: Trade and other receivables		
Penalties, fines and prosecutions	**4,262**	4,973
Personal benefits	**11,011**	13,746
Statutory receivables	**34,024**	28,963
AusCheck	**3,032**	2,156
Licence fees	**362**	683
Other	**1,309**	1,794
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	**54,000**	52,315
Less impairment allowance	**(17,669)**	(20,294)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	**36,331**	32,021

Accounting policy

Taxation receivables

Taxation revenue related receivables are statutory in nature with amounts determined under legislation or by court order. Administered taxation receivables are held at statutory value less allowances for impairment losses.

Non-taxation receivables

Non-taxation receivables that are statutory in nature are held at statutory value less amounts for impairment loss allowances. Contractual non-taxation receivables with fixed or determinable payments and receipts are initially recognised at cost unless the transaction price differs from fair value in which case, initial recognition is at fair value. Any difference between cost and fair value is recognised as a loss in the statement of comprehensive income. Non-taxation receivables are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less allowances for impairment losses.

Department of Home Affairs
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

4.2 Administered – non-financial assets

Note 4.2: Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment and intangibles

	Land $'000	Buildings $'000	Leasehold improvements $'000	Vessels[a] $'000	Plant and equipment $'000	Computer software $'000	Total $'000
As at 1 July 2025							
Gross book value	125,129	522,568	85,170	38,530	300,659	3,977	1,076,033
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	(62,473)	(8,034)	(136)	(34,913)	(2,150)	(107,706)
Total as at 1 July 2025	125,129	460,095	77,136	38,394	265,746	1,827	968,327
Additions							
Purchased or internally developed	-	16,999	1,728	94,413	14,552	-	127,692
Existing assets first recognised	-	-	-	-	85	-	85
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	168	10,797	7,873	-	26,495	-	45,333
Reclassifications	-	(3,094)	848	-	2,246	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	-	(50,851)	(7,629)	(682)	(25,645)	(457)	(85,264)
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	-	(127)	-	-	-	-	(127)
Writedowns and impairments	-	(248)	(30)	-	(2,398)	-	(2,676)
Total as at 30 June 2026	125,297	433,571	79,926	132,125	281,081	1,370	1,053,370
Total as at 30 June 2026 represented by							
Gross book value – fair value (recurring)							
Assets in use	125,297	423,104	82,132	818	275,947	-	907,298
Assets under construction	-	20,980	-	132,125	11,492	-	164,597
Gross book value – at cost							
Internally developed – assets in use	-	-	-	-	-	1,041	1,041
Purchased or internally developed	-	-	-	-	-	2,742	2,742
Right-of-use assets	-	834	-	-	-	-	834
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment							
Other assets in use	-	(10,577)	(2,206)	(818)	(6,358)	(2,413)	(22,372)
Right-of-use assets	-	(770)	-	-	-	-	(770)
Total as at 30 June 2026	125,297	433,571	79,926	132,125	281,081	1,370	1,053,370
Carrying amount of right-of-use assets	-	64	-	-	-	-	64

a. As part of the 2024-25 Mid-year Economic and Fiscal Outlook, the Government provided administered funding to construct new evolved Australian Border Force (ABF) Cape Class Patrol Vessels. These vessels have been classified as administered assets in accordance with the funding agreed by Cabinet as required under the FRR. All other ABF vessels, including existing Cape Class Patrol Vessels continue to be classified as departmental assets (refer Note 3.2).

There are no other material property, plant and equipment assets expected to be sold within the next twelve months.

No indicators of impairment, other than those adjusted, were found for property, plant and equipment or intangibles as at 30 June 2026.

Revaluation of non-financial assets
All revaluations were conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy and judgements outlined in Note 3.2. The department engaged the services of Colliers to conduct a desktop valuation of all asset classes reported at fair value, as at 31 March 2026 in accordance with the department's three-year valuation cycle.

Colliers confirmed there had been no changes in economic or other factors that would materially change their opinion as at 30 June 2026.

Contractual commitments for the acquisition of administered property, plant and equipment and intangible assets
As at 30 June 2026, contractual commitments for the acquisition of administered property, plant and equipment and intangible assets amounted to $431.646 million (2024-25: $132.698 million).

4.3 Administered – payables

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Note 4.3A: Personal benefits		
Direct	**744**	673
Indirect	**3,864**	4,590
State payments – refugee minors – indirect	**1,835**	3,496
Total personal benefits	**6,443**	8,759
Note 4.3B: Other payables		
Customs refunds	**1,743**	1,741
Visa refunds	**5,563**	6,407
Special accounts	**5,337**	2,541
Legal costs payable	**4,574**	5,057
Other payables	**1**	2
Total other payables	**17,218**	15,748

4.4 Administered – interest bearing liabilities

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Note 4.4: Leases		
Lease liabilities	**59**	196
Total leases	**59**	196
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows[a]		
Within 1 year	**53,895**	139
Between 1 to 5 years	**-**	59
Total leases	**53,895**	198

a. Contractual undiscounted cash flows include $53.836 million relating to leased vessel and Torres Strait aircraft, reflecting the funding reclassification effective from 1 July 2026. Lease liabilities of $52.751 million associated with these arrangements continue to be disclosed in departmental Note 3.4, as the leases were funded from departmental appropriation as at 30 June 2026.

The total cash outflow for leases in 2025-26 was $0.139 million as at 30 June 2026 (2024-25: $0.134 million).

The lease liability reflects a property lease ending in December 2026.

As at 30 June 2026, contractual undiscounted cash flow lease commitments relating to lease contracts executed amounted to $1,335.584 million. No lease liability was recognised at 30 June 2026 as the underlying assets were not yet available for use.

The department in its capacity as lessee does not have any administered leasing arrangements with below market terms.

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying note 4.2.

4.5 Administered – provisions

Note 4.5: Bonds and security deposits

	Bonds	Security deposits	Total
	$'000	$'000	$'000
As at 1 July 2025	**3,015**	**4,601**	**7,616**
Additional provisions made	**1,810**	**4,073**	**5,883**
Amounts refunded	**(890)**	**(5,547)**	**(6,437)**
Amounts forfeited	**(760)**	**-**	**(760)**
Total as at 30 June 2026	**3,175**	**3,127**	**6,302**

Accounting policy

Provision for bonds and security deposits

The department collects and repays bonds on behalf of Government for the purposes of compliance with the *Migration Act 1958* and associated regulations. The department collects three types of bonds, namely compliance bonds, visitor visa bonds and professional development visa securities.

The department also collects and repays security deposits on behalf of Government for the purposes of compliance with the *Customs Act 1901*. Securities are held in relation to:

- dumping and countervailing;
- intellectual property rights for both copyright and trademarks;
- temporary imports (including inter-governmental);
- warehouse and general; and
- other circumstances as permitted by legislation.

Receipts from these bonds and security deposits are treated as liabilities and provided for until such time as they are either forfeited or refunded to customers. Revenue is only recognised at the point of forfeiture.

5. Funding

5.1 Appropriations

Note 5.1A: Annual appropriations

Annual appropriations for 2026

	Appropriation Act	*PGPA Act*				
	Annual appropriation[a] $'000	Section 74 receipts[e] $'000	Section 75 transfers $'000	Total appropriation $'000	Appropriation applied in 2026 (current and prior years)[c,e] $'000	Variance[d] $'000
Departmental						
Ordinary annual services	3,867,143	474,910	11,131	4,353,184	(4,304,435)	48,749
Capital budget[b]	166,199	-	-	166,199	(171,403)	(5,204)
Other services						
Equity injections	67,398	-	-	67,398	(80,453)	(13,055)
Total Departmental	4,100,740	474,910	11,131	4,586,781	(4,556,291)	30,490
Administered						
Ordinary annual services						
Administered items	3,028,296	-	15,219	3,043,515	(2,544,529)	498,986
Capital budget[b]	37,311	-	-	37,311	(25,762)	11,549
Other services						
Administered assets and liabilities	175,735	-	-	175,735	(95,690)	80,045
Total Administered	3,241,342	-	15,219	3,256,561	(2,665,981)	590,580

Department of Home Affairs
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Annual appropriations for 2025

	Appropriation Act	*PGPA Act*				
	Annual appropriation[a] $'000	Section 74 receipts[e] $'000	Section 75 transfers $'000	Total appropriation $'000	Appropriation applied in 2025 (current and prior years)[c,e] $'000	Variance[d] $'000
Departmental						
Ordinary annual services	3,591,591	271,153	(922)	3,861,822	(3,775,759)	86,063
Capital budget[b]	157,189	-	-	157,189	(156,359)	830
Other services						
Equity injections	116,874	-	-	116,874	(90,748)	26,126
Total Departmental	3,865,654	271,153	(922)	4,135,885	(4,022,866)	113,019
Administered						
Ordinary annual services						
Administered items	2,347,187	-	-	2,347,187	(1,936,593)	410,594
Capital budget[b]	24,765	-	-	24,765	(21,672)	3,093
Other services						
Administered assets and liabilities	64,949	-	-	64,949	(39,713)	25,236
Total Administered	2,436,901	-	-	2,436,901	(1,997,978)	438,923

a. Appropriations as per Supply and Appropriation Acts (1 through 4). Departmental appropriations do not lapse at financial year end, however the responsible Minister may decide that part or all of a departmental or administered appropriation is not required and request that the Finance Minister reduces that appropriation. The reduction in the appropriation is reflected by the Finance Minister's determination. Such determinations for the 2025-26 year are reflected in the relevant line.

b. Capital Budgets are appropriated through Supply and Appropriation Act (No.1, No.3 and No.5 where applicable). They form part of ordinary annual services and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts.

c. Department of Industry, Science and Resources made payments of $7.851 million (2024-25: Nil) on behalf of the department.

d. Departmental 'Ordinary annual services' variance mainly relates to drawdowns from prior year appropriations and amounts quarantined under section 51 of the PGPA Act. The departmental "Capital Budgets" and "Other services" variances relate to amounts quarantined under section 51 of the PGPA Act. The administered 'Ordinary annual services' variance mainly relates to unpaid liabilities. Also refer to Note 8.3 Budget Commentary for explanation of variances to the planned 2025-26 Budget.

e. Adjustments to appropriations include GST related receipts retained under section 74 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act). In 2025–26, the department changed the presentation of appropriations disclosed in the appropriation note to include GST amounts retained under section 74 of the PGPA Act. In prior years, retainable GST under section 74 of the PGPA Act was excluded from the appropriation note.

Note 5.1B: Unspent annual appropriations

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Departmental		
Supply Act (No. 2) 2022-2023[a, d]	**-**	11,754
Supply Act (No. 3) 2022-2023[a, e]	**-**	22,388
Supply Act (No. 4) 2022-2023[a, f]	**-**	14,821
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2022-2023[a, g]	**-**	35,362
Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2022-2023[a, h]	**-**	14,372
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2023-2024[b, i]	**13,300**	13,300
Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2023-2024[b, c, j]	**14,521**	26,021
Appropriation Act (No. 3) 2023-2024[b, k]	**80,680**	80,680
Appropriation Act (No. 4) 2023-2024[b, l]	**8,516**	10,418
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2024-2025 - Cash at Bank	**-**	8,126
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2024-2025[m]	**20,818**	213,256
Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2024-2025[n]	**34,647**	85,895
Appropriation Act (No. 3) 2024-2025[o]	**9,746**	280,538
Appropriation Act (No. 4) 2024-2025	**-**	2,976
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2025-2026 - Cash at Bank	**6,123**	-
Supply Act (No. 2) 2025-2026[p]	**655**	-
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2025-2026[q]	**156,148**	-
Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2025-2026[r]	**32,624**	-
Appropriation Act (No. 3) 2025-2026	**277,248**	-
Appropriation Act (No. 4) 2025-2026	**7,544**	-
Appropriation Act (No. 5) 2025-2026	**84,171**	-
Appropriation Act (No. 6) 2025-2026	**2,248**	-
Total Departmental	**748,989**	819,907

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Administered		
Supply Act (No. 1) 2022-2023[a]	-	5,711
Supply Act (No. 2) 2022-2023[a]	-	1,626
Supply Act (No. 3) 2022-2023[a,e]	-	228,479
Supply Act (No. 4) 2022-2023[a]	-	3,748
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2022-2023[a,g]	-	84,447
Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2022-2023[a]	-	994
Appropriation Act (No. 3) 2022-2023[a]	-	7,270
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2023-2024[b,i]	**465,707**	476,706
Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2023-2024[b]	**2,083**	2,083
Appropriation Act (No. 3) 2023-2024[b,k]	**116,181**	153,456
Appropriation Act (No. 5) 2023-2024[b]	**500**	500
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2024-2025 - Cash at Bank	-	16,324
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2024-2025[m]	**225,546**	449,026
Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2024-2025[n]	**13,962**	14,816
Appropriation Act (No. 3) 2024-2025[o]	**155,975**	220,484
Appropriation Act (No. 4) 2024-2025	**10,836**	10,420
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2025-2026 - Cash at Bank	**39,516**	-
Supply Act (No. 1) 2025-2026	**3,415**	-
Supply Act (No. 2) 2025-2026	**19,019**	-
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2025-2026[q]	**504,290**	-
Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2025-2026	**27,778**	-
Appropriation Act (No. 3) 2025-2026[s]	**274,917**	-
Appropriation Act (No. 4) 2025-2026	**33,686**	-
Appropriation Act (No. 5) 2025-2026	**42,645**	-
Total Administered	**1,936,056**	1,676,090

a. Appropriation Acts repealed or lapsed during 2025-26.
b. Appropriation Acts will lapse on 1 July 2026.
   Departmental: $117.017 million.
   Administered: $584.471 million.
c. $11.500 million funding transferred to Australian Federal Police under S75 of the PGPA Act, effective 1 July 2025.

The balances within Note 5.1B include amounts that have been quarantined by the Department of Finance and as such the department is unable to utilise the amounts detailed below in footnotes **d** through to **s**.

d. Departmental: Nil (2024-25: $11.754 million).
e. Departmental: Nil (2024-25: $22.388 million);
   Administered: Nil (2024-25: $19.921 million).
f. Departmental: Nil (2024-25: $14.821 million).
g. Departmental: Nil (2024-25: $35.362 million);
   Administered: Nil (2024-25: $21.102 million).
h. Departmental: Nil (2024-25: $14.372 million).
i. Departmental: $13.300 million (2024-25: $13.300 million);
   Administered: $181.977 million (2024-25: $181.977 million).
j. Departmental: $14.521 million (2024-25: $14.521 million).
k. Departmental: $80.680 million (2024-25: $80.680 million);
   Administered: $2.541 million (2024-25: $2.541 million).
l. Departmental: $8.516 million (2024-25: $8.516 million).
m. Departmental: $20.818 million (2024-25: $14.860 million);
   Administered: $55.378 million (2024-25: $53.364 million).
n. Departmental: $8.531 million (2024-25: Nil);
   Administered: $2.800 million (2024-25: Nil).
o. Departmental: $9.746 million (2024-25: Nil);
   Administered: $0.168 million (2024-25: Nil).
p. Departmental: $0.655 million (2024-25: Nil).
q. Departmental: $20.593 million (2024-25: Nil);
   Administered: $128.192 million (2024-25: Nil).
r. Departmental: $12.853 million (2024-25: Nil).
s. Administered: $0.250 million (2024-25: Nil).

Accounting policy

Revenue from Government

Departmental amounts appropriated for the financial year (adjusted to reflect the department's funding model agreements, formal additions and reductions) are recognised as revenue from Government when the department gains control of the appropriation, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned. The department has two funding models which inform appropriations from Government. As part of the annual funding model reconciliation process, any movements in funding earned are recognised as adjustments to revenue from Government in the current financial year. The funding models are:

- the Visa Variable Funding Model, with variable funding adjusted to reflect actual movements in workload drivers including, for example, visa finalisations and citizenship decisions; and
- the Passenger Workload Growth Agreement model which provides a mechanism for the department to adjust its funding to cater for appropriate impacts in the passenger processing environment.

Between 2019-20 and 2023-24 departmental appropriations related to the two funding models were frozen at previously agreed levels to take into account the impacts of COVID-19 on the department's workload. In 2025-26, the Visa Variable Funding Model was partially unfrozen and movements in funding were recognised as adjustments to revenue from Government (Refer Note 3.1A).

Equity injections

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a financial year (less any formal reductions) and departmental capital budgets, are recognised directly in contributed equity in that year.

Note 5.1C: Special Appropriations applied[a]

Authority	Type	Purpose	**2026 $'000**	2025 $'000
Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013, section 77	Unlimited account	Repayments required or permitted by law	**1,746,654**	834,170
Social Security (Administration) Act 1999, section 242	Unlimited account	To provide for income support payments	**-**	278
Customs Act 1901, section 278	Unlimited account	Refunds / repayments of Customs Duty	**4**	51
Total special appropriations applied			**1,746,658**	834,499

a. There was no appropriation applied against Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism (Firearms and Customs Laws) Act 2026, Schedule 2 s.5(10) in 2025-26.

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000

Note 5.1D: Disclosure by agent in relation to Annual and Special Appropriations

	ATO[a]	ATO
Total payments	**355,812**	318,721

a. The department administers the Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS) on behalf of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). The TRS allows for departing Australian international passengers and overseas tourists to claim back the Wine Equalisation Tax and/or Goods and Services Tax on goods purchased in Australia and taken with them.

Note 5.1E: Net cash appropriation arrangements

Total comprehensive loss as per the statement of comprehensive income	**(272,382)**	(299,318)
Plus: depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriation	**281,320**	266,091
Plus: depreciation right-of-use assets	**264,299**	230,433
Less: principal repayments - leased assets	**(255,909)**	(212,838)
Total comprehensive income less expenses previously funded through revenue appropriations	**17,328**	(15,632)
Changes in asset revaluation reserve	**(33,668)**	(781)
Surplus (deficit) attributable to the Australian Government less expenses previously funded through revenue appropriation	**(16,340)**	(16,413)

5.2 Special accounts

	POCA[b] 2026 $'000	SOETM 2026 $'000	SOETM 2025 $'000
Balance brought forward from previous period	**-**	**4,065**	5,316
Increases			
Restructuring	**33,313**	**-**	-
Other receipts	**873**	**4,125**	3,785
Total administered increases	**34,186**	**4,125**	3,785
Total available for payments	**34,186**	**8,190**	9,101
Decreases			
Payments made to grant recipients	**(21,048)**	**-**	-
Payments made to suppliers	**(1,691)**	**(1,733)**	(4,915)
Funds returned to Confiscated Assets Account	**-**	**(8)**	-
Funds returned to owner[a]	**-**	**(43)**	(121)
Total administered decreases	**(22,739)**	**(1,784)**	(5,036)
Total decreases	**(22,739)**	**(1,784)**	(5,036)
Total balance carried to the next period	**11,447**	**6,406**	4,065
Balance represented by:			
Cash held in entity bank accounts	**-**	**5,337**	2,541
Cash held in the Official Public Account	**11,447**	**1,069**	1,524
Total balance carried to the next period	**11,447**	**6,406**	4,065

a. Represents the return of funds that were previously seized or unidentified, where the funds were required to be returned to the owners, including owners of unidentified funds where they were subsequently located.

b. Department of Industry, Science and Resources made payments of $20.555 million (2024-25: Nil) from POCA on behalf of the department.

Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys special account

The Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys (SOETM) special account is operative from 1 July 2018 under PGPA Act Determination (Home Affairs SOETM Special Account 2018) for the purposes of crediting and disbursing amounts that are seized, found or forfeited to the Commonwealth, amounts received from other entities in order to carry out joint activities, and other activities.

Proceeds of Crime Programs Special Account

The Proceeds of Crime Programs (POCA) special account was established under the PGPA Act Determination (POCA Programs Special Account 2018) as amended on 1 September 2025. The primary purpose of the special account is to make payments under a program approved by the Minister under section 298 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

Responsibility for the POCA special account transferred from the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) transferred on 1 September 2025 as a consequence of the Administrative Arrangements Order made on 13 May 2025. AGD continued to manage and report transactions through the POCA special account under delegation from the department until it was transferred on 1 September 2025.

5.3 Regulatory charging summary

Regulatory charging activities are those activities where Government has agreed that a regulatory function is to be charged for on a full or partial cost recovery basis. This note provides industry, the Parliament and the public with assurance that these activities are being managed in a way that aligns expenses and revenues over time.

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Amounts applied		
Departmental		
Annual appropriations[a]	**501,223**	484,750
Total amounts applied	**501,223**	484,750
Expenses		
Departmental	**578,395**	553,058
Total expenses	**578,395**	553,058
External Revenue		
Departmental	**782**	923
Administered	**513,569**	495,506
Total external revenue	**514,351**	496,429

a. Annual appropriations include the cash component of expenses and any capital amounts for the given year. This excludes the non-cash expenses of depreciation and amortisation and movement in provisions.

Cost recovered activities*

*The sum of Expenses and Revenue below may not equal the financials in the Summary table above due to rounding.

Import Processing Charges and Licensing Charges

Import Processing Charges (IPC) and licensing charges recover the costs of the department's cargo and trade related activities. This includes fees for warehouse, depot and broker licences, warehouse declarations fees, location, time and travel fees along with the processing charges associated with administering the importation of goods into Australia. The majority of charges collected are administered in nature, however Government agreed that some charges be collected as departmental revenue. Charges recovered in relation to IPC and licensing totalled $488.376 million (2024-25: $472.332 million). Expenses totalled $498.113 million (2024-25: $491.235 million).

The Cost Recovery Implementation Statement for IPC and Licensing Charges is currently under review and will be published once completed.

AusCheck Background Checking Service

The AusCheck Background Checking Service coordinates national security background checks and related functions for the aviation, maritime and national health security schemes. The enabling legislation is the AusCheck Act 2007 and the AusCheck Regulations 2007. Charges recovered by the department in relation to the AusCheck Background Checking Service totalled $16.467 million (2024-25: $14.772 million) and expenses totalled $58.089 million (2024-25: $44.483 million).

The Cost Recovery Implementation Statement for the AusCheck Background Checking Service is available at https://www.auscheck.gov.au/Documents/auscheck-cost-recovery-implementation-statement.pdf

APEC Business Travel Cards

The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Travel Card (ABTC) facilitates short-term business travel within the APEC region by streamlining the entry process into APEC economies. The department of Home Affairs utilises executive power under section 61 of the Australian Constitution as both the policy authority and the legal basis for this charging arrangement. Charges recovered by the department in relation to the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) totalled $0.451 million (2024-25: $0.581 million) and expenses totalled $2.259 million (2024-25: $2.890 million).

The Cost Recovery Implementation Statement for the ABTC is currently under review and will be published once completed.

Certification of Immigration Status

The Certification of Immigration Status Issuance activity involves processing applications for Certification of Immigration Status, cancelling the visas of individuals who have departed Australia as required, and issuing the appropriate digital certification.

This activity is linked to the Departing Australia Superannuation Payment (DASP) scheme, which is administered by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), and allows individuals who meet a set of criteria to claim superannuation payments if they will not be in Australia for their retirement and are therefore ineligible to claim their superannuation benefits when they become eligible. Charging for issuance of the Certification of Immigration Status is authorised under administrative provisions, rather than direct legislative mandates. The process is grounded in section 61 of the Australian Constitution, which allows the executive government to charge fees for administrative functions. Additionally, this activity is funded through revenue receipts retained by the Portfolio in accordance with section 74 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013. Charges recovered by the department in relation to the Certification of Immigration Status totalled $0.052 million (2024-25: $0.067 million) and expenses totalled $0.064 million (2024-25: $0.081 million).

The Cost Recovery Implementation Statement for the Certification of Immigration Status is available at https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/supporting/files/certification-of-immigration-status-charging-arrangement.pdf

Office Of The Migration Agents Registration Authority

The Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (OMARA) is responsible for regulating Registered Migration Agents. OMARA ensures that only individuals who meet specific qualifications and character standards are registered as migration agents. It also investigates complaints about registered migration agents (RMAs) to safeguard consumer interests. OMARA currently regulates over 5000 RMAs. The authority to charge for an initial registration application or the annual renewal of registrations is established by the following legislation:

- Migration Act 1958: Serves as the primary legislation governing migration agent regulation in Australia;
- Migration Agents Registration Application Charge Act 1997: Authorises the imposition of charges for migration agent registration applications.
- Migration Agents Registration Application Charge Regulations 1998: Specifies the amounts for fees related to migration agent registration applications.
- Migration Agents Registration Application Charge Amendment (Rates of Charge) Act 2020: Amends the Migration Agents Registration Application Charge Act 1997 to provide that migration agents who paid the non-commercial charge in relation to their current registration but subsequently give commercial advice are liable to pay an adjusted charge.
- Migration Amendment (Regulation of Migration Agents) Act 2020: Updates provisions for adjusted fees for migration agents registered on a non-commercial basis who subsequently provide commercial immigration assistance.
- Migration Agents Instrument 2017: Establishes the fees for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) provider applications.

Charges recovered by the department in relation to the regulation of migration agents totalled $9.006 million (2024-25: $8.678 million) and expenses totalled $19.869 million (2024-25: $14.370 million)

The Cost Recovery Implementation Statement for OMARA is available at https://www.mara.gov.au/about-omara-subsite/Files/cost-recovery-implementation-statement.pdf

6. People

6.1 Employee expenses and provisions

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Note 6.1A: Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	**1,375,023**	1,254,809
Leave and other entitlements	**382,501**	361,299
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	**214,224**	188,534
Defined benefit plans	**84,203**	84,066
Separation and redundancies	**74,890**	7,916
Other employee expenses	**103,297**	96,890
Total employee benefits	**2,234,138**	1,993,514
Note 6.1B: Employee provisions		
Leave	**597,175**	555,768
Other	**5,111**	5,267
Total employee provisions	**602,286**	561,035

The 2025-26 average staffing level for the department was 16,325 (2024-25: 15,543).

Accounting policy

Liabilities for short-term employee benefits (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits expected within twelve months of the end of the reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts. The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the amounts expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

Other long-term employee benefits are measured as the net total of the present value of the obligation at the end of the reporting period less the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) from which the obligations will be settled directly.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will apply at the time the leave is expected to be taken, including the department's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

Locally engaged employees

Locally engaged employees (LEE) are covered by individual employment contracts which are negotiated between the employee and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on behalf of the department to ensure compliance with local labour laws and regulations. The individual contracts are supported and expanded upon by the department's LEE Conditions of Service Handbook which is specific to each post. Where there is conflict between the two documents the individual contract takes precedence.

Provisions for employee entitlements including unfunded liabilities are recognised in accordance with the conditions of service at each post. LEE conditions at some posts include separation payments, for any cessation of employment, based on years of service. The provisions recognised for these entitlements do not represent termination payments.

Separation and redundancy

The department recognises a provision for termination payments when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

Superannuation

The department's staff are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS), the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap), or non-government superannuation funds where employees have exercised choice. The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. The PSSap and all non-government funds are defined contribution schemes.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported in the Department of Finance's financial statements administered schedules and notes. The department makes employer contributions to the employee's defined benefit superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to Government. The department accounts for the contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at the reporting date represents outstanding contributions.

Key accounting judgements and estimates

The liability for long service leave has been determined by reference to the work of an actuarial review performed by the Australian Government Actuary (AGA) during the 2023-24 financial year. The department conducts actuarial reviews every three years unless there is evidence that changes in staff profiles suggest more frequent review. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation. The estimate of future costs requires management and independent actuarial assessment of assumed salary growth rates, future on-cost rates and the experience of employee departures. The future costs are then discounted to present value using market yields on government bonds in accordance with AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*.

The department received advice from the AGA in June 2026, recommending an increase to the on-cost rate applied to long service leave from 14 percent to 18 percent. This recommendation reflected an increasing trend of employees taking long service leave immediately prior to exiting the Australian Public Service. The department has accepted the AGA's advice and updated the on-cost allowance applied to long service leave to 18 percent.

The department conducted an assessment of changes in staffing profiles during the 2025-26 financial year. The assessment determined there were no material changes in staffing profiles and factors recommended through the actuarial review in 2023-24 remain appropriate as at 30 June 2026, with the exception of the revised long service leave on-cost rate noted above. Short term and long term salary growth rate assumptions for annual and long service leave, which the actuary advised are a matter for the department to determine, were reviewed based on economic forecasts by the Reserve Bank of Australia, pay rises due under the department's Enterprise Agreement and estimated pay rises following its expiry.

6.2 Key management personnel remuneration

Note 6.2: Key management personnel remuneration expenses

	2026	2025
	$	$
Short-term employee benefits	**7,165,677**	6,973,542
Post-employment benefits	**1,063,939**	1,042,512
Other long-term employee benefits	**180,833**	177,657
Termination benefits	**240,153**	-
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses	**8,650,602**	8,193,711

The number of key management personnel included in the above table is 18 (2024-25: 19). As this number includes managers who were only employed by the department for part of the year, on the basis of full time equivalency, the number of key management personnel directly remunerated during 2025-26 was 14.5 (2024-25: 14.4).

There are no resources received free of charge in relation to remuneration for key management personnel.

Key management personnel remuneration

Key management personnel are identified as those people having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the department, either directly or indirectly. Key management personnel includes officers serving as: Portfolio Ministers; Cabinet Ministers; the Secretary; Australian Border Force Commissioner; Head of National Security, Head of Immigration, National Cyber Security Coordinator, Deputy Secretaries; Deputy Commissioners; and other officers serving positions in line with this level of authority and responsibility. This includes officers who have acted in any of the aforementioned roles for three months or more.

The remuneration of key management personnel within the table above excludes the remuneration and other benefits of Portfolio and Cabinet Ministers. Portfolio and Cabinet Ministers' remuneration and other benefits are set by the Remuneration Tribunal and are not paid by the department.

6.3 Related party relationships

The department is an Australian Government controlled entity. The department's related parties are key management personnel (including Portfolio and Cabinet Ministers) and other Australian Government entities.

Transactions with related parties

Given the breadth of Government activities, related parties may transact within the government sector in the same capacity as ordinary citizens. Such transactions include the payment or refund of duties, taxes or other fees. Additionally, related parties may transact within the government sector as part of ordinary operations that are subject to standard processes for procurement and employment. These transactions have not been separately disclosed in this note.

The department commenced the provision of corporate services including payroll and financial management support to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) from 8 December 2022. The department also provides Information and Communications Technology support services to several agencies in, or previously in, the Home Affairs portfolio.

Giving consideration to relationships with related parties, and transactions entered into during the reporting period, it has been determined that there are no other related party transactions to be separately disclosed.

7. Managing uncertainties

7.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

As at 30 June 2026, the department had Nil quantifiable contingent liabilities (2024-25: Nil).

Unquantifiable contingencies

Claims

The department is involved in a range of litigation and other claims for damages or compensation. These include claims made in relation to alleged unlawful detention. The department is indemnified by Comcover in relation to some of these claims.

The department manages claims in accordance with its obligations under the *Legal Services Directions* 2025. It is not possible to estimate the amount and timing of any payments that may be required in relation to these claims

Accounting policy

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are reported in this note. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable, but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when the probability of settlement is greater than remote. Other contingent assets comprise potential future benefits under contractual arrangements which are contingent on future events that cannot be reliably predicted.

7.2 Administered – contingent assets and liabilities

As at 30 June 2026 the department had Nil quantifiable contingent assets (2024-25: Nil) or liabilities (2024-25: Nil).

Unquantifiable administered contingencies

Claims

The department is involved in a range of litigation and other claims for damages or compensation. The department manages these claims in accordance with its obligations under the *Legal Services Directions 2025*. It is not possible to estimate the amount and timing of any payments that may be required in relation to these claims.

Indemnities provided to state and territory governments

The department has arrangements with state and territory governments for the provision of various services (including health, education, corrections and policing services) to immigration detention and community detention facilities, as well as individuals in immigration detention. Certain jurisdictions are indemnified by the Australian Government for the provision of these services under these arrangements. These indemnities are contingent on potential losses or damages arising out of, or incidental to, the provisions of services under these arrangements and cannot be quantified.

Financial assistance for Australian victims of terrorism overseas

The *Social Security* Act 1991 establishes a scheme to provide support to Australian victims of terrorism overseas, whereby eligible recipients may receive payments of financial assistance. The Prime Minister declared 15 terrorist attacks coordinated and conducted by Hamas in Israel on 7 October 2023 as 'overseas terrorist acts' for the purposes of the Australian Victims of Terrorism Overseas Payment (AVTOP) Scheme. The Prime Minister also declared the 17 May 2024 attack in Bamiyan Province, Afghanistan as an 'overseas terrorist act' for the purposes of the AVTOP scheme. Future payments are contingent on the eligibility of potential claims and cannot be quantified.

Limited liabilities

The department contracts service providers to deliver various services for the Australian Government. In certain circumstances, the department may agree to limit service providers' maximum liability in connection with contracted services, which may give rise to a material contingent liability for the department. The department's potential losses or damages under these arrangements are contingent on amounts exceeding specified limits and other circumstances, and are not quantifiable.

Revenue collection securities

The department holds a number of contingent assets in the form of securities held as part of revenue collection processes. Securities that may be surrendered to the Commonwealth due to failure to meet legislative requirements cannot be estimated and the amount is not quantifiable. From time to time the department needs to enforce these securities and recognises an associated gain.

Abatement

The department has a number of supplier contracts under which service credits, charge reductions or other adjustments may arise where suppliers do not achieve agreed performance standards. Any entitlement to such adjustments is contingent on the outcome of performance assessments undertaken in accordance with the relevant contracts.

At the reporting date, potential recoveries under these arrangements are subject to finalisation of the relevant Performance Report and therefore have not been recognised as assets. Any adjustment to service charges will be quantified and recognised when the Performance Reports are finalised and the department's entitlement is confirmed.

7.3 Financial instruments

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Note 7.3A: Categories of financial instruments		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Cash and cash equivalents	**6,123**	8,126
Trade and other receivables	**45,588**	61,981
Other financial assets	**1,098**	1,223
Total financial assets at amortised cost	**52,809**	71,330
Total financial assets	**52,809**	71,330
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Suppliers	**287,794**	323,424
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	**287,794**	323,424
Total financial liabilities	**287,794**	323,424

Note 7.3B: Categories of administered financial instruments		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Cash and cash equivalents	**162,816**	141,102
Trade and other receivables	**271**	459
Total financial assets at amortised cost	**163,087**	141,561
Total financial assets	**163,087**	141,561
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Suppliers	**302,733**	291,328
Grants and contributions payable	**5,915**	8,596
Total financial liabilities at amortised cost	**308,648**	299,924
Total financial liabilities	**308,648**	299,924

8. Other information

8.1 Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Note 8.1A: Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities		
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months		
Cash and cash equivalents	**6,123**	8,126
Trade and other receivables	**691,225**	670,926
Inventories held for distribution	**17,921**	14,920
Prepayments	**79,197**	111,664
Other financial assets	**369**	334
Total no more than 12 months	**794,835**	805,970
More than 12 months		
Land	**20,558**	20,328
Buildings	**1,655,468**	1,770,930
Leasehold improvements	**368,139**	378,437
Vessels	**289,306**	261,284
Plant and equipment	**601,583**	570,555
Computer software	**327,532**	312,843
Prepayments	**42,047**	15,808
Other financial assets	**729**	889
Total more than 12 months	**3,305,362**	3,331,074
Total assets	**4,100,197**	4,137,044
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months		
Suppliers	**287,794**	323,424
Other payables	**165,100**	92,216
Leases	**233,894**	231,011
Employee provisions	**197,384**	155,725
Restoration obligations	**8,267**	7,121
Total no more than 12 months	**892,439**	809,497
More than 12 months		
Leases	**1,928,724**	1,979,468
Employee provisions	**404,902**	405,310
Restoration obligations	**64,470**	63,539
Total more than 12 months	**2,398,096**	2,448,317
Total liabilities	**3,290,535**	3,257,814

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Note 8.1B: Administered - Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities		
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months		
Cash and cash equivalents	**162,816**	141,102
Taxation receivables	**320,874**	341,356
Trade and other receivables	**36,331**	32,021
Prepayments	**563**	8,825
Total no more than 12 months	**520,584**	523,304
More than 12 months		
Land	**125,297**	125,129
Buildings	**433,571**	460,095
Leasehold improvements	**79,926**	77,136
Vessels	**132,125**	38,394
Plant and equipment	**281,081**	265,746
Computer software	**1,370**	1,827
Prepayments	**-**	25
Total more than 12 months	**1,053,370**	968,352
Total assets	**1,573,954**	1,491,656
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months		
Suppliers	**302,733**	291,328
Personal benefits	**6,443**	8,759
Grants and contributions	**5,915**	8,596
Unearned income	**26,842**	33,906
Other payables	**17,218**	15,748
Leases	**59**	139
Bonds and security deposits	**5,308**	5,707
Total no more than 12 months	**364,518**	364,183
More than 12 months		
Unearned income	**-**	506
Leases	**-**	57
Bonds and security deposits	**994**	1,909
Total more than 12 months	**994**	2,472
Total liabilities	**365,512**	366,655

8.2 Restructuring

The below table provides a summary of the restructuring adjustments impacting the department during 2025-26 and 2024-25.

Function relinquished	Year of transfer	Gaining entity
Protective Services[a]	2025-26	AFP
ASIO policy and legislation functions[b]	2024-25	AGD

Function assumed	Year of transfer	Losing entity
Law enforcement policy and operations[c]	2025-26	AGD

a. Protective Security Policy and Protective Services functions transferred from AGD through amendments to the AAOs on 13 October 2022 and 3 August 2023. As a consequence of the transfer of this function, funding provided to the department for the replacement of protected vehicles was transferred to Australian Federal Police under s75 of the PGPA Act, effective 1 July 2025.

b. On 29 July 2024, the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) transferred from the Home Affairs portfolio to the Attorney General's portfolio as a result of amendments to AAO. ASIO policy and legislation functions transferred from the department to AGD.

   Assets and liabilities associated with these functions were transferred effective from 12 September 2024.

c. As a result of the Administrative Arrangements Order (AAO) issued on 13 May 2025, law enforcement policy and operations functions transferred from AGD.

   Assets, liabilities and appropriations associated with these functions were transferred effective from 17 July 2025. Responsibility for the Proceeds of Crime Programs Special Account transferred on 1 September 2025.

Note 8.2A: Departmental restructuring

	Protective Services	Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
	AFP	AGD
	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Functions Relinquished		
Assets relinquished		
Trade and other receivables	**11,500**	139
Total assets relinquished	**11,500**	139
Liabilities relinquished		
Employee provisions	**-**	139
Total liabilities relinquished	**-**	139
Net assets relinquished	**11,500**	-

	Law enforcement policy and operations	
	AGD	
	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Functions Assumed		
Assets assumed		
Trade and other receivables	**8,788**	**-**
Intangibles	**2,262**	**-**
Other non-financial assets - prepayments	**394**	**-**
Total assets assumed	**11,444**	**-**
Liabilities assumed		
Suppliers	**330**	**-**
Employee provisions	**5,680**	**-**
Other payables	**2,678**	**-**
Total liabilities assumed	**8,688**	**-**
Net assets assumed	**2,756**	**-**
Income for functions assumed		
Recognised by the department	**4,131**	**-**
Recognised by the losing entity	**93**	**-**
Total income for functions assumed	**4,224**	**-**
Expenses for functions assumed		
Recognised by the department	**21,583**	**-**
Recognised by the losing entity	**1,463**	**-**
Total expenses for functions assumed	**23,046**	**-**

Note 8.2B: Administered restructuring – functions assumed

	Law enforcement policy and operations AGD 2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Functions Assumed		
Assets assumed		
Cash in special accounts	**33,313**	-
Total assets assumed	**33,313**	-
Liabilities assumed		
Suppliers	**1,661**	-
Total liabilities assumed	**1,661**	-
Net assets assumed	**31,652**	-
Income for functions assumed		
Recognised by the department	**873**	-
Recognised by the losing entity	**24,561**	-
Total income for functions assumed	**25,434**	-
Expenses for functions assumed		
Recognised by the department	**67,888**	-
Recognised by the losing entity	**4,416**	-
Total expenses for functions assumed	**72,304**	-

8.3 Budgetary reporting

The following provides an explanation of the variance between the original budget figures as presented in the 2025-26 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) and the 2025-26 final actual result. The budget is not audited. The budget figures as published in the PBS have been restated to align with the presentation and classification adopted in the financial statements.

Explanations are provided for major budget variances only. Variances are treated as major when it is considered important for the reader's understanding or is relevant to an assessment of the discharge of accountability and to an analysis of performance of the department.

The nature and timing of the Commonwealth's Budget Process can contribute to the variances of the department. For the department's variance analysis, the major impacts include:

- the original budget as presented in the 2025-26 PBS is amended by the Government throughout the year. The department's budget for 2025-26 was updated as part of the 2025-26 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES), 2025-26 Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates Statements (PSAES) and the 2026-27 PBS; and
- the department is usually subject to a number of variable funding mechanisms which will automatically increase or decrease the departmental revenue from government in the event that specified immigration and citizenship related activity levels deviate from those which were anticipated when the budget was prepared. The variance commentary below will make mention of these factors where applicable.

8.3A: Explanations for major budget variances

Departmental income
Departmental income, including Revenue from Government, is $367 million (or 9.5%) higher than the original budget. This is mainly due to:

- Revenue from Government being $276.4 million (or 7.5%) higher than the original budget, mainly as a result of new measures and estimate variations outlined in the 2025-26 PAES and 2026-27 PBS;
- Own-Source Revenue being $90.5 million (or 39.4%) higher than the original budget, primarily due to higher volumes for Translating and Interpreting Services, cost recovery and recovery of merchant fees.

Departmental Expenses
Departmental expenses are $418.8 million (or 10.2%) higher than the original budget. This is mainly due to:

- Employee benefits expenses being $264.4 million (or 13.4%) higher than originally budgeted, primarily driven by higher staffing levels arising from additional funding provided under the Visa Variable Funding Model and costs associated with the voluntary redundancy program;
- Supplier expenses being $39.4 million (or 2.4%) higher than originally budgeted, primarily reflecting operational expenditure from additional funding for activities provided during the year in the 2025-26 PAES and 2026-27 PBS;
- Depreciation and amortisation expenses being $85.5 million (or 18.6%) higher than originally budgeted, primarily driven by new and amended leases and new asset acquisitions during the financial year that were not fully anticipated when the budget was finalised; and
- Expenses of $22.4 million for impairment of financial and non-financial assets cannot be reliably predicted and were not budgeted.

Other Comprehensive Income
The variance in Other Comprehensive Income of $33.7 million reflects the change in asset values as a result of the asset valuation process that was not specifically budgeted for.

Departmental Assets
Total departmental assets are $138.5 million (or 3.5%) higher than the original budget mainly due to:

- Trade and other receivables being $120.4 million (or 21.1%) higher than the original budget, primarily driven by increases in appropriation receivable; and
- Non-financial assets being $21.3 million (or 0.6%) higher than the original budget, primarily driven by higher prepayments for software and hardware maintenance contracts.

Departmental Liabilities
Total departmental liabilities are $273.9 million (or 9.1%) higher than the original budget mainly due to:

- Other payables being $91 million (or 122.7%) higher than the original budget, which can be attributed to an increase in separations and redundancies, including the voluntary redundancy program;
- Employee provisions being $96.3 million (or 19%) higher than the original budget, primarily driven by an increase in staffing levels; and
- Lease liabilities being $56 million (or 2.7%) higher than the original budget, as a result of new and amended leases entered during the financial year, which were not anticipated when the budget was finalised.

Departmental Cash Flow
The amounts reported in the departmental Cash Flow Statement are interrelated with figures disclosed in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position. Consequently, variances in the Statement will be attributable to the relevant variance explanations provided above under departmental expenses, departmental revenue, departmental assets and departmental liabilities.

8.3B: Explanations for major administered budget variances

Administered Income
Administered income is lower than the original budget by $3.8 billion (or 22%) mainly due to:

- Customs duty revenue being $4.4 billion (or 39%) lower than the original budget, attributed to lower-than-expected tobacco collections; partially offset by
- Collections in Visa Application Charge, Passenger Movement Charge and Import Processing Charges revenue being higher than the original budget, resulting in $0.6 billion additional revenue.

Administered Expenses
Administered expenses were higher than original budget by $288.8 million (or 12%) mainly due to:

- Gifting, grants and contribution being $583.9 million (or 269%) higher than the original budget, primarily attributed to activities agreed after the original budget was finalised, including:
  - a $408 million contribution under the Third Country Reception Agreement to the Republic of Naoero; and
  - a further $188 million in grant funding provided to non-profit organisations, including infrastructure grants and initiatives for multicultural communities; partially offset by
- Supplier expenses being $286.4 million (or 14%) lower than the original budget, primarily attributed to full year impacts of transition to new service providers and changes in volume in demand driven programs.

Administered Assets
Total administered assets are $99.2 million (or 6%) lower than the original budget, primarily due to lower than anticipated purchase of non-financial assets.

Administered Liabilities
Total administered liabilities are $27.6 million (or 8%) higher than the original budget, mainly reflecting timing differences in the settlement of supplier payables.

FINANCIAL RESOURCE STATEMENT

Financial resource statement 2025–26

	Actual available appropriation current year (a)	Payments made (b)	Balance remaining (a)-(b)
	$'000	$'000	$'000
Departmental			
Annual appropriations—ordinary annual services[153]	4,994,639	4,475,838	518,801
Annual appropriations—other services—non-operating[154]	144,663	80,453	64,210
Total departmental annual appropriations	**5,139,302**	**4,556,291**	**583,011**
Total departmental resourcing (A)	**5,139,302**	**4,556,291**	**583,011**
Administered			
Annual appropriations—ordinary annual services[155]	2,952,384	2,570,291	
Annual appropriations—other services—non-operating	175,735	95,690	
Total administered annual appropriations	**3,128,119**	**2,665,981**	
Administered special appropriations		1,746,658	
Total administered special appropriations		**1,746,658**	
Special accounts	42,376	24,523	
Total special account receipts	**42,376**	**24,523**	
Total administered resourcing (B)	**3,170,495**	**4,437,162**	
Total resourcing and payments (A + B)	**8,309,797**	**8,993,453**	

153. Actual available appropriation for 2025–26 includes $487.061 million attributed to prior years and appropriations that were transferred from other Commonwealth entities during 2025–26 ($8.788 million). Excluded from actual available appropriation for 2025–26 are appropriations that were withheld in accordance with section 51 of the PGPA Act ($20.593 million). Includes an amount of $166.199 million for departmental capital budget. For accounting purposes, this amount has been designated as 'contributions by owners'.
154. Actual available appropriation for 2025–26 includes $102.273 million attributed to prior years. Excluded from actual available appropriation for 2025–26 are prior year appropriations that were transferred to other Commonwealth entities during 2025–26 ($11.5 million) or withheld in accordance with section 51 of the PGPA Act ($13.508 million).
155. Administered payments include all cash payments in 2025–26 for administered expenses. Includes an amount of $37.311 million for the administered capital budget. Excluded from actual available appropriation for 2025–26 are appropriations that were withheld in accordance with section 51 of the PGPA Act ($128.442 million). For accounting purposes, this amount has been designated as 'transfer from the Australian Government for administered assets and liabilities'.

Expenses for Outcome 1—2025–26

Outcome 1: Deliver national coordination, regulation and policy that safeguard Australia's domestic interests from national security threats, including cyber threats.	Estimated actuals 2025–26[156] $'000	Actual expenses 2025–26 $'000	Variations 2025–26 $'000
Program 1.1: Transport Security			
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[157]	34,859	35,351	492
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[158]	1,281	1,793	512
Departmental total	**36,140**	**37,144**	**1,004**
Total expenses for Program 1.1	**36,140**	**37,144**	**1,004**
Program 1.2: National Security and Resilience			
Administered expenses:			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5)	54,116	51,589	(2,527)
Special Account – Proceeds of Crime Act 2002	22,182	22,739	557
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[159]	21	59	38
Administered total	**76,319**	**74,387**	**(1,932)**
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[160]	147,400	150,480	3,080
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[161]	8,859	12,399	3,540
Departmental total	**156,259**	**162,879**	**6,620**
Total expenses for Program 1.2	**232,578**	**237,266**	**4,688**

156. Budget relates to the estimated actuals reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) 2026-27 which incorporates the measures provided in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) 2025–26 and Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates Statements (PSAES) 2025–26.
157. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
158. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.
159. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.
160. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
161. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.

	Estimated actuals 2025–26[162] $'000	Actual expenses 2025–26 $'000	Variations 2025–26 $'000
Program 1.3: Cyber Security			
Administered expenses:			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5)	25,569	24,056	(1,513)
Administered total	**25,569**	**24,056**	**(1,513)**
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[163]	46,464	47,689	1,225
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[164]	1,057	1,480	423
Departmental total	**47,521**	**49,169**	**1,648**
Total expenses for Program 1.3	**73,090**	**73,225**	**135**
Program 1.4: Counter Terrorism			
Administered expenses:			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5)	19,788	15,218	(4,570)
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[165]	70	75	5
Administered total	**19,858**	**15,293**	**(4,565)**
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[166]	30,740	31,136	396
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[167]	369	503	134
Departmental total	**31,109**	**31,639**	**530**
Total expenses for Program 1.4	**50,967**	**46,932**	**(4,035)**

162. Budget relates to the estimated actuals reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) 2026-27 which incorporates the measures provided in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) 2025–26 and Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates Statements (PSAES) 2025–26.
163. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
164. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, write down and impairment of assets.
165. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.
166. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
167. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.

	Estimated actuals 2025–26[168] $'000	Actual expenses 2025–26 $'000	Variations 2025–26 $'000
Program 1.5: Regional Cooperation			
Administered expenses:			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5)	67,676	60,910	(6,766)
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[169]	-	87	87
Administered total	**67,676**	**60,997**	**(6,679)**
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[170]	41,559	42,558	999
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[171]	575	821	246
Departmental total	**42,134**	**43,379**	**1,245**
Total expenses for Program 1.5	**109,810**	**104,376**	**(5,434)**
Outcome 1 Totals by appropriation type			
Administered expenses:			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5)	167,149	151,773	(15,376)
Special Account - Proceeds of Crime Act 2002	22,182	22,739	557
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[172]	91	221	130
Administered total	**189,422**	**174,733**	**(14,689)**
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[173]	301,022	307,214	6,192
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[174]	12,141	16,996	4,855
Departmental total	**313,163**	**324,210**	**11,047**
Total expenses for Outcome 1	**502,585**	**498,943**	**(3,642)**
Average staffing level (number)	**972**	**1,326**	**354**

168. Budget relates to the estimated actuals reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) 2026-27 which incorporates the measures provided in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) 2025–26 and Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates Statements (PSAES) 2025–26.
169. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.
170. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
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173. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
174. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.

Expenses for Outcome 2—2025–26

Outcome 2: Support a united and prosperous Australia through effective coordination and delivery of immigration and citizenship policy and programs underpinned by robust integrity and assurance.	Estimated actuals 2025–26[175] $'000	Actual expenses 2025–26 $'000	Variations 2025–26 $'000
Program 2.1: Migration			
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[176]	316,543	323,287	6,744
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[177]	22,126	30,932	8,806
Departmental total	**338,669**	**354,219**	**15,550**
Total expenses for Program 2.1	**338,669**	**354,219**	**15,550**
Program 2.2: Visas			
Administered expenses:			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation and Supply Acts No. 1 and No. 3)	102	44	(58)
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[178]	-	6	6
Administered total	**102**	**50**	**(52)**
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[179]	523,272	534,108	10,836
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[180]	31,203	43,614	12,411
Departmental total	**554,475**	**577,772**	**23,247**
Total expenses for Program 2.2	**554,577**	**554,577**	**23,195**

175. Budget relates to the estimated actuals reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) 2026-27 which incorporates the measures provided in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) 2025–26 and Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates Statements (PSAES) 2025–26.
176. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
177. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.
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179. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
180. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets

	Estimated actuals 2025–26[181] $'000	Actual expenses 2025–26 $'000	Variations 2025–26 $'000
Program 2.3: Refugee, Humanitarian Settlement and Migrant Services			
Administered expenses:			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5)	832,589	830,349	(2,240)
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[182]	-	21	21
Administered total	**832,589**	**830,370**	**(2,219)**
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[183]	280,135	286,232	6,097
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[184]	5,804	8,118	2,314
Departmental total	**285,939**	**294,350**	**8,411**
Total expenses for Program 2.3	**1,118,528**	**1,124,720**	**6,192**
Program 2.4: UMA Offshore Management			
Administered expenses:			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5)	897,844	787,684	(110,160)
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[185]	32,908	33,458	550
Administered total	**930,752**	**821,142**	**(109,610)**
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[186]	38,319	39,212	893
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[187]	2,529	3,524	995
Departmental total	**40,848**	**42,736**	**1,888**
Total expenses for Program 2.4	**971,600**	**863,878**	**(107,722)**

181. Budget relates to the estimated actuals reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) 2026-27 which incorporates the measures provided in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) 2025–26 and Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates Statements (PSAES) 2025–26.
182. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.
183. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
184. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.
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186. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
187. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.

	Estimated actuals 2025–26[188] $'000	Actual expenses 2025–26 $'000	Variations 2025–26 $'000
Program 2.5: Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship			
Administered expenses:			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5)	167,331	157,791	(9,540)
Administered total	**167,331**	**157,791**	**(9,540)**
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[189]	138,152	141,205	3,053
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[190]	6,987	9,756	2,769
Departmental total	**145,139**	**150,961**	**5,822**
Total expenses for Program 2.5	**312,470**	**308,752**	**(3,718)**
Outcome 2 Totals by appropriation type			
Administered expenses:			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5)	1,897,866	1,775,868	(121,998)
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[191]	32,908	33,485	577
Administered total	**1,930,774**	**1,809,353**	**(121,421)**
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[192]	1,296,421	1,324,044	27,623
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[193]	68,649	95,944	27,295
Departmental total	**1,365,070**	**1,419,988**	**54,918**
Total expenses for Outcome 2	**3,295,844**	**3,229,341**	**(66,503)**
Average staffing level (number)	**5,606**	**5,380**	**(226)**

188. Budget relates to the estimated actuals reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) 2026-27 which incorporates the measures provided in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) 2025–26 and Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates Statements (PSAES) 2025–26.
189. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
190. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.
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192. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
193. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.

Expenses for Outcome 3—2025–26

Outcome 3: Advance a prosperous and secure Australia through trade and travel facilitation and modernisation, and effective customs, immigration, maritime and enforcement activities across the border continuum.	Estimated actuals 2025–26[194] $'000	Actual expenses 2025–26 $'000	Variations 2025–26 $'000
Program 3.1: Trade Facilitation and Industry Engagement			
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[195]	63,429	65,003	1,574
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[196]	3,259	4,562	1,303
Departmental total	**66,688**	**69,565**	**2,877**
Total expenses for Program 3.1	**66,688**	**69,565**	**2,877**
Program 3.2: Border Management			
Administered expenses:			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5)	25,464	24,704	(760)
Administered total	**25,464**	**24,704**	**(760)**
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[197]	498,988	509,670	10,682
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[198]	31,716	44,338	12,622
Departmental total	**530,704**	**554,008**	**23,304**
Total expenses for Program 3.2	**556,168**	**578,712**	**22,544**

194. Budget relates to the estimated actuals reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) 2026-27 which incorporates the measures provided in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) 2025–26 and Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates Statements (PSAES) 2025–26.
195. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
196. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.
197. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
198. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.

	Estimated actuals 2025–26[199] $'000	Actual expenses 2025–26 $'000	Variations 2025–26 $'000
Program 3.3: Border Revenue Collection			
Administered expenses:			
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[200]	5,650	12,601	6,951
Administered total	**5,650**	**12,601**	**6,951**
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[201]	73,822	74,330	508
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[202]	11,291	16,937	5,646
Departmental total	**85,113**	**91,267**	**6,154**
Total expenses for Program 3.3	**90,763**	**103,868**	**13,105**
Program 3.4: Border Enforcement			
Administered expenses:			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5)	2,915	-	(2,915)
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[203]	-	60	60
Administered total	2,915	60	(2,855)
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[204]	1,549,771	1,581,402	31,631
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[205]	75,773	105,962	30,189
Departmental total	**1,625,544**	**1,687,364**	**61,820**
Total expenses for Program 3.4	**1,628,459**	**1,687,424**	**58,965**

199. Budget relates to the estimated actuals reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) 2026-27 which incorporates the measures provided in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) 2025–26 and Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates Statements (PSAES) 2025–26.
200. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.
201. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
202. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.
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204. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
205. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.

	Estimated actuals 2025–26[206] $'000	Actual expenses 2025–26 $'000	Variations 2025–26 $'000
Program 3.5: Onshore Compliance and Detention			
Administered expenses:			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5)	828,368	624,148	(204,220)
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[207]	51,308	53,694	2,386
Administered total	**879,676**	**677,842**	**(201,834)**
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[208]	345,005	352,481	7,476
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[209]	22,227	31,089	8,862
Departmental total	**367,232**	**383,570**	**16,338**
Total expenses for Program 3.5	**1,246,908**	**1,061,412**	**(185,496)**
Outcome 3 Totals by appropriation type			
Administered expenses:			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5)	856,747	648,852	(207,895)
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[210]	56,958	66,355	9,397
Administered total	**913,705**	**715,207**	**(198,498)**
Departmental expenses:			
Departmental appropriation[211]	2,531,015	2,582,886	51,871
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year[212]	144,266	202,888	58,622
Departmental total	**2,675,281**	**2,785,774**	**110,493**
Total expenses for Outcome 3	**3,588,986**	**3,500,981**	**(88,005)**
Average staffing level (number)	**9,172**	**9,620**	**448**

206. Budget relates to the estimated actuals reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) 2026-27 which incorporates the measures provided in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) 2025–26 and Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates Statements (PSAES) 2025–26.
207. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.
208. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
209. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.
210. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.
211. Departmental appropriations combine ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 5) and retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
212. Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets.

All Outcomes—Summary expense and capital expenditure 2025–26

All outcomes—summary expense and capital expenditure 2025-26

	Budget 2025-26[213] $'000	Actual Expenses 2025-26 $'000
Administered		
Expenses funded through revenue appropriations[214]		
Outcome 1: Deliver national coordination, regulation and policy that safeguard Australia's domestic interests from national security threats, including cyber threats.	189,331	174,512
Outcome 2: Support a united and prosperous Australia through effective coordination and delivery of immigration and citizenship policy and programs underpinned by robust integrity and assurance.	1,897,866	1,775,868
Outcome 3: Advance a prosperous and secure Australia through trade and travel facilitation and modernisation, and effective customs, immigration, maritime and enforcement activities across the border continuum.	856,747	648,852
Total Administered Expenses funded through revenue appropriations	**2,943,944**	**2,599,232**
Total Administered Capital Expenditure	**352,898**	**127,692**
Departmental		
Expenses funded through revenue appropriations[215]		
Outcome 1: Deliver national coordination, regulation and policy that safeguard Australia's domestic interests from national security threats, including cyber threats.	301,022	307,214
Outcome 2: Support a united and prosperous Australia through effective coordination and delivery of immigration and citizenship policy and programs underpinned by robust integrity and assurance.	1,296,421	1,324,044
Outcome 3: Advance a prosperous and secure Australia through trade and travel facilitation and modernisation, and effective customs, immigration, maritime and enforcement activities across the border continuum.	2,531,015	2,582,886
Total Departmental Expenses funded through revenue appropriations	**4,128,458**	**4,214,144**
Total Departmental Capital Expenditure	**245,657**	**254,523**

213. Budget relates to the estimated actuals reported in the Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) 2026-27 which incorporates the measures provided in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) 2025-26 and Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates Statements (PSAES) 2025-26.
214. Departmental and administered appropriations combines ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No.1, No. 3 and No. 5), special appropriations, special accounts and retained revenue receipts under s74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act). Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets, unwinding of discount on other provisions and resources received free of charge.
215. Departmental and administered appropriations combines ordinary annual services (Appropriation Acts No.1, No. 3 and No. 5), special appropriations, special accounts and retained revenue receipts under s74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act). Expenses funded through revenue appropriations exclude depreciation and amortisation, writedown and impairment of assets, unwinding of discount on other provisions and resources received free of charge.

PART 5:
MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Home Affairs enterprise governance arrangements

The department's governance arrangements support transparent, accountable decision-making, compliance with relevant legislative obligations and delivery of departmental objectives. The arrangements outlined in this chapter are consistent with the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) requirement to maintain a system of oversight and control.

As at 30 June 2026, the department maintained the following enterprise governance committees:

Executive Board

The Executive Board (EB) is the department's primary strategic governance and decision-making forum for future focused, enterprise-wide issues, and priorities. It sets direction on enterprise strategies, plans and frameworks, informed by budget considerations, emerging risks and vulnerabilities under the PGPA Act.

Quarterly Strategic Meeting

The Quarterly Strategic Meeting supports the EB by considering longer-term plans, emerging trends and strategic over-the-horizon issues to inform for future risks and opportunities.

Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Leadership Team oversees and considers the tactical issues of the week, looking at the short-term priorities of the department.

Enterprise Management Committee

The Enterprise Management Committee (EMC) monitors the department's responsibilities under the PGPA Act, *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and *Public Service Act 1999*. It provides oversight, advice and assurance on performance, risk, budget, people management, culture, work health and safety, inclusion and workforce capability.

Capability, Investment and Digital Committee

The Capability, Investment and Digital Committee oversees the establishment, management and monitoring of portfolio investments, and digital and data capabilities.

High-Risk High-Value Oversight Committee

The High-Risk High-Value (HRHV) Oversight Committee oversees the department's HRHV procurements and contracts, and makes decisions on procurements that are to be deemed HRHV and on the allocation of procurement activities.

Leadership and Development Council

The Leadership and Development Council focuses on development and management, including placement, recruitment, career development, career pipelines and succession-planning for SES officers in the department.

Internal audit arrangements

Consistent with its charter, the independent Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) endorses and oversees the Internal Audit Program (IAP). The EMC contributes to the program's development and receives regular reports on themes and issues arising from internal audits. The department monitors all internal audit recommendations.

In 2025–26, the department:

- commenced 15 internal audits, including management-initiated reviews (MIRs)
- finalised 19 internal audits (some of which commenced prior to 2025–26)
- identified 83 recommendations
- closed 65 recommendations.

Fraud control and anti-corruption measures

The department managed fraud and corruption risks arising from its operating environment through controls designed to prevent, detect and respond to such risks and support the proper management of Commonwealth resources.

The department's Fraud and Corruption Control Plan 2026 sets out its approach to fraud and corruption control and explains how it meets section 10 of the PGPA Rule and the *Commonwealth Fraud and Corruption Control Framework 2024*. The EMC oversees fraud and corruption management and receives regular reports and analysis.

The department provides staff with guidance and resources on the *APS Code of Conduct*, APS Values, and APS Employment Principles, including:

- acceptance of gifts and benefits
- ethical behaviour standards
- bullying and harassment
- managing conflicts of interest and outside employment.

Significant non-compliance with finance law

There were no instances of significant non-compliance with finance law in 2025–26.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Section 45 of the PGPA Act requires the accountable authority to ensure the department has an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC).

The Secretary established the ARC under section 45 of the PGPA ACT. The ARC provides independent advice and assurance on the appropriateness of the department's financial and performance reporting, risk oversight and management, and internal control systems.

As required by the PGPA Rule, all ARC members are external to the department and have qualifications, skills and experience relevant to the committee's functions. The ARC is accountable to the Secretary for its performance.

The department's ARC charter is available on the department's website.[216]

Table 29: Section 17AG (2A)(b)(e) PGPA Rule – Audit committee

Member name	Qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience (include formal and informal as relevant)	Number of meetings attended	Total number of meetings held during period of membership in 2025–26	Total annual remuneration (GST inc)	Additional information (including role on committee)
Don Cross	Mr Cross is the chair or member of several audit committees and sub-committees. Mr Cross has experience in government program delivery and reform, financial statement audit, and internal audit for policy, regulatory and service delivery agencies. Mr Cross holds numerous qualifications and professional memberships in accounting, fraud control, business, and auditing and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and a Certified Practising Accountant.	7	7	$69,344.95	Chair 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

216. www.homeaffairs.gov.au/access-and-accountability/our-commitments/plans-and-charters/our-service-charters/audit-committee-charter

Member name	Qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience (include formal and informal as relevant)	Number of meetings attended	Total number of meetings held during period of membership in 2025–26	Total annual remuneration (GST inc)	Additional information (including role on committee)
Tim Youngberry	Mr Youngberry has experience in the successful implementation of public financial management reforms. He has held senior executive roles in the Australian Government with responsibilities covering whole-of-government financial reporting, accounting policies, budget framework and appropriations management. He also works as an expert on public finances with the International Monetary Fund and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in a number of countries.	7	7	$51,499.95	Member 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026
Wendy Southern	Dr Wendy Southern is a retired senior public servant. She previously held senior roles in the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the Department of Health and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Dr Southern has expertise and knowledge across finance, audit and risk management strategic policy, program management, organisational reform, and governance and corporate management.	7	7	$47,190.00	Member 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

In 2025–26, the Audit and Risk Committee was supported by a number of departmental senior executives:

- Chief Operating Officer
- Deputy Commissioner National Operations
- Deputy Secretary Immigration Programs
- Chief Audit Executive
- Chief Finance Officer.

EXTERNAL SCRUTINY

Notable decisions

EGH19 v Commonwealth of Australia [2026] HCA 7

EGH19 is a citizen of Papua New Guinea who first arrived in Australia in 2000. On 10 November 2006, EGH19 was convicted of murder and sentenced to 17 years and 6 months imprisonment with a non-parole period of 12 and a half years. EGH19's Protection visa was most recently cancelled by the Minister on 20 May 2024, following a complex history of reviews.

On 18 March 2026 a 5–2 majority of the High Court held that clause 070.612A(1) of Schedule 2 of the Migration Regulations 1994 was invalid to the extent that it authorised the Minister to impose electronic monitoring and curfew conditions on holders of Bridging (Removal Pending) visas (BVRs). The provision exceeded the regulation-making power in section 504 of the *Migration Act 1958* when that power was construed subject to Chapter III of the Constitution. These conditions were imposed under the framework as amended in November 2024 following the High Court's decision in *YBFZ v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs & Anor* (2024) 419 ALR 457 (where an earlier version of the BVR framework was also found to be constitutionally invalid).

TCXM v Minister for Immigration and Citizenship [2026] HCA 13

On 6 May 2026 the High Court unanimously dismissed TCXM's appeal from a judgment of the Federal Court, finding that the Commonwealth entering into the Interim Third Country Reception Arrangement (TCRA) with Naoero was lawful and that the removal provisions of the *Migration Act 1958* validly authorised TCXM's removal to Naoero.

TCXM is an Iranian national who arrived in Australia in December 1990 as a Transit visa holder, on a fraudulent Chilean passport. In November 1995, he was granted a Protection visa (PV). In September 1999, TCXM was sentenced to 22 years imprisonment with an 18-year non-parole period for the murder of his wife. In July 2015, his PV was mandatorily cancelled under the character provisions of the Act. After being released from immigration detention in 2023 following *NZYQ v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs* [2023] HCA 37, TCXM was granted a Long Term Stay visa by Naoero in February 2025. He subsequently challenged the lawfulness of the TCRA and his proposed removal, arguing that procedural fairness was required before the Commonwealth entered into the arrangement and that the removal powers in the Migration Act did not authorise his removal in circumstances where he alleged he would face a risk of death due to his asthma condition.

The High Court found that retrospective amendments made by the *Home Affairs Legislation Amendment (2025 Measures No.1) Act 2025* (HAL Act) conclusively determined that procedural fairness was not required before entering into the interim TCRA. It rejected TCXM's arguments that the agreement remained unlawful and that the HAL Act did not authorise his removal. The High Court also held that removal to Naoero would not contravene Chapter III of the Constitution. It noted the executive's established power to deport or remove non-citizens and found that the potential consequences of inadequate medical facilities in Naoero did not displace that position.

Abdel-Hady v Commonwealth of Australia [2026] HCA 17

On 10 June 2026, the High Court held that the Commonwealth does not have a common law defence of lawful justification for the actions of Commonwealth officers in detaining unlawful non-citizens purportedly under the Migration Act in relation to the immigration detention of the plaintiff, Mr Abdel-Hady, during periods when there was not a real prospect of removal becoming practicable in the reasonably foreseeable future.
The defence was that during the detention the detaining officer knew or reasonably suspected that the detainee was an unlawful non-citizen and was therefore acting in accordance with an apparently valid legal obligation imposed by section 189 and 196 of the Migration Act, which the High Court held in *Al-Kateb v Godwin* (2004) 219 CLR 562 validly applied even to those for whom there was no real prospect of removal becoming practicable in the reasonably foreseeable future. In *NZYQ v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs* (2023) 280 CLR 137 (*NZYQ*), the High Court held that the Migration Act does not authorise the detention of an unlawful non-citizen for the purpose of their removal.

Mr Abdel-Hady, an Austrian national whose visa was cancelled under the character provisions of the Migration Act in 2017, was detained from August 2017 to February 2024. Following medical assessments, it was accepted that from 28 July 2022 he had been medically unfit to travel by commercial aircraft due to a medical condition, such that there was no real prospect of his removal from Australia becoming reasonably practicable in the reasonably foreseeable future.

The Commonwealth conceded that Mr Abdel-Hady's detention during the period between 28 July 2022 and the date the High Court made orders in *NZYQ* was unlawful and that the Commonwealth was vicariously liable for any liability arising from the false imprisonment during this period. However, the Commonwealth argued that its officers acted with an apparently valid legal obligation—which the High Court held in *Al-Kateb* applied even to those for whom there was no real prospect of removal becoming practicable in the reasonably foreseeable future—and that the officer was, as an officer of the executive government and an employee of the Commonwealth, under an independent duty to obey the law as declared by the Court. The High Court held that the defence should not be recognised to negative the common law liability of the detaining officer for the tort of false imprisonment.

Civil litigation

Under the Legal Services Directions 2025 (Cth), monetary claims against the Commonwealth or the department can only be settled in accordance with legal principle and practice. Generally, this requires at least a meaningful prospect of liability being established.

At 30 June 2026, departmental records indicate that 202 claims for compensation (and/or employment-related claims) were filed in the courts. This includes, but is not limited to, claims for unlawful detention or personal injury arising from detention, personal injury relating to or sustained in a regional processing country, employee-related matters, privacy complaints and other claims arising from activities of the department.

REPORTS BY EXTERNAL BODIES

Reports from the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

The Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman (the Commonwealth Ombudsman) released 5 reports[217] concerning the department's activities in 2025–26:

- *Righting Wrongful Decisions* – Own Motion Investigation on people wrongfully detained by the Department of Home Affairs for the period 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024 (Published 13 August 2025)
- *Actions Speak Volume 10 – Delays in processing applications for Australian Citizenship by Conferral* – This report details the Department of Home Affairs' implementation of recommendations from our investigation into the administration of Australian citizenship by conferral applications (Published 28 August 2025)
- *What if the computer is wrong? – Why agencies need to be willing to check automated decisions.* A short report under section 15 of the *Ombudsman Act 1976* (Published 23 September 2025)
- *OPCAT in Action – Onshore Immigration Detention* – This report explores the impact the Department and Australian Border Force's management of the transition in service providers had on people in detention (Published 10 March 2026)
- *Post Visit Summary – Three Maritime Vessels* – A post visit summary report on three semi-announced visits of three Australian Maritime Border Command vessels by the Commonwealth National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) (Published 21 April 2026)

217. Information on these reports can be found on the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman website.

Reports from the Australian National Audit Office

The Auditor-General released one performance audit report[218] that examined the department in 2025–26:

- Settlement Engagement and Transition Support Program (SETS) (Published 1 April 2026)

The objective of the audit was to assess whether the management of funding distributed under the Settlement Engagement and Transition Support program was effective in achieving the program objectives and consistent with the Commonwealth Grant Rules and Principles (CGRPs) (Published 4 April 2026).

Australian Human Rights Commission

Under the *Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986*, the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) can inquire into complaints of breaches of human rights and workplace discrimination.

The AHRC published 13 reports concerning the department's activities in 2025–26:

- AusHRC 182 *Mr Burgess v Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Home Affairs and Minister for Home Affairs)* – Report into arbitrary interference with family and arbitrary detention (Published 16 July 2025)
- AusHRC 181 *Mr GJ v Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Home Affairs)* – Report into arbitrary detention (Published 16 July 2025)
- AusHRC 180 *Mr DQ v Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Home Affairs)* – Report into arbitrary detention (Published 16 July 2025)
- AusHRC 186 *Mr CX v Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Home Affairs)* – Report into arbitrary detention and arbitrary interference with family (Published 16 July 2025)
- AusHRC 185 *Mr LG v Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Home Affairs)* – Report into a failure to treat a person deprived of their liberty with humanity and respect of their inherent dignity (Published 16 July 2025)
- AusHRC 187 *Mr Hanna v Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Home Affairs)* – Report into failure to create a safe place of detention (Published 12 September 2025)
- AusHRC 184 *Ms JG v Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Home Affairs)* – Report into arbitrary detention (Published 16 September 2025)

218. www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/settlement-engagement-and-transition-support-program

- AusHRC 188 *Ms FJ, Mr FK, Mr FL and Ms FM v Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Home Affairs)* – Report into arbitrary detention (Published 17 September 2025)
- AusHRC 183 *Mr NN v Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Home Affairs)* – Report into alleged arbitrary detention (Published 30 September 2025)
- AusHRC 190 *YA family v Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Home Affairs, Minister for Immigration, and Australian Border Force)* – Report into arbitrary detention, a breach of the family's rights and failure to treat the best interests of the children as a primary consideration (Published 27 January 2026)
- AusHRC 192 *Mr FH v Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Home Affairs)* – Report into arbitrary detention (Published on 4 May 2026)
- AusHRC 191 *Mr Hanna v Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Home Affairs)* – Report into use of force (Published 20 May 2026)
- AusHRC 189 *Ms BH v Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Home Affairs)* – Report into failure to treat a person with humanity and respect for their dignity, arbitrary detention, and arbitrary interference with family (Published 17 June 2026).

Reports from parliamentary committees

Parliamentary committees inquire into bills, policies or issues affecting the Australian community. The following tables list reports released during 2025–26 in which the department was the lead agency for the Government Response.[219]

Table 30: Reports from joint committees

Report	Date tabled
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security	
Advisory report on the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2025	5 February 2026
Review of the listing of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a state sponsor of terrorism under the *Criminal Code Act 1995*	12 March 2026
Review of the *Migration Amendment (Clarifying International Obligations for Removal) Act 2021*	22 May 2026

219. Information on these reports can be found on the Parliament of Australia website.

Table 31: Reports from Senate committees

Report	Date tabled
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs	
Customs Legislation Amendment (False Trade Marks Infringement Notices) Bill 2026	5 May 2026
Review of the *National Emergency Declaration Act 2020*	6 May 2026
Senate Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, References	
National Volunteer Incentive Scheme (Climate Army)	6 November 2025

Capability reviews and broader transformation agenda

Transformation Agenda

During 2025–26, the department continued to implement its Transformation Agenda, guided by the 3 pillars of Exemplary Leadership, Game-changing Agenda and Collaboration at our Core. Initiatives focused on leadership and organisational capability, innovation and collaboration across the department.

As at 30 June 2026, the department has completed more than 84% of actions under the Transformation Implementation Plan, which supports its response to the 2024 Australian Public Service Commission Capability Review.

Building on the previous year and responding to staff feedback, the department shifted its focus to consolidation and progressing initiatives within business-as-usual operations. This included supporting leadership and culture initiatives, clarifying expectations and strengthening 2-way communication.

The department focused on supporting the executive level (EL) cohort through formal and informal leadership development, promoting tools for communication and engagement between leaders and employees, and reinforcing consistent leadership expectations.

The department continued to support employee engagement and feedback-informed improvement. Monthly senior leadership webinars attracted audiences of around 5,000 staff and included live Q&A sessions. *The Chatroom* attracted more than 1,500 staff and supported discussion of complex and emerging issues with leaders and subject matter experts. The inaugural Executive Level (EL) Masterclass attracted more than 1,600 participants, providing tailored learning opportunities to more than 30% of the EL cohort.

Throughout 2026–27, the department will continue to embed transformation initiatives into everyday delivery, support visible leadership, clarify cultural and capability expectations and maintain 2-way engagement informed by organisational priorities, evidence and staff feedback.

Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion

On 9 January 2026, the Australian Government established the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion (the Royal Commission), led by the Hon Virginia Bell AC SC, in response to the Bondi terrorist attack on 14 December 2025 which targeted Jewish Australians.

Following the government's announcement, the department established a dedicated Royal Commission Taskforce (the Taskforce) to facilitate its engagement with the Royal Commission. The Taskforce is responsible for coordinating departmental responses to notices to produce information and witness statements, supporting executive decision-making and ensuring legal and recordkeeping compliance. The Taskforce also supported departmental staff preparing to appear as witnesses and worked with the Australian Government Solicitor on the preparation of evidentiary material.

In 2025–26 the department responded to 18 notices issued by the Royal Commission, producing over 5,000 documents and 9 witness statements and 4 witness testimonies including the Secretary.

On 30 April 2026, the Royal Commission delivered its Interim Report, which contains 14 recommendations for strengthening Australia's national counter-terrorism arrangements and capability. The government accepted all recommendations relating to the Commonwealth and committed to working with state and territories to adopt a national approach to implementing all of the recommendations.

As at 30 June 2026, the department has progressed the implementation of several recommendations from the Interim Report:

- Appointing Mr Brendan Dowling as full-time Counter-Terrorism Coordinator
- Formalising agreement, in consultation with the Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee (ANZCTC), that the forum is not to be used as a crisis coordination mechanism
- Seeking ANZCTC agreement to commission a review of the Counter-Terrorism Handbook
- Briefing state and territory first secretaries on arrangements to regularise briefing to the National Cabinet
- Engaging independent reviewers, on ANZCTC's behalf, to undertake a review of the Joint Counter-Terrorism Teams, with the final report to be provided to Police Commissioners and the Director-General of Security within 3 months of commencement
- Establishing a Firearms Taskforce to work with states and territories to strengthen national gun laws, including a renegotiated National Firearms Agreement and establishing the National Gun Buyback Scheme.

Five of the 14 recommendations of the Interim Report were provided to the government by the Royal Commission on a confidential basis. The Royal Commission's assessment is that public disclosure of these recommendations could prejudice public safety, operational capabilities or national security.

For the remainder of the Royal Commission, the department will continue to progress implementation of Interim Report recommendations and support the ongoing work of the Royal Commission.

The Royal Commission's Final Report is expected to be delivered on 18 December 2026.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Information requests

The department provides access to government-held information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (*FOI Act), the *Privacy Act 1988* and administrative access arrangements. Access supports transparency, informed public participation and scrutiny of government activities.

FOI caseload

During 2025–26, the department continued to experience high demand for access to documents under the FOI Act, receiving 16,281 personal and non-personal FOI access requests.

The department continued to implement process improvements intended to reduce decision-making timeframes and support client service in managing FOI requests.

Table 32: Access and amendment requests received

	2025–26	2024–25
Total requests received	**22,952**	**20,120**
Personal FOI access requests	15,534	16,651
Non-personal FOI access requests	747	666
Privacy Act (registered)	3,996	823
Amendments	2,675	1,980

Table 33: Access and amendment requests finalised

	2025–26	2024–25
Total requests finalised	**22,247**	**17,297**
Personal FOI access requests	15,546	13,386
Non-personal FOI access requests	671	684
Privacy Act (registered)	2,896	1,712
Amendments	3,134	1,515

Table 34: FOI requests finalised in time

	2025–26	2024–25
Total requests	**28.50%**	**34.90%**
Personal FOI access requests	25.00%	33.80%
Non-personal FOI access requests	67.80%	62.60%
Amendments	37.10%	31.60%

Table 35: FOI access decisions by type

	2025–26	2024–25
Total FOI requests decided	**11,012**	**7,735**
Full access granted under FOI Act	1,540	2,077
Part access granted under FOI Act	4,122	3,021
Access refused under FOI Act	2,216	1,130
Amendments under FOI Act	3,134	1,507

Information Publication Scheme

Part II of the FOI Act requires agencies to publish specified information through the Information Publication Scheme (IPS). Under section 8 of the FOI Act, agencies must prepare a plan explaining what information they propose to publish, how and to whom it will be published and how they will otherwise comply with IPS requirements.

The department's IPS plan is available on its website.[220]

220. www.homeaffairs.gov.au/access-and-accountability/freedom-of-information/information-publication-scheme

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Workforce profile

Throughout 2025–26, the department continued to provide staff with access to a professional and safe working environment, and capability development opportunities.

As at 30 June 2026, the department's workforce profile comprised:

- 16,410 total staff (15,792[221] ongoing and 618[222] non-ongoing), an overall increase of 485 from 2024–25 (15,273 ongoing and 652 non-ongoing)
- 16,225 staff located across every state and territory and 185 staff across 46 cities around the world
- 356 staff who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, compared to 327 in 2024–25
- 477 staff who identify as having a disability, compared to 444 in 2024–25
- 86.41% of staff working full-time, 10.65% part-time and 2.94% casual, in comparison to 2024–25 figures of 86.62% working full-time, 10.76% part time and 2.62% casual
- 53.75% female staff, 45.91% male staff and 0.34% staff who identify as non-binary in comparison to 53.57%, 46.11% and 0.32% respectively in 2024–25
- an average age of 43, consistent with 2024–25
- a voluntary separation rate of 6.14% for ongoing staff and an external recruitment rate of 8.44%, compared with 7.16% and 13.06% respectively, in 2024–25.

221. This figure excludes the Secretary and ABF Commissioner.
222. This figure includes 482 casual employees.

People strategies

The Home Affairs Workforce Strategy 2025–27, endorsed in June 2025, guided the department's approach to workforce management, capability development and sustainability during 2025–26. Developed in response to the 2024 APS Capability Review it aims to improve workforce planning and management, and align decisions with strategic, operational and organisational priorities.

To support the strategy, the department progressed a coordinated program of work:

- development of the Workforce Planning Framework, which establishes a standardised, enterprise-wide approach to workforce planning, integrated with business planning, budgeting and risk management activities
- continuing to adopt a location-agnostic approach to recruitment, building our workforce where the talent is available across the country, supported by leadership in location guidance
- implementing the Respectful Workplace Plan, and continued delivery of Respectful Workplace Awareness sessions by our senior leaders
- delivery of a WHS Operating Model, updated WHS Policy and new WHS Management System to clearly outline roles and responsibilities and support proactive management of WHS risks, with investment to strengthen senior leadership capability in WHS management

The department also focused on leadership capability, including:

- delivery of a tiered EL leadership pathway program to build leadership capability and networks across all locations, backed by supplementary self-paced learning
- development of an in-house SES Talent Management program, facilitated by the senior departmental leaders.

People management, learning and development

The department offers experiential, collaborative and formal learning to support mandatory APS Craft requirements and career development. Managers and staff can also access resources to identify and pursue vocational pathways.

Training opportunities delivered in 2025–26 included:

- a tiered EL Leadership Program for all EL staff
- continuation of the internal SES Talent Management Program
- National Security College bespoke executive development programs
- Sir Roland Wilson PhD and Pat Turner Postgraduate Scholarships
- continuation of the department's mentoring program
- access to over 24,000 expert-led e-learning courses
- a range of APS Academy and APS-wide learning opportunities.

Strategic Commissioning Framework

In 2025–26, the department continued to bring core work in-house under the APS Strategic Commissioning Framework. A target for a $6,834,219 reduction (GST exclusive) in supplier expenditure across procurement, financial management, project management and support, and administrative support was set.

The department partially achieved this target with an actual reduction of $3,897,883 (GST exclusive).

Employee statistics

Table 36: All ongoing employees (2025–26)

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
NSW	1,140	44	**1,184**	1,292	277	**1,569**	9	1	**10**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	2,763
Qld	785	33	**818**	761	136	**897**	5	-	**5**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	1,720
SA	372	19	**391**	405	115	**520**	4	-	**4**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	915
Tas	92	12	**104**	90	51	**141**	1	-	**1**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	246
Vic	1,303	46	**1,349**	1,307	283	**1,590**	17	1	**18**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	2,957
WA	566	17	**583**	546	138	**684**	3	-	**3**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	1,270
ACT	2,588	73	**2,661**	2,458	444	**2,902**	11	1	**12**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	5,575
NT	72	2	**74**	60	12	**72**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	146
External territories	5	4	**9**	4	2	**6**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	15
Overseas	101	-	**101**	84	-	**84**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	185
Total	**7,024**	**250**	7,274	**7,007**	**1,458**	8,465	**50**	**3**	53	**0**	**0**	0	**0**	**0**	0	15,792

Table 37: All non-ongoing employees (2025–26)[223]

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
NSW	4	78	**82**	5	122	**127**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	209
Qld	-	40	**40**	2	44	**46**	-	1	**1**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	87
SA	1	10	**11**	-	12	**12**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	23
Tas	-	6	**6**	-	5	**5**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	11
Vic	4	36	**40**	5	58	**63**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	103
WA	2	25	**27**	2	40	**42**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	69
ACT	37	11	**48**	36	20	**56**	1	-	**1**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	105
NT	-	6	**6**	-	4	**4**	-	1	**1**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	11
External Territories	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-
Overseas	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-
Total	**48**	**212**	**260**	**50**	**305**	**355**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**618**

223. Casual employees are included in non-ongoing part time figures.

Table 38: Public Service Act ongoing employees (2025–26)

	Man/male			Woman/female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
SES 3	7	-	**7**	7	-	**7**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	**14**
SES 2	25	-	**25**	20	-	**20**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	**45**
SES 1	85	1	**86**	92	4	**96**	1	-	**1**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	**183**
EL 2	538	11	**549**	579	45	**624**	2	-	**2**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	**1,175**
EL 1	1,335	36	**1,371**	1,452	285	**1,737**	1	-	**1**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	**3,109**
APS 6	1,529	53	**1,582**	1,675	402	**2,077**	8	2	**10**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	**3,669**
APS 5	1,370	34	**1,404**	1,386	286	**1,672**	15	1	**16**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	**3,092**
APS 4	939	52	**991**	1,030	271	**1,301**	10	-	**10**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	**2,302**
APS 3	1,151	47	**1,198**	728	150	**878**	12	-	**12**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	**2,088**
APS 2	44	16	**60**	37	15	**52**	1	-	**1**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	**113**
APS 1	1	-	**1**	1	-	**1**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	**2**
Other	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	**-**
Total	**7,024**	**250**	**7,274**	**7,007**	**1,458**	**8,465**	**50**	**3**	**53**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**15,792**

Table 39: Public Service Act non-ongoing employees (2025–26) [224]

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
SES 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SES 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SES 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EL 2	1	2	3	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
EL 1	12	2	14	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
APS 6	11	1	12	8	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
APS 5	4	-	4	4	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
APS 4	5	3	8	22	14	36	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	45
APS 3	13	2	15	8	8	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
APS 2	2	202	204	2	277	279	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	485
APS 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**48**	**212**	**260**	**50**	**305**	**355**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**618**

224. Casual employees are included in non-ongoing part-time figures.

Table 40: Public Service Act Employees by full time and part time status (2025–26)[225]

	Ongoing			Non-ongoing[226]			
	Full time	Part time	Total ongoing	Full time	Part time	Total non-ongoing	Total
SES 3	14	-	**14**	-	-	**-**	**14**
SES 2	45	-	**45**	-	-	**-**	**45**
SES 1	178	5	**183**	-	-	**-**	**183**
EL 2	1,119	56	**1,175**	4	4	**8**	**1,183**
EL 1	2,788	321	**3,109**	15	4	**19**	**3,128**
APS 6	3,212	457	**3,669**	19	1	**20**	**3,689**
APS 5	2,771	321	**3,092**	8	2	**10**	**3,102**
APS 4	1,979	323	**2,302**	28	17	**45**	**2,347**
APS 3	1,891	197	**2,088**	21	10	**31**	**2,119**
APS 2	82	31	**113**	4	481	**485**	**598**
APS 1	2	-	**2**	-	-	**-**	**2**
Other	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	**-**
Total	**14,081**	**1,711**	**15,792**	**99**	**519**	**618**	**16,410**

225. Figures do not include the Secretary, ABF Commissioner or Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette (ITEC) Commissioner.
226. Casual employees are included in non-ongoing part time figures.

Table 41: Public Service Act employment type by location (2025–26)

	Ongoing	Non-ongoing[227]	Total
NSW	2,763	209	**2,972**
QLD	1,720	87	**1,807**
SA	915	23	**938**
TAS	246	11	**257**
VIC	2,957	103	**3,060**
WA	1,270	69	**1,339**
ACT	5,575	105	**5,680**
NT	146	11	**157**
External territories	15	-	**15**
Overseas	185	-	**185**
Total	**15,792**	**618**	**16,410**

Table 42: Public Service Act 1999 Indigenous employment (2025–26)

	Total
Ongoing	**348**
Non-ongoing	**8**
Total	**356**

227. Casuals are included in non-ongoing part-time figures.

Workplace agreements

Table 43: Australian Public Service Act employment arrangements (2025–26)

	SES	Non-SES	Total
Enterprise Agreement	-	16,222	16,222
Section 24(1) determinations	188	-	188
Individual flexibility arrangements	0	998	998
Total[228]	**188**	**17,220**	**17,408**

Disability reporting mechanism

The *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031* is the overarching framework for inclusive policies, programs and infrastructure that will support people with disability to participate in all areas of Australian life.

Disability reporting is included in the Australian Public Service Commission's (APSC) State of the Service reports[229] and the APS Statistical Bulletin.

228. A single employee can have both an Enterprise Agreement and an individual flexibility arrangement. The totals reflect the count of individual employees with arrangements, not the total count of arrangements in place.
229. These reports are available on the APSC's website: www.apsc.gov.au/.

Salary ranges

Table 44: Public Service Act Employment salary ranges by classification level (Minimum/Maximum) (2025–26)

	Minimum salary	Maximum salary
SES 3	$403,122	$466,687
SES 2	$306,900	$374,505
SES 1	$230,383	$299,919
EL 2	$140,893	$183,347
EL 1	$121,755	$139,450
APS 6	$99,734	$111,701
APS 5	$88,834	$96,829
APS 4	$79,476	$86,246
APS 3	$70,477	$79,403
APS 2	$62,775	$68,425
APS 1	$57,497	$60,946
Other	-	-
Minimum/ maximum range	**$57,497**	**$466,687**

Employment arrangement and employee benefits

The *Department of Home Affairs Enterprise Agreement 2024–27* (the agreement) commenced on 27 March 2024 and normally expires on 28 February 2027. It applies to all non-SES employees across the department and ABF who are employed under the *Public Service Act 1999*:

During 2025–26, employees received a 3.4% increase to base salaries from 1 March 2026. Other key features of the agreement:

- Salary-setting and annual salary-advancement provisions, including advancement for eligible employees on unpaid parental leave and other unpaid leave that counts as a service
- Individual flexibility arrangements and flexible working arrangements
- Work and leave arrangements, including parental, cultural, emergency response and study leave and the Christmas closedown

- Learning and development opportunities, including mentoring, APS Academy programs, external learning, mandatory learning and cultural capability training
- Allowances for specified duties, qualifications, responsibilities and working conditions
- Annual influenza vaccinations at no cost to employees
- Family and domestic violence support, including paid miscellaneous leave, flexible working arrangements and confidential counselling.

Employees also have access to:

- Training, resources and employee networks supporting mental health, disability and accessibility, First Nations employees and LGBTQ+ employees
- Health and wellbeing initiatives, including the Fit&Well Program
- Health assessments for Australian Border Force officers to support their physical and mental health and fitness duty.

Executive remuneration

Key management personnel

Remuneration paid to Key Management Personnel (KMP) is set out in Table 45: Information about remuneration for key management personnel. The remuneration arrangements of the Secretary and the ABF Commissioner are determined by the Remuneration Tribunal and are also available on the Tribunal's website.

Table 45: Information about remuneration for key management personnel

Remuneration paid to KMP in 2025–26[230]		Short-term benefits				Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits	Termination benefits	
Name	Position title	Term as key management personnel	Base salary $[232]	Bonuses $	Other benefits and allowances $[233]	Superannuation contributions $[234]	Long service leave $[235]	Termination benefits $	Total remuneration $[231]
Stephanie Foster PSM	Secretary	1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026	938,975	-	1,287	115,819	23,873	-	1,079,954
Gavan Reynolds AO	ABF Commissioner	1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026	728,187	-	1,287	30,118	12,297	-	771,889
Lt Gen Michelle McGuinness CSC	National Cyber Security Coordinator	1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026	496,248	-	34,476	142,925	11,915	-	685,564
Jarrod Howard	Deputy Commissioner	1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026	499,958	-	1,734	71,026	12,604	-	585,322
Hamish Hansford	Head of National Security	1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026	469,807	-	1,287	78,218	12,332	-	561,644
Clare Sharp PSM	Head of Immigration	1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026	454,410	-	1,287	81,525	12,100	-	549,322
Charlotte Tressler	Deputy Secretary	1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026	443,317	-	1,734	66,817	11,857	-	523,725
Vanessa Holben PSM	Deputy Commissoner	1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026	424,840	-	1,287	64,863	11,513	-	502,503
Tim Fitzgerald	Deputy Commissoner	1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026	412,359	-	1,727	74,370	12,005	240,153	740,614
Michael Willard	Deputy Secretary	1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026	399,567	-	1,287	66,149	11,064	-	478,067
Michael Thomas	Deputy Secretary	1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026	409,816	-	1,287	53,228	11,048	-	475,379
Brooke Hartigan	Deputy Secretary	17 July 2025 – 30 June 2026	397,514	-	1,235	58,051	10,315	-	467,115
Brendan Dowling	Counter-Terrorism Coordinator	14 August 2025 – 30 June 2026	372,552	-	1,769	51,004	9,494	-	434,819
Ciara Spencer	Deputy Secretary	24 July 2025 – 30 June 2026	343,237	-	1,209	56,218	10,110	-	410,774
Sophie Sharpe	Deputy Secretary	1 July 2025 – 9 November 2025	162,833	-	463	30,055	4,068	-	197,419
Brian Hickey[236]	Deputy Secretary	18 November 2025 – 12 February 2026	91,732	-	322	14,147	2,625	-	108,826
Elissa Walker	Deputy Secretary	11 May 2026 – 30 June 2026	62,562	-	180	8,806	1,516	-	73,064
Nathan Smyth	Deputy Secretary	1 July 2025 – 2 July 2025	3,892	-	13	600	97	-	4,602
Total			**7,111,806**	**-**	**53,871**	**1,063,939**	**180,833**	**240,153**	**8,650,602**

230. KMP for the department have been assessed to be the Secretary, the ABF Commissioner, Head of National Security, Head of Immigration, National Cyber Security Coordinator, substantive deputy commissioners, substantive deputy secretaries, and other officers serving positions in line with this level of authority and responsibility. KMP also includes those who have acted in, or occupied, any of the aforementioned roles for three months or more during the 2025–26 financial year.
231. Total remuneration is calculated on an accrual basis in accordance with AASB 119 Employee Benefits with the exception of superannuation and non-monetary benefits. This means that there are differences between remuneration determined by the Remuneration Tribunal and the remuneration disclosed in the table.
232. Base salary includes salary paid and accrued, salary paid while on annual leave plus the net movement in the annual leave balance, salary paid while on personal leave, and higher duties allowances.
233. Other benefits and allowances include non-monetary benefits such as the provision of a car park.
234. For individuals in a defined contribution scheme (for example PSSaP and super choice), superannuation includes superannuation contribution amounts. For individuals in a defined benefit scheme (for example PSS and CSS), superannuation includes the relevant Notional Employer Contribution Rate and the Employer Productivity Superannuation Contribution.
235. Long service leave is calculated on an accrual basis and comprises the amount of leave taken for the period plus the net movement in the long service leave balance.
236. Acted in KMP role for a period greater than 3 months.

Senior Executive Service

All SES employees have terms and conditions of employment that are set out in a determination made by the Secretary under subsection 24(1) of the *Public Service Act 1999*. SES salary ranges are reviewed annually by the Secretary having regard to:

- the *APS Executive Remuneration Management Policy* which sets out arrangements for the management of executive remuneration, including an approval process for remuneration proposals above a notional amount
- the *Australian Government Public Sector Workplace Relations Policy 2023* which provides a framework for agencies to implement terms and conditions of employment that are affordable and support modern and agile public sector workplaces
- an assessment of relativities with other APS agencies as indicated in the annual APS Remuneration Report produced by the APSC and released in June each year.

Table 46: Information about remuneration for the senior executive

Remuneration paid to senior executives in 2025–26		Short-term benefits				Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits	Termination benefits	Total remuneration	
				Average other benefits and allowances[239]					Average total reportable remuneration[243]	
Remuneration band	Number of senior executives[237]	Average base salary[238] $	Average bonuses $	Overseas housing allowances[244] $	Other $	Average superannuation contributions[240] $	Average long service leave[241] $	Average termination benefits[242] $	Excluding overseas housing allowances $	Including overseas housing allowances $
$0 to $220,000	41	117,550	-	-	954	23,417	3,678	-	145,600	145,600
$220,001 to $245,000	10	196,652	-	-	1,539	32,678	5,408	-	236,276	236,276
$245,001 to $270,000	7	220,090	-	-	1,270	37,710	5,681	-	264,751	264,751
$270,001 to $295,000	33	238,422	-	-	1,700	38,311	6,481	-	284,914	284,914
$295,001 to $320,000	37	253,153	-	-	2,088	44,113	6,797	-	306,151	306,151
$320,001 to $345,000	22	273,599	-	-	3,690	44,825	7,312	-	329,427	329,427
$345,001 to $370,000	20	294,460	-	-	1,354	48,792	7,732	6,457	358,795	358,795
$370,001 to $395,000	11	307,580	-	-	1,713	51,943	8,543	16,369	386,148	386,148
$395,001 to $420,000	6	346,166	-	-	1,361	54,713	8,449	-	410,689	410,689
$420,001 to $445,000	7	352,876	-	-	5,808	54,709	8,902	11,398	433,693	433,693
$445,001 to $470,000	1	337,840	-	-	-	99,191	9,332	-	446,363	446,363
$470,001 to $495,000	3	176,643	-	28,201	32,307	39,936	7,216	192,274	448,376	476,577
$495,001 to $520,000	2	258,205	-	-	1,287	46,034	7,152	200,138	512,815	512,815
$520,001 to $545,000	1	255,543	-	56,415	150,464	56,676	7,047	-	469,729	526,144
$545,001 to $570,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
$570,001 to $595,000	2	260,238	-	113,826	159,597	46,103	7,013	-	472,952	586,778
$595,001 to $620,000	1	262,865	-	125,433	173,447	48,491	7,300	-	492,104	617,536
$620,001 to $645,000	1	301,704	-	166,162	104,227	62,909	8,041	-	476,880	643,043
$645,001 to $670,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
$670,001 to $695,000	1	267,944	-	119,886	256,665	37,064	6,859	-	568,532	688,417
$695,001 to $720,000	2	311,419	-	101,789	81,579	58,818	8,704	140,023	600,543	702,333

237. Senior executives comprise any individual who is an official with a classification in Group 9 to 11 of the table in Schedule 1 to the *Public Service Classification Rules 2000* and is not a KMP. The classification also includes individuals who have acted in a senior executive role for a continuous period of greater than 6 months. It includes senior executives employed for only part of the reporting period. Therefore, more than one individual may have filled a position during the course of the reporting period.
238. Base salary includes salary paid and accrued, salary paid while on annual leave plus the net movement in the annual leave balance, salary paid while on personal leave and higher duties allowances.
239. Other benefits and allowances include overseas living allowances, non-monetary benefits included in the Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) Return for the year ended 31 March 2026 such as the provision of a car park, accommodation and utilities while posted overseas and associated FBT. FBT is included in calculating total remuneration only where FBT is required to be reported on an employee's payment summary.
240. For individuals in a defined contribution scheme (for example PSSaP and super choice), superannuation includes superannuation contribution amounts. For individuals in a defined benefit scheme (for example PSS and CSS), superannuation includes the relevant Notional Employer Contribution Rate and the Employer Productivity Superannuation Contribution.
241. Long service leave is calculated on an accrual basis and comprises the amount of leave taken for the period plus the net movement in the long service leave balance.
242. Termination benefits are payments that may be made in relation to the termination of a senior executive position.
243. Total remuneration is calculated on an accrual basis in accordance with AASB 119 Employee Benefits with the exception of superannuation and non-monetary benefits.
244. Overseas housing benefits and allowances are disclosed as a separate component of 'Other benefits and allowances' and as a separate component of 'Total remuneration' to illustrate the impact that the quantum and/or nature of these particular benefits have on total remuneration while still reporting the total remuneration of each relevant staff member as required by the disclosure requirements of the PGPA Rule.

Other highly paid staff

Remuneration of other highly paid staff who are neither KMP nor senior executives is set out in Table 47: Information about remuneration for other highly paid staff.

52.49% of staff classified as highly paid related to the payment of termination benefits under the Voluntary Redundancy program.

36.10% of staff within the highly paid cohort are posted to overseas locations.

In these cases, staff are afforded additional conditions of service in the form of allowances and payments to maintain a standard of living similar to that in Australia, and for working in an environment that can be challenging due to a range of factors.

These provisions are set out in the department's Overseas Conditions of Service Policy. Employees posted overseas may reside in Commonwealth leased or owned residences at the expense of the department and the benefit value is not received by the individual as direct remuneration. Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) amounts associated with overseas allowances and payments are borne by the department and are recorded against the individual as 'Other Benefits and Allowances'.

Sea-going marine staff represent approximately 6.18% of this cohort. Terms and conditions of employment for sea-going marine staff are set out in the department's Enterprise Agreement.

The remaining staff in this cohort (5.23%) are represented by non-SES executive level staff employed in senior director roles whereby additional remuneration is provided through individual flexibility arrangements.

Table 47: Information about remuneration for other highly paid staff

Remuneration paid to other highly paid staff in 2025–26		Short-term benefits				Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits	Termination benefits	Total remuneration	
				Average other benefits and allowances[247]					Average total reportable remuneration[251]	
Remuneration band	Number of highly paid staff[245]	Average base salary[246] $	Average bonuses $	Overseas housing[252] $	Other $	Average superannuation contributions[248] $	Average long service leave[249] $	Average termination benefits[250] $	Excluding overseas housing allowances $	Including overseas housing allowances $
$265,000 to $270,000	18	155,750	-	4,689	14,415	27,601	4,050	60,433	262,250	266,939
$270,001 to $295,000	118	157,758	-	9,891	17,534	27,378	4,243	64,157	271,071	280,962
$295,001 to $320,000	98	135,986	-	15,815	26,083	26,588	3,870	99,392	291,919	307,734
$320,001 to $345,000	44	141,307	-	44,554	69,484	25,562	3,959	49,362	289,674	334,228
$345,001 to $370,000	34	151,974	-	39,965	61,999	28,338	4,240	68,796	315,347	355,312
$370,001 to $395,000	28	159,760	-	56,768	63,834	29,685	4,348	66,281	323,908	380,675
$395,001 to $420,000	43	166,864	-	41,208	54,115	31,380	4,612	109,171	366,142	407,350
$420,001 to $445,000	12	160,385	-	71,130	85,984	30,656	4,312	78,778	360,114	431,244
$445,001 to $470,000	7	170,625	-	103,575	117,368	30,437	4,544	26,611	349,585	453,159
$470,001 to $495,000	8	205,056	-	98,522	112,395	35,117	5,028	24,166	381,762	480,284
$495,001 to $520,000	1	149,798	-	164,320	152,125	24,713	4,625	-	331,262	495,582
$520,001 to $545,000	1	138,413	-	141,437	87,344	28,736	3,698	141,678	399,868	541,305
$545,001 to $570,000	5	156,575	-	158,189	150,695	28,528	4,133	58,078	398,009	556,198
$570,001 to $595,000	1	132,583	-	220,017	200,128	20,814	3,737	-	357,263	577,280
$595,001 to $620,000	2	161,533	-	208,955	205,474	27,967	4,305	-	399,279	608,234
$620,001 to $645,000	1	187,099	-	145,147	75,643	38,684	4,880	186,276	492,582	637,729

245. Other highly paid staff include staff who are neither KMP nor senior executives and whose total remuneration for the reporting period exceeds $265,000.
246. Base salary includes salary paid and accrued, salary paid while on annual leave plus the net movement in the annual leave balance, salary paid while on personal leave, and higher duties allowances.
247. Other benefits and allowances includes overseas living allowances, non-monetary benefits included in the FBT Return for the year ended 31 March 2026 such as the provision of a car park, domestic housing benefits, accommodation and utilities whilst posted overseas, and associated FBT. FBT is only included in calculating total remuneration where FBT is required to be reported on an employee's payment summary.
248. For individuals in a defined contribution scheme (for example PSSap and super choice), superannuation includes superannuation contribution amounts. For individuals in a defined benefit scheme (for example PSS and CSS), superannuation includes the relevant Notional Employer Contribution Rate and the Employer Productivity Superannuation Contribution.
249. Long service leave is calculated on an accrual basis and comprises the amount of leave taken for the period plus the net movement in the long service leave balance.
250. Termination benefits are payments that may be made in relation to the termination of a position.
251. Total remuneration is calculated on an accrual basis in accordance with AASB 119 Employee Benefits with the exception of superannuation and non-monetary benefits.
252. Overseas housing benefits and allowances are disclosed as a separate component of 'Other benefits and allowances' and as a separate component of 'Total remuneration' to illustrate the impact that the quantum and/or nature of these particular benefits and allowances have on total remuneration while still reporting the total remuneration of each relevant staff member as required by the disclosure requirements of the PGPA Rule.

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

Initiatives and outcomes

The department integrates work health and safety (WHS), including physical and psychological health, into everyday business activities. The approach focuses on prevention, wellbeing and risk management to support a safe, respectful and productive workplace.

During 2025–26, the department continued to implement the Work Health and Safety Strategy 2025, which provides a framework for identifying, assessing and controlling workplace hazards and risks, and responding to incidents. Its key pillars are:

- prevention and effective risk management
- shared responsibility for embedding WHS practices across the department
- support for healthy, safe and productive work.

Key initiatives during 2025–26 included:

- implementing a new WHS Operating Model, which clarifies roles and responsibilities, supports coordination between central and business area functions, and provides a framework for assurance, reporting, analytics, monitoring and escalation
- continuing to develop psychosocial risk management capability through guidance, resources and practical support for leaders to identify and manage risks, meet their WHS obligations and support safe and respectful workplaces.

The department also continued to support employee health and wellbeing through initiatives focused on prevention, early support, recovery and safe return to work following illness or injury.

Mechanisms of injury

The department identifies actions, events and situations that cause or may cause injury or disease. Mechanism of injury descriptors are based on the national classification system. Table 48: 3-year summary of accepted claims by mechanism of injury shows accepted worker compensation claims by mechanism of injury.

Table 48: 3-year summary of accepted claims by mechanism of injury

Accepted claims	2025–26	2024–25	2023–24
Mental stress	29	27	18
Being hit by moving objects	5	8	4
Vehicle incidents and other	0	1	1
Biological factors	0	0	1
Heat, radiation and electricity	0	0	0
Chemicals and other substances	0	0	2
Falls, trips and slips of a person	11	15	21
Hitting objects with a part of the body	1	7	10
Sound and pressure	2	6	6
Body stressing	19	27	23
Other or unspecified	3	9	4
Total	**70**	**100**	**90**

Notifiable incidents

Table 49 shows the incidents notified to Comcare under sections 35, 36 and 37 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act).

Table 49: 3 year summary of incidents notified to Comcare

Notifiable incident classification	2025–26	2024–25	2023–24
Death	3	0	0
Serious injury/illness	126	76	58
Dangerous incident	49	50	20
Total	**178**	**126**	**78**

Investigations

The department continued to engage with Comcare on regulatory, compliance and assurance matters to support continuous improvement in work health and safety performance and outcomes. Between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026, Comcare issued 56 notices under section 155 of the WHS Act on matters related to the department's responsibilities. Comcare also commenced an additional 48 compliance monitoring inspections and investigations excluding the section 155 notices. These matters included general requests, verification inspections and corrective action plans. This compares with 20 section 155 notices issued and 31 compliance monitoring inspection and investigations commenced in 2024–25.

Between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026, Comcare issued the department with 5 Improvement Notices under section 191 of the WHS Act in comparison to nil notices issued in 2024–25.

Unscheduled absence management

Analysis of unscheduled absence shows that 21.03% of employees took 5 days or less unscheduled leave in 2025–26 and 43.16% of employees took 10 days or less. This is in comparison to 24.41% and 47.61% respectively in 2024–25.

PROCUREMENT, ASSETS AND GRANTS

Purchasing and procurement

Departmental Accountable Authority Instructions and internal policies govern the procurement of goods and services and support compliance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs), including the core rule of achieving value for money.

The department provides guidance to procurement officials and monitors reporting compliance to identify non-compliance and determine appropriate corrective action.

The monitoring identified instances of non-compliance with the CPRs during 2025–26, related to contracts and contract amendments not being reported on AusTender within a 42-day period.

Further information on the department's procurement activities is available on AusTender[253], including the Annual Procurement Plan published in accordance with the CPRs to help prospective suppliers prepare for future procurement opportunities.

253. www.tenders.gov.au

ASSETS MANAGEMENT

In 2025–26, the department managed $4.455 billion in departmental and administered non-financial assets, an increase from $4.434 billion in 2024–25. The increase is primarily attributable to higher Administered non-financial assets, including construction-in-progress for the new evolved ABF Cape Class Patrol vessels.

The department's main asset classes include buildings, leasehold improvements, vessels, plant and equipment, intangible assets (software), and right of use assets (leased assets per AASB16 Leases). These are detailed below:

- Administered non-financial assets: $1,053.4 million (excluding pre-payments), primarily held to support the care and management of detainees. This includes $132.1 million in construction-in-progress for four new evolved ABF Cape Class Patrol vessels funded through Administered appropriations. This is compared to $968.3 million in 2024–25.
- Departmental non-financial assets: $3.263 billion, comprising $2.044 billion in land, buildings and leasehold improvements; $601.6 million in plant and equipment; $327.5 million in computer software supporting operations; and $289.3 million in vessels supporting ABF activities. This excludes prepayments and inventories held, and compares to $3.314 billion in 2024–25.

The department applies a structured governance framework to ensure accurate reporting of asset balances and effective stewardship of its asset base. Key elements include:

- development of a 10-year capital plan to inform future asset-based decisions
- asset investment, through setting and regularly monitoring an annual capital plan to reflect both government priorities and ongoing business requirements.
- monitoring of existing assets
- undertaking a 3-year risk based stocktake to update and verify asset records, review the condition and utility of assets and assess expected remaining useful lives of assets
- conducting fair value measurement through rolling 3-yearly revaluations of all tangible assets, completed by qualified external valuers:
  - A desktop asset valuation review resulted in a $34.8 million increase to departmental assets and $45.3 million increase to administered assets.

  - an annual fit-for-purpose review to update and verify accuracy of the department's assets records and consider impairment of those asset classes in line with Australian Accounting Standards
- conducting assessments and quality assurance reviews for right-of-use assets
- maintaining property, plant and equipment assets, including those leased under contract from various service providers through specific maintenance programs
- review of policies, procedures, and templates and the provision of training programs.

Additional information on the value, acquisition, disposal and revaluation of assets is available in the 2025–26 financial statements in Part 4 of this report.

Small business and medium enterprises

The department supports small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Small Enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance's website.[254]

In 2025–26, the department applied internal procurement policies and practices to support compliance with paragraph 5.5-5.9 of the CPRs and to ensure SMEs were not unfairly discriminated against. These measures include:

- the department's procurement account management model, which supports review of the procurement lifecycle and monitoring compliance with the CPRs
- online procurement guidance and training for procuring officials, providing targeted advice to help ensure procurements are conducted in a non-discriminatory manner and all suppliers are treated equitably.

To demonstrate commitment under paragraph 5.6 of the CPRs, the department:

- communicated regularly to raise awareness of the benefits of doing business with SMEs
- included SME requirements as a mandatory step in the digitised procurement process
- made updates to procurement templates and guidance to support appropriate opportunities for SMEs.

The department recognises the importance of ensuring that small businesses are paid on time. Further information on payment times can be found at the Department of Home Affairs website.[255]

The department supports the Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP), ensuring that

254. www.finance.gov.au
255. www.homeaffairs.gov.au/reports-and-publications/reports

opportunities for Indigenous small to medium enterprises continue to grow. Further details on the IPP are published on the National Indigenous Australians Agency website.[256]

SME data that reflects contractual information reported on AusTender by the Home Affairs Portfolio during the financial year 2025–26 is published on the Department of Finance website.[257]

Reportable consultancy contracts

During 2025–26, 71 new consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of $8,103,136 (GST inclusive). In addition, 19 ongoing reportable consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of $6,783,074 (GST inclusive).

Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable consultancy contracts is also available on the AusTender website.[258]

The department selects and engages consultants in accordance with the *APS Strategic Commissioning Framework*,[259] the PGPA Act and the CPRs. Consultancy services are procured where they meet strategic or operational needs, provide value for money and offer independent expertise to support departmental priorities. Annual reports include actual expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts, with contract values available on the AusTender website.

Table 50: PGPA Rule section 17AG(7)(a)(i)-(iv) – reportable consultancy contracts expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts (2025–26)

	Number	Expenditure (GST inc.)
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	71	$8,103,136
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period	19	$6,783,074
Total	**90**	**$14,886,210**

256. www.niaa.gov.au
257. www.finance.gov.au/government/procurement/statistics-australian-government-procurement-contracts-
258. www.tenders.gov.au
259. www.apsc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-07/Strategic Commissioning Framework - updated - Jul 2024_0.pdf

Table 51: Organisations receiving a share of reportable consultancy contract expenditure (2025–26)

Name of organisation	Organisation ABN	Expenditure (GST inc.)
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	41 687 119 230	$3,625,000
The Trustee for Coolamon Advisors Unit Trust	18 904 562 875	$1,712,277
Axiom Associates (AUST) Pty Ltd	97 604 318 569	$1,259,737
Scyne Advisory Pty Ltd	20 607 773 295	$1,118,169
UNODC (USA origin)	ABN Exempt	$922,922
Clayton UTZ	35 740 217 343	$851,318
KPMG	51 194 660 183	$801,072

Reportable non-consultancy contracts

During 2025–26, 2236 new reportable non-consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of $1,755,414,225 (GST inclusive). In addition, 998 ongoing reportable non-consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of $1,773,505,682 (GST inclusive).

Annual Reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable non-consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable non-consultancy contracts is also available on the AusTender website.[260]

Table 52: PGPA Rule section 17AG(7A)(a)(i)-(iv) – Reportable non-consultancy contracts expenditure on reportable non-consultancy contracts (2025–26)

	Number	Expenditure $'000 (GST inc.)
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	2,236	1,755,414,225
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period	998	1,773,505,682
Total	**3,234**	**3,528,919,907**

260. www.tenders.gov.au

Table 53: Organisations receiving a share of reportable non-consultancy contract expenditure (2025–26)

Name of organisation	Organisation ABN	Expenditure $'000 (GST inc.)
Secure Journeys Pty Ltd	31 665 235 549	393,884,504
Cushman & Wakefield Pty Ltd	77 074 196 991	230,755,376
AUSTAL Ships Pty Ltd	80 079 160 679	199,295,425
Surveillance Australia Pty Ltd	20 050 021 308	193,202,869
Management & Training Corporation Pty Ltd	25 602 791 364	158,266,211

Advertising and market research

During 2025–26, the department conducted Phase 4 of the Act Now. Stay Secure. advertising campaign. The campaign was certified by the Secretary in line with the *Australian Government Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by non-corporate commonwealth entities.*

Act Now. Stay Secure. is a cyber security awareness raising campaign aimed at establishing a baseline cyber security capability for all Australians by educating them about the simple, everyday actions they can take to protect themselves online.

Further information on the campaign is available on the department's website[261] and in the reports on 'Australian Government advertising' prepared by the Department of Finance, available on the Department of Finance's website.[262]

The department's advertising and market research expenditure is outlined in Table 54: Campaign advertising, strategic communications, media advertising and market research in 2025–26

261. www.actnowstaysecure.gov.au
262. www.finance.gov.au/publications/compliance-advice/department-home-affairs-act-now-stay-secure

Table 54: Campaign advertising, strategic communications, media advertising and market research in 2025–26

Organisation	Total amount paid against contract (GST exclusive) $	Total amount paid against contract (GST inclusive) $
Market research		
Australian National University	43,162	43,162
Cultural Pulse Pty Ltd	182,200	200,420
D3 Systems, Inc.	872,291	872,291
Deakin University	140,393	154,432
Demographic Insight Pty Ltd	72,726	79,999
Hall & Partners Pty Ltd	247,234	271,957
Statt Consulting Limited	2,211,200	2,211,200
The Trustee For The Scaffidi	85,000	93,500
Verian Group Australia Pty Ltd	1,374,634	1,512,097
Whereto Research Based	364,920	401,412
Media advertising		
Mediabrands Australia Pty Ltd	18,361,451	20,197,597
Advertising		
Carbon Media Pty Ltd	297,232	326,955
Cox Inall Change Pty Ltd	684,472	752,919
Cultural Perspectives Pty Ltd	850,093	935,103
Iom (Aud) International	2,725,824	2,725,824
Lexigo Global Pty Ltd	34,887	38,376
M&C Saatchi World Services	7,689,495	7,689,495
OfERR	870,074	870,074
Tal Group Thompson Associates	1,051,648	1,051,648
The Trustee For The Bmf Unit Trust	1,710,843	1,881,927
World Services (Australia) Pty Ltd	130,000	143,000
Total	**39,999,782**	**42,453,390**

Grants

Information on grants awarded by the department during 2025–26 is available on the department's webpage.[263]

Further information on grants administration is available from the Grants Policy Team, Department of Finance.[264]

All grants awarded during the 2025–26 were administrated in accordance with the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024.[265]

Australian National Audit Office access clauses

The department uses standard Commonwealth contract templates containing clauses that provide the Auditor-General with access to contractor premises and records for audit purposes.

During 2025–26, 12 of the 955 contracts valued at $100,000 or more (inclusive of GST) that were entered into by the department did not include an Australian National Audit Office access clause. Eleven used supplier terms and conditions; one omission resulted from administrative oversight.

263. www.homeaffairs.gov.au/reports-and-publications/reports/corporate-plans-and-reports/grants-awarded-by-the-department
264. grants@finance.gov.au
265. www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants

Table 55: Contracts valued at $100,000 or more (inclusive of GST) that did not include an ANAO access clause

Contractor Name	Purpose of Contract	Value of Contract (incl. GST)
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	Engagement of CSIRO subject matter experts	$330,000.00
Jetbrains	Software support and maintenance	$113,355.71
Australian Turf Club Pty Ltd	NSW department-hosted citizenship ceremony	$142,462.65
Australian Postal Corporation	Australia Post bill pay agreement	$1,104,238.87
Silk Contract Logistics Pty Ltd	Warehouse and distribution services	$825,000.00
Australian Postal Corporation	General mail services	$1,358,929.01
Perth Airport Pty Ltd	Fibre Cabling Agreement Perth Itb	$291,760.79
The Trustee For Infinity Golf Group	Utility carts	$152,790.00
Red Hat Asia-Pacific Pty Ltd	ICT technical services	$1,969,900.35
Burswood Nominees Ltd	ABF Indian Ocean regional event	$126,193.08
Red Hat Asia-Pacific Pty Ltd	Redhat Sw S&M	$3,616,487.52
Maritime Insights & Intelligence	Lloyd's List	$831,912.32

Inclusion of the ANAO access clause is recorded when contracts are created in departmental systems. Contracts recorded as not including the clause are reviewed to confirm whether the clause has been omitted and, where necessary, to take remedial action.

Exempt contracts

During 2025–26, the department had no contracts valued at more than $10,000 (inclusive of GST) or any standing offers, that were exempted by the accountable authority from publication on AusTender because they would disclose exempt matters under the FOI Act.

ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Improvement and sustainability initiatives

Commonwealth organisations have a statutory requirement under section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), to report on their environmental performance. The following information reports on the department's environmental performance in accordance with these requirements for 2025–26.

Heritage strategy

During 2025–26, the department managed its obligations under the EPBC Act, including preserving and promoting Australian Government heritage places. The Villawood Immigration Detention Centre is the only department-managed property included on the Commonwealth Heritage List. The department continued to preserve the heritage value of the precinct.

PART 6: APPENDICES

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APPENDIX A: CORRECTION OF 2024–25 ANNUAL REPORT MATERIAL ERRORS

Table A1: Material Errors

Page in 2024–25 Annual Report	Error
31	The percentage of transport security non-compliances that were corrected by industry or were the subject of follow-up regulatory inspection and/or enforcement action within the specified timeframe was reported as 98.16%; the correct figure (total number of non-compliances met divided by the total number of non-compliances identified) is 98.97%.
58	The 2024–25 processing time for Second stage skilled (permanent) visas was reported as 206; the correct figure is 211.
59	The wording for 2024–25 Target 29 was 'Median visa processing times across four of the six key demand driven programs improve or are maintained.' The target should have been 'Average number of finalisations per full time equivalent (FTE) visa processing officers increases across both permanent and temporary visa caseloads.'
60	The figure for Working Holiday Maker visa finalisations was reported as 25,510; the correct number is 325,510.
271	The column headings in Table 59 (APS Net Zero 2030 target emission sources) were reported as "2022–23* t CO2-e", "2023–24* t CO2-e" and "Percentage change since 2022–23". The correct column headings should have read "2023–24* t CO2-e", "2024–25* t CO2-e" and "Percentage change since the base year 2022–23". Further, the row heading "Electricity (market based)" in Table 59: APS Net Zero 2030 target emission sources was incorrect and the correct row heading should have read "Electricity (location based)". The emissions data contained within this row is correct to the location data located in Table 57 (page 268) of the 2024–25 annual report. The Scope 2 Electricity (market based) emissions was reported as 17,439.168 t CO2-e for 2022–23. The correct title for this should have read Scope 2 Electricity (location based) for 2023–24 represented by the correct figure of 17,451.89 t CO2-e. The percentage change from the base year, 2022–23, to 2024–25 is 9.72.

Page in 2023–24 Annual Report	Error
216	In table 62, the Electricity (location-based approach) Scope 2 was reported as 17,439.168 t CO2-e; the correct figure is 17,451.89 t CO2-e. Electricity (location-based approach) Scope 3 was reported as 1,824.102 t CO2-e; the correct figure is 1,798.59 t CO2-e. Electricity (location-based approach) total t CO2-e was reported as 30,923.705 the correct figure is 30,910.92. The total Scope 3 t CO2-e was reported as 12,051.613; the correct figure is 12,026.11.
217	The column headings in table 63 were reported as 'Scope 1 t CO2-e', Scope 2 t CO2-e', 'Scope 3 t CO2-e', and 'Total t CO2-e'. The correct column headings are 'Scope 2 t CO2-e', 'Scope 3 t CO2-e', 'total t CO2-e', and 'Percentage of electricity use'. Scope 2 was reported as 17,439.168 t CO2-e; the correct figure is 17,451.89 t CO2-e. Scope 3 was reported as 1,824.102 t CO2-e; the correct figure is 1,798.59 t CO2-e. The total t CO2-e was reported as 19,263.271; the correct figure is 19,250.49.

APPENDIX B: COMMONWEALTH CLIMATE DISCLOSURE

Commonwealth Climate Disclosure is the Australian Government's policy for Commonwealth entities to publicly disclose their exposure to climate risks and opportunities, as well as their actions to manage them. The department has prepared our Commonwealth Climate Disclosure Report in accordance with the Commonwealth Climate Disclosure Requirements – Year 2 Reporting Provisions. This report is available on the Transparency Portal.[266]

266. www.transparency.gov.au

APPENDIX C: *SECURITY OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACT 2018*—2025–26 ANNUAL REPORT

Background

The *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* (SOCI Act) is Australia's primary legislation for the security and resilience of critical infrastructure assets. The SOCI Act requires owners and operators of critical infrastructure assets to comply with a range of safeguards, and ensures the government has the information and powers it needs to manage national security risks and respond effectively to incidents that may significantly impact critical infrastructure services.

The Australian Government is committed to working in partnership with industry to protect the essential services all Australians rely on. Threats to critical infrastructure range from natural hazards (including weather events) to human-induced risks (including espionage, sabotage, foreign interference, cyber attacks, and trusted insider activity). These threats have the potential to cause significant disruption to the stability and security of critical infrastructure assets.

The SOCI Act is designed to manage these risks, ensuring:

- owners and operators of critical infrastructure assets take appropriate steps to secure their assets
- the government has sufficient information to manage national security risks and exercise appropriate and proportionate response powers.

The Critical Infrastructure Annual Risk Review, published each November, provides a strategic overview of the key risk drivers affecting Australia's critical infrastructure sectors. The Review highlights how risks impact operational delivery and identifies interdependencies between sectors, showing how cascading effects can flow through interconnected systems.

During 2025–26, critical infrastructure entities faced a challenging global risk landscape. Frequent cyber incidents affected all sectors, disrupting the integrity, availability and confidentiality of critical services. Our global supply chains were frequently disrupted by conflict, trade disputes and a changing climate.

To meet these challenges, responsible entities are required to adopt an all-hazards approach to risk management. This approach helps uplift the overall security and resilience of Australia's critical infrastructure and reduce the risk of cascading impacts sector wide.

The SOCI Act applies to assets across 11 critical infrastructure sectors:

- communications
- data storage and processing
- defence
- energy
- food and grocery
- financial services and markets
- higher education and research
- healthcare and medical
- space technology
- transport
- water and sewerage.

The Security of Critical Infrastructure (Telecommunications Security and Risk Management Program) Rules 2025 (TSRMP Rules) came into effect on 4 April 2025. The TSRMP Rules largely mirror obligations under the Critical Infrastructure Risk Management Program (CIRMP); however, they introduce additional requirements on critical telecommunication assets, such as increased cybersecurity. Entities captured under the TSRMP Rules were required to be compliant by 4 October 2025, with extended grace periods for complex measures.

Independent review of the SOCI Act

In 2025, the government commissioned an Independent Review of the SOCI Act. The review was conducted by Dr Jill Slay AM between November 2025 and January 2026. The review examined whether the SOCI Act is:

- achieving its intended objectives
- operating as intended
- creating any unintended consequences.

The review drew on written submissions, survey responses, stakeholder roundtables, input from Commonwealth agencies and comparisons with similar international frameworks. The final report was tabled in the Australian Parliament on 24 March 2026 and provided 6 recommendations to improve the SOCI Act.

The Review found that the SOCI Act has made an important contribution to Australia's critical infrastructure security framework. At the same time, it identified opportunities to improve the legislation by reducing complexity, simplifying how the framework operates and making it more agile in responding to emerging threats. The review also recommended a stronger focus on outcomes, with greater emphasis on measurable improvements to security risk management practices. The SOCI Act has measures to manage risks related to critical infrastructure, including obligations on industry and scalable powers for the Australian Government.

Tranche 1 reforms

The government has accepted in principle all 6 recommendations of the Independent Review and the response will be delivered through a staged program of legislative reform, guidance and broader implementation work. Some recommendations will be implemented through more than one amendment, consultation process or implementation activity.

The immediate legislative program has 2 linked stages.

Tranche 1 has been progressed through:

- amendments to enhance the Critical Infrastructure Risk Management Program Rules (CIRMP Rules), including changes to specified all-hazards, cyber, supply chain, physical and personnel-security settings for specified high-risk asset classes
- consultation on proposed amendments to the Ministerial Directions framework in Part 3 of the SOCI Act. The proposed amendments include changes to the existing general direction power in section 32 and new powers for governance-related conditions, high-risk vendors, delayed continuous disclosure and civil penalties for non-compliance with directions.

Work on Tranche 2, Streamlining and Modernising the SOCI Act, is now underway and will address broader recommendations arising from the Independent Review.
This includes making the Act clearer, more targeted and easier to operate while closing known gaps and strengthening the assurance of security and resilience outcomes.

Enhanced Critical Infrastructure Risk Management Program Rules

As a part of the Government's Tranche 1 reforms, the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Legislation Amendment (Enhanced Critical Infrastructure Risk Management Program) Rules 2026* (Enhanced CIRMP Rules) came into effect on 10 June 2026.

Informed by extensive consultation with industry and stakeholders, the Enhanced CIRMP Rules uplift existing risk management requirements. These changes seek to ensure Australia's critical infrastructure owners and operators are equipped to address an increasingly complex and evolving threat environment. The Enhanced CIRMP Rules apply to the following specified asset classes:

- critical energy market operator assets
- critical electricity assets
- critical gas assets
- critical liquid fuel assets
- critical water assets
- critical broadcasting assets
- critical domain name systems
- critical freight service assets
- critical freight infrastructure assets.

In addition to existing CIRMP obligations, specified asset classes are required to comply with enhanced obligations across the pre-existing hazard vectors:

- all hazards
- cyber and information hazards
- personnel hazards
- supply chain hazards
- physical security hazards and natural hazards.

These obligations include, but are not limited to:

- consideration of foreign ownership, interference and control as a material risk
- enhanced cyber security posture
- mandatory background checking for personnel with access to critical systems or networks
- supply chain mapping
- enhanced consideration of vendors
- uplifted physical and natural protective security measures.

Specified asset classes are also required to comply with two new hazard vectors:

- credential compromise hazards
- lateral movement hazards.

These measures are designed to reduce the risk of compromised credentials being used to gain unauthorised access to an asset and to limit a user's ability to move through networks in a manner which could compromise the asset. To address these risks, responsible entities will need to implement measures such as phishing resistant multi-factor authentication, and network segregation and recovery controls.

Responsible entities are required to be compliant with the new material risks introduced by the Enhanced CIRMP Rules by 10 June 2027 and by 10 June 2028 for the other new measures.

Key measures

SOCI Act obligations

The SOCI Act has a range of obligations that apply to critical infrastructure entities. These obligations include:

- Subsection 12F(3): Obligation to notify data service providers – entities must notify external data service providers if they are storing or processing business critical data. This ensures that companies that are handling sensitive data for critical infrastructure assets are aware that they may themselves also have obligations under the SOCI Act and that they treat the security of the data appropriately.
- Part 2: Register of Critical Infrastructure Assets – entities must register certain information related to critical infrastructure assets with the department. Registration provides a comprehensive understanding of the ownership and operational arrangements of critical infrastructure across the Australian economy. This helps the government to better identify and respond to security risks.
- Part 2A: CIRMP – entities must have (and comply) with a written CIRMP for their critical infrastructure assets. This ensures responsible entities have a comprehensive understanding of the threat environment and develop processes and procedures to effectively respond to the material risk of all-hazards impacting their asset. This includes submitting a board-approved Annual Report 90 days after the end of the financial year to the department's Critical Infrastructure Security Centre. Specified critical infrastructure asset classes will be required to comply with enhanced obligations if they are captured under the Enhanced CIRMP Rules, or the TSRMP Rules.

- Part 2B: Mandatory Cyber Incident Reporting – Entities must report cyber security incidents that have a significant or relevant impact on their asset. This information supports the government to develop an aggregated threat picture to inform both proactive and reactive cyber response options – from providing immediate assistance to working with industry to uplift broader cyber security standards.
- Part 2C: Enhanced Cyber Security Obligations (ECSO) – The Minister for Home Affairs (the Minister), after consultation with the responsible entity and others, may declare an asset to be a System of National Significance (SoNS). These assets are those that are most crucial to the nation, by virtue of their interdependencies across sectors and consequences of cascading disruption to other critical infrastructure assets and sectors. If declared to be a SoNS, the responsible entity may be notified that they are subject to 4 additional obligations focused on cyber preparedness and resilience.
- Part 2D: Enhanced security regulation for critical telecommunications assets. Entities responsible for a critical telecommunications asset must protect their asset from all-hazards, including security risks and notify the department of certain changes that may have a material effect on their ability to meet this requirement.

Powers

Section 32 of the SOCI Act allows the Minister to issue a written direction requiring a reporting entity for, or an operator of, a critical infrastructure asset to do, or refrain from doing, an act or thing, if the Minister is satisfied that there is a risk of an act or omission that would be prejudicial to security. The Minister may give the direction only if particular criteria are met and certain consultation has been undertaken.

- No ministerial directions were given under section 32 in the 2025–26 financial year.

Part 3A of the SOCI Act provides the ability for government assistance to critical infrastructure entities in response to a serious incident that has had, or is having, or is likely to have, a relevant impact on one or more critical infrastructure assets. This framework is one of last resort and will only be used when no other regulatory system could be used and there is a material risk to Australia's national interests.

- The powers under Part 3A were not used in the 2025–26 financial year.

Section 37 of the SOCI Act provides the Secretary with the power to request ownership and operational information from direct interest holders, responsible entities and operators of critical infrastructure assets.

- No requests for information were made under section 37 in the 2025–26 financial year.

Part 5 of the SOCI Act provides a range of enforcement powers in relation to the obligations in the Act, through the triggering of provisions in the *Regulatory Powers (Standard Provisions) Act 2014*.

- No formal actions under Part 5 were taken against an entity in the 2025–26 financial year.

Section 51 of the SOCI Act provides that the Minister may privately declare an asset to be a critical infrastructure asset if the asset is not otherwise a critical infrastructure asset, relates to a critical infrastructure sector, or the Minister considers the asset to be critical and it is appropriate for the declaration to be done privately.

- 1 declaration was made by the Minister under section 51 in the 2025–26 financial year.

Section 57 of the Act provides the Secretary of the department with the power to undertake an assessment of a critical infrastructure asset to determine if there is a risk to national security relating to the asset.

- 1 assessment was commenced under section 57 in the 2025–26 financial year.

Part 6A of the SOCI Act enables the Minister to privately declare a critical infrastructure asset to be a SoNS. The Minister may only declare an asset as a SoNS if the Minister is satisfied the critical infrastructure asset is nationally significant. In determining this, the Minister must have regard to a number of factors, including: the nature and extent of the asset's interdependencies with other critical infrastructure assets; and the consequences that would arise for Australia's social or economic stability, defence, or national security if a hazard were to occur that had a significant relevant impact on the asset.

- In the 2025–26 financial year, the Minister revoked five SoNS assets under section 52F of the SOCI Act. These revocations followed written notices from the respective responsible entities requesting a review of their SoNS declarations under section 52E of the SOCI Act.
- As of 30 June 2026, there were 218 SoNS across the energy, communications, transport, financial services and markets, food and grocery, and data storage or processing sectors.

Operation of the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act—Notifications

SOCI Act Subsection 12F(3): Obligation to Notify Data Services Providers

Entities must take reasonable steps to notify third-party providers if they are providing data storage or processing services relating to the business-critical data of a critical infrastructure asset on a commercial basis (subsection 12F(3) of the Act).

- Critical infrastructure entities are not required to report these notifications to the department.

SOCI Act Part 2: Register of Critical Infrastructure Assets

The notification requirements in sections 23 and 24 of the SOCI Act articulate the initial and ongoing obligations of a reporting entity to report specific information on a critical infrastructure asset to the department.

A total of 1,110 notifications were made to the department for the Critical Infrastructure Asset Register in the 2025–26 financial year.

Table C1: Total number of notifications made to the department in the 2025–26 financial year

Notifications	Total
Number of notifications made to the department	1,110

New notifications (initial obligations)

The obligation to give information under section 23 of the SOCI Act requires a reporting entity to report the ownership and operational information in the approved form to the Secretary. During this financial year, the department received 554 new notifications (initial obligations) in relation to critical infrastructure assets across Australia.

Table C2: Breakdown of new notifications made to the department in the 2025–26 financial year

Type of notification	Number of notifications
New notification—direct interest holder	164
New notification—responsible entity	390
Total	**554**

Change Notifications (Notifiable Events)

The ongoing obligation to give information under section 24 of the SOCI Act requires a reporting entity to report a notifiable event in relation to the asset which is captured on the Register. A notifiable event occurs when any information in relation to the original notification is either invalid, incorrect or outdated. During the reporting period, the department received 556 notifications of change (notifiable events) in relation to critical infrastructure assets on the Register.

Table C2: Breakdown of the notifications of change made to the department in the 2025–26 financial year

Type of notification	Number of notifications
New change notification – direct interest holder	181
New change notification – responsible entity	375
Total	**556**

SOCI Act Part 2A: Critical Infrastructure Risk Management Program

The CIRMP obligation complements and enhances existing industry risk management practices and is intended to strengthen the resilience of critical infrastructure assets by embedding preparation, prevention and mitigation activities into ongoing business practices. Entities are required to adopt and maintain an all-hazards CIRMP.
This obligation was applied through the making of rules by the Minister for Home Affairs. Similarly, Part 2AA of the Act requires certain entities to provide an annual report in specified circumstances.

Table C3: Total number of Annual Report notifications in the 2025–26 financial year

Type of notification	Number of notifications
Number of Annual Report notifications	509

SOCI Act Part 2B: Mandatory Cyber Incident Reports

Entities are required to report cyber security incidents to the Australian Signals Directorate's Australian Cyber Security Centre (ASD's ACSC) which provides the government with visibility of cyber security incidents involving critical infrastructure assets. The information enhances the government's ability to develop strategies to identify and respond to national security risks for assets which, if disrupted, would significantly impact Australia.

If the responsible entity for a critical infrastructure asset becomes aware that a cyber security incident has occurred, or is occurring, and that the incident has had, or is having, a significant impact on the availability of the asset, they must notify ASD's ACSC within 12 hours after becoming aware of the incident (under section 30BC of the SOCI Act). A significant impact is one where both the critical infrastructure asset is used in connection with the provision of essential goods and services, and the incident has materially disrupted the availability of the essential goods or services delivered by the critical infrastructure asset or any of the circumstances specified in the rules exist in relation to the incident.

If the responsible entity for a critical infrastructure asset becomes aware that a cyber-security incident has occurred, or is occurring, and the incident has had, is having, or is likely to have, a 'relevant impact' on the asset, they must notify ASD's ACSC within 72 hours after becoming aware of the incident (under section 30BD of the SOCI Act). A relevant impact is an impact on the availability, integrity, reliability or confidentiality of the asset. The number of incident notifications received by the department from ASD's ACSC are below.

Table C4: Cyber security incidents notified in the 2025–26 financial year

Type of incident	Number of notifications
Number of cyber security incidents reported under section 30BC	0
Number of cyber security incidents reported under section 30BD	134

SOCI Act Part 2C: Systems of National Significance/Enhanced Cyber Security Obligations

Following the declaration of a SoNS, the Secretary can apply ECSOs to the responsible entities for the declared assets. As at 30 June 2026, the Incident Response Planning and Cyber Security Exercise ECSOs are applied to 82 SoNS responsible entities

Table C5: Application of incident response planning and cyber security exercise ECSOs

Enhanced Cyber Security Obligation	Number of SoNS responsible entities
Incident Response Planning ECSO	82 SoNS responsible entities
Cyber Security Exercise ECSO	82 SoNS responsible entities

In the 2025–26 financial year, the department released 3 ECSO Insights Reports based on information provided through Incident Response Planning and Cyber Security Exercise ECSO submissions from responsible entities. The reports provide insights into common themes, identified gaps and areas for improvement across the SoNS cohort.

The department also works in close partnership with responsible entities to support security uplift. The department convened three SoNS engagement forums in November 2025, March 2026 and June 2026. These forums supported information sharing, discussion of lessons learned from cyber incidents, and cross-sector engagement between SoNS entities.

SOCI Act compliance activities

The SOCI Act obligations were subject to compliance monitoring activities by the department in the 2025–26 financial year. All submissions for SOCI obligations were subject to initial compliance checks for completeness and correctness, with those that do not pass these initial checks being further examined through audit and/or compliance investigations.

In the 2025–26 financial year, the department completed 35 SOCI compliance assurance activities that included process audits and desktop validation exercises, with a total of 7 findings of non-compliance.

Telecommunications sector security reforms

Part 2D of the SOCI Act uplifts the existing obligations on telecommunications assets from the *Telecommunications Act 1997* (Telecommunications Act) and consolidates them into SOCI. Part 2D details 2 specific obligations around protecting the telecommunications asset and notifying the Secretary of any changes that may have an adverse effect on the security of the asset.

Obligation to protect assets

Responsible entities are required to protect their telecommunications assets. The obligation includes maintaining competent supervision of, and effective control over the asset, meeting any Risk Management Plan (RMP) requirements, ensuring the confidentiality of communications carried on, and information contained on the asset, and ensuring the availability and integrity of the asset. It applies to all carrier assets and relevant carriage service provider assets.

Notification obligation

Part 2D of the SOCI Act, and Part 4 of the TSRMP Rules require responsible entities for critical telecommunications assets to notify the Secretary of certain changes, and proposed changes, to telecommunications services or telecommunications systems if the change or proposed change is likely to have a material adverse effect on the entity's capacity to comply with the obligation to protect the asset for the purposes of security. This obligation applies to all carriers but does not apply to carriage service providers.

Under section 30EE of the SOCI Act, the types of changes and proposed changes to a telecommunications service or system, for the purposes of the notification obligation include (but are not limited to):

- providing one or more new telecommunication services
- changing the location of notifiable equipment (including moving equipment outside Australia)
- procuring notifiable equipment
- entering into certain outsourcing arrangements
- entering into arrangements to have all or some information including communications and personal data accessed by persons outside Australia (see section 276 of the Telecommunications Act)
- entering into arrangements to have all or some information or documents to which subsection 187A(1) of the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979* applies in relation to that entity kept outside Australia.

After receiving the notification, the Secretary or their delegate must respond to the request within 22 business days in one of the following three ways:

1. Assessment of no risk: If the Secretary is satisfied that the change or proposed change does not pose a risk to the asset that would be prejudicial to security, the Secretary will issue a written notice to the entity to that effect.
2. More information required: If the Secretary considers that further information is required to assess the change or proposed change, they can request further information. The Secretary will make a request in writing to the entity to provide further specified information. The entity must supply the information within 44 business days after the day the notice is given, or a longer period where the Secretary allows. The Secretary may continue to request further information through this process if the information supplied is insufficient.
   After receiving the information, and if no further information has been requested, the Secretary will issue a notice no later than 22 business days after the day the Secretary last received information from the entity, advising them of any risks to the asset.

3. Assessment of risk to the asset that would be prejudicial to security:
   If the Secretary is satisfied there is a risk to the asset that would be prejudicial to security, the Secretary will issue a written notice to the entity that will:
   - advise the entity of that risk
   - set out the entity's obligation to protect the critical telecommunications asset
   - set out the consequences for the entity of not complying with that obligation.

   The Secretary may also set out measures the entity could adopt to eliminate or reduce that risk.

A responsible entity must report how they have addressed identified risks each year in their RMP annual report.

Applications for exemption from the notification requirement

Under the SOCI Act, there are no exemption provisions in relation to notification obligations.

Directions powers

Section 30EF of the SOCI Act establishes a Ministerial Directions power where the use or supply of carriage services are prejudicial to security. The Minister may issue a direction to a responsible entity for a critical telecommunications asset that proposes to use, or uses for the entity's own requirements or benefit, or proposes to supply or supplies to another person one or more carriage services and where that use or supply may be prejudicial to security.

Such a direction can only be issued if an adverse security assessment in respect of the carrier or carriage service provider has been given to the Minister. The direction to the responsible entity may be a prohibition of the use or supply, or to cease using or supplying, that carriage service. The direction must:

- relate to a carriage service generally and cannot be expressed to apply to the supply of a carriage service to a particular person, particular persons or a particular class of persons
- specify the period within which the entity must comply with the direction.

The Minister must also give the Australian Communications and Media Authority a copy of the direction. The responsible entity must comply with the direction and will not be liable to an action or other proceeding for damages for, or in relation to, an act done or omitted in good faith in compliance with the direction. Further, an officer, employee or agent of an entity is not liable to an action or other proceeding for damages for, or in relation to, an act done or omitted in good faith in connection with an act done or omitted by the entity in compliance with such a direction issued by the Minister.

Section 30EF does not give the Minister the power to deny services to certain groups. This ensures that the power cannot be used to discriminate or deprive individuals from using services that are available to other Australians.

The Minister for Home Affairs gave no directions under section 30EF of the SOCI Act in the financial year ending 30 June 2026.

Notification requirement

Between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026, the department received 78 notifications of change to telecommunications services or telecommunications systems. The department responded to 100% of telecommunications sector notifications of change within 22 business days.

APPENDIX D: LEGAL SERVICES EXPENDITURE

Table D1 outlines the department's legal services expenditure for 2025–26 in compliance with section 109 (1)(d) of the Legal Services Directions 2025.

Table D1: Legal services expenditure for 2025–26

Description	2025–26 cost (excluding GST)	2024–25 cost (excluding GST)
Total legal services expenditure	$166,719,099	$142,319,137
Total external legal services expenditure	$96,583,355	$80,939,306
External expenditure on solicitors	$88,567,569	$74,102,518
External expenditure on counsel	$7,120,586	$5,696,725
Number of matters in which male counsel briefed	1,017	755
Estimated value of briefs to male counsel	$5,004,885	$4,351,908
Number of matters in which female counsel briefed	436	284
Estimated value of briefs to female counsel	$2,115,701	$1,344,816
Disbursements on external legal services	$895,200	$1,140,064
Total internal legal services expenditure	$70,135,745	$61,379,831
Employees	$58,124,606	$50,263,060
Overheads (for example, office stores and stationery, training and travel, property, and information technology related costs)	$12,011,139	$11,116,772

APPENDIX E: REPORTING ON THE BALI PROCESS UNDER SECTION 198AI OF THE *MIGRATION ACT 1958*

Background

The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process) was formed in 2002, as a non-binding, multilateral forum to facilitate policy dialogue, cooperation and information sharing in the Asia-Pacific region. co-chaired by the governments of Australia and Indonesia, the Bali Process membership includes 45 Member States and 4 International Organisations, as well as 18 Observer States and 9 Observer Organisations.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is the whole-of-government lead for the Bali Process, supported by the Department of Home Affairs and the Bali Process Regional Support Office (RSO), located in Bangkok, Thailand.

The RSO was established in 2012 to operationalise the Bali Process Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF) and to strengthen practical cooperation among Bali Process Member States. The RSO is responsible for facilitating information sharing, capacity building, the exchange of best practices, the sharing of common technical resources and offering logistical, administrative, operational and coordination support for Bali Process initiatives. It is the only cooperation mechanism of its kind in the Asia–Pacific region and draws on policy knowledge, technical expertise and operational experience from Bali Process members and other key stakeholders to develop practical initiatives. Australia, through the department, and Indonesia co-manage the RSO, with a departmental officer posted to the RSO.

In 2025–26, the department continued to utilise the services of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Thailand to provide corporate and administrative services to the RSO.

Activities conducted under the Bali Process between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026

Table E1: Activities conducted under the Bali Process between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026

Activity/output	Activity/output
30 June 2026	RSO and IOM joint activity:[267] Joint Assessment of the Responsiveness of National Legal and Institutional Frameworks to Emerging Forms of Trafficking in Persons Evidence from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), and Malaysia | Bangkok, Thailand
29–30 June 2026	RSO activity:[268] Regional Information, Liaison and Outreach Network (RILON) Training: Risk Assessment and Information Sharing to Counter Irregular Migration and Maritime People Smuggling in Timor-Leste | Dili, Timor-Leste
24–25 June 2026	RSO activity: Workshop on Strengthening Bangladeshi Immigration Officers' Capacity to Prevent Trafficking for Forced Criminality into Cyber-Scam Centres | Dhaka, Bangladesh
22 June 2026	RSO joint activity with Freedom Collaborative and IOM: Workshop on Strengthening Thai Immigration Officers' Capacity to Prevent Trafficking for Forced Criminality into Cyber-Scam Centres | Bangkok, Thailand
16–18 June 2026	External activity : Meeting of the Regional Steering Group on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics | Bangkok, Thailand
15–17 June 2026	External activity: Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC) Senior Officials Meeting | Bangkok, Thailand
11 June 2026	External activity: Fintelekt Advisory Services and Asian Bankers Association (ABA) Regional Workshop on Dealing with Scam Centres, Mule Accounts and Virtual Assets / Fraud Management | Bangkok, Thailand
11–12 June 2026	External activity: Workshop on Leveraging Key Tools to respond to Emerging Patterns/ Trafficking in Human Beings in Mongolia | Online
11 June 2026	RSO activity: RILON Response Group on Maritime People Smuggling and International Organisations Roundtable Discussion | Jakarta, Indonesia
10 June 2026	RSO activity: Members' Engagement Function 2026 | Jakarta, Indonesia
10 June 2026	RSO activity: RILON Trends, Insights & Risk Analysis Training | Jakarta, Indonesia
9–12 June 2026	RSO activity: RSO Jakarta Spotlight Week | Jakarta, Indonesia
9–10 June 2026	RSO activity: Support to the First 6 Countries Irregular Migration Initiative (SCIM) Meeting | Jakarta, Indonesia
8–9 June 2026	RSO activity: RILON Training: Risk Assessment and Information Sharing on Irregular Migration | Jakarta, Indonesia
9–12 June 2026	RSO activity: RSO and United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders (CIFAL) Joint Workshop on Border Security Cooperation in Asia-Pacific | Jeju, Republic of Korea
4–5 June 2026	RSO, IOM and International Labour Organization (ILO) joint activity: Workshop on Protection and Prevention of Forced Labour in the Fishing Sector | Bangkok, Thailand
25–26 May 2026	External activity: Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) Drafting Committee Meeting on Indicators for Forced Criminality | Manila, Philippines
21–22 May 2026	External activity: RSO participation in Border Control Agency Management Program (BCAMP 35) | Hanoi, Vietnam
19 May 2026	External activity: Border Summit 2026 | Singapore

267. Joint Activity: Co-organised or co-delivered by the RSO with partners.
268. RSO activity: An activity, meeting, workshop, training, dialogue, or event that is organised, hosted and led by the RSO.

Activity/output	Activity/output
12–14 May 2026	External activity: International Management of Serious Crime (IMOSC) XVIII Programme – IMOSC 19 | Semarang, Indonesia
4 May 2026	RSO activity: Third Practical and Technical Information Exchange (PATIE) Meeting | Online
30 April 2026	External activity: Australia Department of Home Affairs Reflection Workshop on Trusted Insider Risks at Airports | Bangkok, Thailand
28 April 2026	RSO joint activity with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia (KEMLU): Thematic Dialogue on Preventing and Responding to Trafficking in Persons into Cyber-Scam Centres | Jakarta, Indonesia
27–30 April 2026	RSO activity: Technical Workshop on Building Regional Capacity to Address Organised Crime Syndicates' Use of Emerging Technologies and Social Media | Jakarta, Indonesia
22 April 2026	RSO joint activity with Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC). Report Launched: Gender, Technology and Trafficking in Persons: Women's Experiences of Forced Criminality in South East Asia's Cyber Scam Centres | Bangkok, Thailand
20–21 April 2026	External activity: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) 26th Annual Conference of the Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons: The Rise of Forced Criminality – Addressing a Security Blind Spot | Vienna, Austria
17 April 2026	RSO activity: Cyber-Scam Centre Quarterly Briefing for Australian Government Officials | Online
15–17 April 2026	External activity: Cross-Border Investigation of People Smuggling between Thailand and Sri Lanka | Bangkok, Thailand
8 April 2026	RSO activity: Focus Group Discussion for the Refresh of the Handbook on Addressing Irregular Migration through Effective Information Campaigns – Group 2 | Online
7–10 April 2026	RSO activity: Introductory Workshop on Combating Trafficking in Persons at the People's Police Academy (PPA) | Ha Noi, Vietnam
1 April 2026	RSO activity: Focus Group Discussion for the Refresh of the Handbook on Addressing Irregular Migration through Effective Information Campaigns – Group 1 | Online
31 March-1 April 2026	External activity: Mekong Development Dialogue and Digital Threats and Responses in the Mekong Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue | Phnom Penh, Cambodia
30 March-1 April 2026	RSO activity: RILON Secondee Group Induction Programme | Bangkok, Thailand
23–25 March 2026	External activity: Asia Debriefing Meeting for INTERPOL's Operation Storm Makers III | Malé, Maldives
23–24 March 2026	External activity: Workshop for Modern Slavery Fund Grantees on Shared Learning in Prevention Strategies and their Evaluation in Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking | Liverpool, United Kingdom
17–18 March 2026	External activity: AIC 2026 Conference on Transnational Serious and Organised Crime | Online
16–17 March 2026	RSO activity: Stakeholder Outreach Mission in Malaysia | Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
12–13 March 2026	External activity: The Third Modern Slavery Conference | Bangkok, Thailand
11–13 March 2026	RSO activity: Country-level visit on RILON, SCIM and Counter People Smuggling | Jakarta, Indonesia
11–13 March 2026	RSO activity: Bilateral Engagements in Jakarta with Indonesian Government Agencies, the Embassy of Australia and International Organisations | Jakarta, Indonesia
11 March 2026	RSO activity: Briefing for Bangkok-Based Embassies on Vulnerabilities, Perceptions, and Information Needs Driving Irregular Migration in Bali Process Member States (BPMS) | Bangkok, Thailand
11 March 2026	External activity: Rohingya Response Advocacy Forum Quarterly Meeting, hosted by the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP) | Bangkok, Thailand

Activity/output	Activity/output
10 March 2026	RSO activity: Operational Visit to Don Mueang International Airport to Assess Border Management Procedures | Bangkok, Thailand
6 March–30 June 2026	RSO activity: Regular updates to the SCIM Senior Policy Group and Regional Response Secondees | Online
26 February 2026	External activity: Canada's Toques and Plaid Defence and Security Appreciation Night | Bangkok, Thailand
26 February 2026	RSO activity: Workshop on Strengthening Sri Lankan Immigration Officers' Capacity to Prevent Trafficking for Forced Criminality into Cyber-Scam Centres | Colombo, Sri Lanka
25 February 2026	RSO activity: Briefing on Trafficking for Forced Criminality for ASEAN Consular and Visa-Issuing Officers in South Asia | Colombo, Sri Lanka
25 February 2026	External activity: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) and ASEAN – Against Trafficking in Persons (ASEAN-ACT), Workshop on Effective Responses to Trafficking for Forced Criminality | Bangkok, Thailand
24 February 2026	External activity: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and ASEAN-ACT Workshop on Effective Responses to Trafficking for Forced Criminality | Bangkok, Thailand
23–24 February 2026	RSO activity: Ideation Workshop to Strengthen Prevention Responses of Trafficking for Forced Criminality into Cyber-Scam Centre | Colombo, Sri Lanka
23–24 February 2026	RSO activity: Technical Exchange and Scoping Exercise with the Border Surveillance Unit, Department of Immigration and Emigration of Sri Lanka | Colombo, Sri Lanka
19 February 2026	RSO activity: Bilateral Briefing on the report "Community Perceptions and Information Needs of Persons at Risk of Irregular Migration in Member States – Evidence from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand," at the Embassy of Bangladesh in Bangkok, | Bangkok, Thailand
9–11 February 2026	External activity: Workshop on Enhancing Transnational Collaboration for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons in the Greater Mekong (Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) | Bangkok, Thailand
6 February 2026	RSO activity: Workshop on Strengthening Kenyan Immigration Officers' Capacity to Prevent Trafficking for Forced Criminality into Cyber-Scam Centres | Nairobi, Kenya
5 February 2026	RSO activity: Briefing on Identifying Forced Criminality Trafficking Risks in Visa Applications | Nairobi, Kenya
4 February 2026	RSO activity: Introductory Briefing for the Australian Embassy, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Australian Federal Police | Bangkok, Thailand
3–4 February 2026	RSO activity: Ideation Workshop to Strengthen Prevention Responses to Trafficking for Forced Criminality into Cyber-Scam Centres | Nairobi, Kenya
29 January 2026	RSO activity: Workshop on Information Sharing and Regional Responses | Bangkok, Thailand
28 January 2026	External activity: Information Sharing Cooperation Meeting on the Prevention and Suppression of Transnational Scammer Networks (DSI) | Nonthaburi, Thailand
27–28 January 2026	RSO activity: Fourth Constructive Dialogue | Bangkok, Thailand
27 January 2026	RSO activity: Members' Engagement Function 2026 | Bangkok, Thailand
21–22 January 2026	External activity: Debriefs for Australia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka on Outcomes of the Regional Workshop on Disrupting the Logistics of People Smuggling | Online
21 January 2026	RSO activity: Regional Focus Group Discussion on ASEAN Guidance Development for Social Workers and Immigration and Border Officials | Online
20–22 January 2026	External activity: Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) Stakeholder Coordination Forum (SCF) | Semarang, Indonesia

Activity/output	Activity/output
9–11 December 2025	External activity: INTERPOL Global Conference on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Global Conference | Lyon, France
9–10 December 2025	External activity: Group of Seven (G7)+ Subject Matter Experts' Dialogue | Ottawa, Canada
8–12 December 2025	RSO activity: Strengthening Cross-Border Coordination, Protection and Care for Children in the Context of Migration: Making Children's Rights a Reality in ASEAN | Bali, Indonesia
4 December 2025	RSO activity: Second PATIE Meeting | Manila, Philippines
3 December 2025	External activity: Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime (GITOC) 24-Hour Conference on Global Organised Crime 2025 | Online
1–2 December 2025	External activity: INTERPOL Anti-Financial Fraud Conference | Singapore
25–27 November 2025	RSO Activity: Regional Workshop on Disrupting the Logistics of People Smuggling | Colombo, Sri Lanka
20–21 November 2025	RSO activity: Validation Meeting of the ASEAN Guidelines on the Implementation of Alternatives to Detention for Children in the Context of Migration | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
19–20 November 2025	RSO activity: Fourth RSO Border Forum | Bangkok, Thailand
17–18 November 2025	RSO activity: RSO Alumni Camp 2025 | Bangkok, Thailand
18 November 2025	External activity: Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Monthly Meeting | Bangkok, Thailand
17–21 November 2025	External activity: Sixth Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) Inter-Ministerial Meeting and Regional Taskforce Meeting | Hanoi, Viet Nam
17–21 November 2025	External activity: INTERPOL Operation STORM MAKERS III | Vientiane, Lao PDR
12–14 November 2025	External activity: Mekong–Australia Program on Transnational Crime (MAP-TNC) Workshop on Countering Trusted Insider Risks at Airports | Viet Nam
10–14 November 2025	RSO activity: Capacity Building for INTERPOL Operation STORM MAKERS III | Vientiane, Lao PDR
27–31 October 2025	RSO activity: Return-to-Work Action Plan Follow-Up Calls – Training Workshop on Border Management and Screening and Referral of Migrants in Vulnerable Situations | Online
27–29 October 2025	External activity: Regional Dialogue on Enhancing Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration on Digital Governance and Addressing Emerging Forms of Trafficking in Persons | Halong Bay, Vietnam
16 October 2025	External activity: Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Monthly Meeting | Bangkok, Thailand
13 October 2025	RSO activity: RSO, OSCE and AIC Webinar on Generative AI and Human Trafficking in Australia | Online
13 October 2025	RSO activity: Special Roundtable on Women's Experiences of Forced Criminality in Cyber-Scam Centres | Canberra, Australia
30 September–1 October 2025	RSO activity: Crisis Preparedness Forum | Bangkok, Thailand
29–30 September 2025	RSO activity: Regional Conference on Strengthening Online Scam Centre Response and Coordination with the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Bangkok, Thailand
22–25 September 2025	RSO activity: OSCE–RSO Webinar Series on New Frontiers: Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Human Trafficking | Online
18 September 2025	External activity: Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Monthly Meeting | Bangkok, Thailand

Activity/output	Activity/output
18 September 2025	External activity: Asian Network for Document Examination (ANDEX) Briefing | Bangkok, Thailand
15 September 2025	RSO activity: Exit Documentation Meeting with Sri Lankan Secondee | Bangkok, Thailand
14–25 September 2025	RSO activity: International People Smuggling Investigations Program (IPSIP) | Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
12 September 2025	RSO activity: Private Sector Coordination Dialogue with ASEAN-ACT on Strengthening Industry Responses to Cyber-Scam Centres and Trafficking in Persons for Forced Criminality | Singapore
11 September 2025	External activity: 4th Annual FinCrime Leaders' Summit – Southeast Asia | Singapore
8–12 September 2025	RSO activity: Building Online Investigations Capacity to Address Trafficking in Persons into Cyber-Scam Centres and Related Transnational Crime | Bangkok, Thailand
28 August 2025	External activity: Australia-Thailand Immigration Forum | Chiang Rai, Thailand
27–29 August 2025	RSO activity: Workshop on Countering Trusted Insider Risks at Airports, | Bangkok, Thailand
24–25 August 2025	RSO activity: Airports of Thailand Ground Aviation Service Training Programme | Bangkok, Thailand
20–21 August 2025	RSO activity: Regional Consultation on 'Addressing Irregular Migration through Effective Information Campaigns: Preventing Trafficking in Persons and People Smuggling in BPMS | Jakarta, Indonesia
19–22 August 2025	RSO activity: Training Workshop on Border Management and Screening and Referral of Migrants in Vulnerable Situations | Jakarta, Indonesia
20 August 2025	RSO activity: RSO 2025 Members' Engagement Function | Jakarta, Indonesia
20 August 2025	External activity: ASEAN Workshop on Public-Private Partnership to Tackle Scams | Online
19 August 2025	RSO activity: Panel Discussion on Migration Realities in Indonesia | Jakarta, Indonesia
19 August 2025	RSO and Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) joint activity: The RSO and Global (GI-TOC) jointly launched the report The Business of Exploitation: The Economics of Cyber-Scam Operations in Southeast Asia | Bangkok, Thailand
18–22 August 2025	RSO activity: Technical Workshop – Building Online Investigations Capacity to Address trafficking in Persons into Cyber-Scam Centres and Related Transnational Crime | Chonburi, Thailand
14 August 2025	External activity: Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) of the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery | Online
6 August 2025	RSO activity: Training Programme for Bangkok Flight Services (BFS), | Bangkok, Thailand
4 August 2025	External activity: Counter Transnational Organised Crime – Trafficking in Persons (CTOC-TIP 201) Batch 2 Workshop | Bangkok, Thailand
29 July 2025	External activity: United Nation (UN) Global Compact Network Thailand (GCNT) Expo, Disrupting Trafficking into Online Scams Policy Hackathon | Bangkok, Thailand
22–24 July 2025	External activity: Asia Regional Anti-Trafficking Conference (ARAT) 2025 | Chiang Mai, Thailand
3 July 2025	External Activity: Stimson Center Roundtable on the Regional Crisis of Cyber-Scam Operations and Related Human Trafficking in Southeast Asia | Online
3 July 2025	RSO activity: Technical Consultation Meeting on the Screening and Referral Toolkit Pilot | Bangkok, Thailand

Steps taken in relation to people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime to support the Regional Cooperation Framework between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026

Throughout 2025–26, the RSO continued to respond to the evolving priorities of Bali Process Member States (Member States), advancing a comprehensive suite of initiatives anchored in research, capacity building, partnership, and dialogue. These efforts reinforced frontline practitioner networks and supported Member States to identify emerging risks and trends, as well as respond to people smuggling, trafficking in persons, and related transnational crime, driving practical, regional cooperation. Key steps taken across these priority areas are outlined below:

1. Responding to Member States' Call for Evidence-Based Research and Action: The RSO expanded its research and analytical support across the Bali Process, strengthening the regional knowledge base on critical issues such as disaster-related mobility, technology-enabled trafficking, irregular labour migration, and key migration drivers. Flagship publications, policy briefs, and situational updates were complemented by targeted briefings, technical dialogues with Member States, and research-informed regional forums, including flagship events like the Border Forum and Constructive Dialogue, ensuring evidence directly informed policy discussions and operational practice. Together, these efforts translated empirical evidence into practical policy guidance and more informed regional cooperation.
2. Responding to Member States' Capacity-Building Needs: Through a combination of regional forums, specialised training, technical guidance, and operational tools, the RSO enhanced frontline capabilities of over 1450 officials in border management, investigations, intelligence analysis, countering cyber-enabled trafficking, and victim identification. By bringing together practitioners from across the region to exchange expertise, build trusted professional networks, and promote common operational approaches, these initiatives contributed to stronger cross-border cooperation and more coordinated responses to increasingly complex migration and transnational crime challenges.
3. Responding to Challenges Related to Technology-Enabled Trafficking into Cyber-Scam Centres: The RSO supported Member States through an integrated approach combining technical training, research, policy dialogue, and cross-sectoral collaboration. Operational capacity was strengthened through (Open-Source Intelligence) OSINT training, specialised victim identification workshops, and practical guidance, complemented by research on economics, gender dimensions, and emerging trends of cyber-scam operations. Through regional conferences, policy dialogues, and partnerships involving governments, civil society, and international organisations, the RSO helped strengthen Member States' capacity to prevent, investigate, and disrupt this evolving criminal threat while promoting more coordinated and victim-centred regional responses.

4. Supporting Bali Process Working Groups: The RSO also strengthened its support across Working Groups and related coordination mechanisms to ensure regional cooperation remained practical, coordinated, and responsive. Through the establishment of the PATIE mechanism, dedicated technical support to the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and the Technical Experts Group on Returns and Reintegration (TEG-RR), and strategic engagement across regional initiatives, the RSO helped align frontline operational priorities with high-level policy dialogues—supporting the Working Groups as essential, Member State–led vehicles for regional action.
5. Strategic Planning, Relationship Building, and Collaboration: The RSO continued to strengthen the foundational mechanisms and partnerships that underpin the Bali Process. During 2025–26, the revitalisation of the RILON, the expansion of the Secondment Program, and initiated new collaborations with regional universities forged deeper connections between Member States, practitioners, and international partners. Institutional capability was further bolstered by finalising the RSO's Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning Framework and Capacity Development Approach, enhancing the RSO's ability to measure results and capture learning. Together, these initiatives accelerated knowledge exchange and reinforced RSO's role as a trusted platform for evidence-based, operationally focused cooperation.
6. Strengthening and Growth of the RSO Alumni Network: The RSO Alumni Network continued to grow as a key mechanism for sustaining the impact of regional capacity-building efforts beyond individual training events. Expanding to more than 300 members, the Network promoted ongoing professional exchange through regular knowledge sharing, leadership development, and the Alumni Camp helping strengthen trusted relationships and cross-border collaboration among practitioners across the Bali Process region.

Table E2 highlights a number RSO activities conducted in the past year that supported the RCF.

Table E2: Activities that fall under the RCF

Event date	Meeting/Event Name
30 June 2026	RSO and IOM joint activity: Joint Assessment of the Responsiveness of National Legal and Institutional Frameworks to Emerging Forms of Trafficking in Persons Evidence from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Malaysia (Bangkok, Thailand) • *Supports and promotes information exchange while respecting confidentiality and privacy*
29–30 June 2026	RSO activity: RILON Training: Risk Assessment and Information Sharing to Counter Irregular Migration and Maritime People Smuggling in Timor-Leste (Dili, Timor-Leste) • *Build capacity and utilise resources to process mixed flows* • *Supports and promotes information exchange while respecting confidentiality and privacy*

Event date	Meeting/Event Name
11 June 2026	RSO activity: RILON Response Group on Maritime People Smuggling and International Organisations Roundtable Discussion (Jakarta, Indonesia) • *Supports and promotes information exchange while respecting confidentiality and privacy* • *Undermine the people smuggling model and create disincentives for irregular movement*
10 June 2026	RSO activity: RILON Trends, Insights & Risk Analysis Training (Jakarta, Indonesia) • *Build capacity and utilise resources to process mixed flows* • *Supports and promotes information exchange while respecting confidentiality and privacy*
8–9 June 2026	RSO activity: RILON Training: Risk Assessment and Information Sharing on Irregular Migration (Jakarta, Indonesia) • *Build capacity and utilise resources to process mixed flows* • *Supports and promotes information exchange while respecting confidentiality and privacy*
24–25 June 2026	RSO activity: Workshop on Strengthening Bangladeshi Immigration Officers' Capacity to Prevent Trafficking for Forced Criminality into Cyber-Scam Centres (Dhaka, Bangladesh) • *Build capacity and utilise resources to process mixed flows*
9–12 June 2026	RSO and UNITAR, CIFAL joint activity: Joint Workshop on Border Security Cooperation in Asia-Pacific (Jeju, Republic of Korea) • *Build capacity and utilise resources to process mixed flows* • *Supports and promotes information exchange while respecting confidentiality and privacy*
7–10 April 2026	RSO activity: Introductory Workshop on Combating Trafficking in Persons at the People's Police Academy (Ha Noi, Viet Nam) • *Build capacity of law enforcement officials*
4–5 June 2026	RSO activity: Workshop on Protection and Prevention of Forced Labour in the Fishing Sector (Bangkok, Thailand) • *Promotes human life and dignity*
27–28 January 2026	RSO activity: Fourth Constructive Dialogue (Bangkok, Thailand) • *Supports and promotes information exchange while respecting confidentiality and privacy* • *Seek to address root causes of irregular movement and promote population stabilisation wherever possible*
8–12 December 2025	RSO activity: Strengthening Cross-Border Coordination, Protection and Care for Children in the Context of Migration: Making Children's Rights a Reality in ASEAN (Bali, Indonesia) • *Promote orderly, legal migration and provide appropriate opportunities for regular migration*

Event date	Meeting/Event Name
25–27 November 2025	RSO activity: Regional Workshop on Disrupting the Logistics of People Smuggling (Colombo, Sri Lanka) • *Build capacity and utilise resources to process mixed flows* • *Undermine the people smuggling model and create disincentives for irregular movement*
19–20 November 2025	RSO activity: Fourth RSO Border Forum (Bangkok, Thailand) • *Supports and promotes information exchange while respecting confidentiality and privacy* • *Seek to address root causes of irregular movement and promote population stabilisation wherever possible*
17–18 November 2025	RSO activity: RSO Alumni Camp 2025 (Bangkok, Thailand) • *Supports and promotes information exchange while respecting confidentiality and privacy*
10–14 November 2025	RSO activity: Capacity Building for INTERPOL Operation STORM MAKERS III (Vientiane, Lao PDR) • *Build capacity and utilise resources to process mixed flows* • *Undermine the people smuggling model and create disincentives for irregular movement*
14–25 September 2025	RSO activity: International People Smuggling Investigations Program (Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh) • *Build capacity and utilise resources to process mixed flows* • *Undermine the people smuggling model and create disincentives for irregular movement*
20–21 August 2025	RSO activity: Regional Consultation on Addressing Irregular Migration through Effective Information Campaigns: Preventing Trafficking in Persons and People Smuggling in BPMS (Jakarta, Indonesia) • *Promote orderly, legal migration and provide appropriate opportunities for regular migration* • *Supports and promotes information exchange while respecting confidentiality and privacy* • *Undermine the people smuggling model and create disincentives for irregular movement*
19–22 August 2025	RSO activity: Training Workshop on Border Management and Screening and Referral of Migrants in Vulnerable Situations (Jakarta, Indonesia) • *Build capacity and utilise resources to process mixed flows*
18–22 August 2025	RSO activity: Technical Workshop – Building Online Investigations Capacity to Address Trafficking in Persons into Cyber-Scam Centres and Related Transnational Crime (Chonburi, Thailand) • *Undermine the people smuggling model and create disincentives for irregular movement*
3 July 2025	RSO activity: Technical Consultation Meeting on the Screening and Referral Toolkit Pilot (Bangkok, Thailand) • *Build capacity and utilise resources to process mixed flows*

Progress made in relation to people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime under the Regional Cooperation Framework between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026

In 2025–26, the RSO continued to play a pivotal role in advancing national and regional efforts against people smuggling, trafficking in persons, and related transnational organised crime, while deepening practical cooperation among Member States. The Member States leveraged the RSO platform to analyse emerging threats and translate evidence into coordinated policy and operational responses in line with the Regional Cooperation Framework.

Through sustained regional dialogue, cross-border collaboration, and targeted capacity development, the RSO remained a trusted resource for Bali Process Members, observers, civil society, academia, the private sector, and international partners addressing shared migration challenges. Guided by the Bali Process 2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation, which sets out eight priority areas for joint action, Members continued to advance work in:

- border management
- coordination and support
- information sharing and public information campaigns
- irregular migration and related transnational crime
- law enforcement
- returns and reintegration
- stakeholder engagement
- victim protection and migration management.

Through the 7 interlinked initiatives of its Work Plan, the RSO translated the priorities of the Regional Cooperation Framework into practical action, strengthening regional capacity, information sharing and operational cooperation across border management, trafficking in persons, and other shared migration challenges. By delivering evidence-based activities with clear objectives and measurable outcomes, the RSO supported Member States in responding to immediate operational challenges while fostering more coordinated and resilient regional approaches to migration governance.

Selected examples of the RSO's contributions to addressing people smuggling and trafficking in persons in the region during 2025–26 are outlined below:

Responding to Bali Process Member States' call for Evidence-Based Research and Action to Address Emerging Trends in the Asia–Pacific region

The RSO strengthened regional evidence with 4 research reports, 6 policy briefs, and 4 situational updates covering migration drivers, disaster-related risks, irregular labor migration, and trafficking in persons into cyber-scam centres and by translating research into direct policy and operational engagement. These outputs helped Member States track evolving risks, refine prevention messaging, and strengthen operational planning.

Following the February 2025 release of the Community Perceptions and Information Needs among At-Risk Populations[269] report, the RSO leveraged 612 surveys and key informant interviews across Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand to analyse migration drivers and barriers to legal pathways. The findings were used to brief Bangkok-based diplomatic missions, including those of the target countries and Australia, to drive operational uptake, shape future research, and guide the update of the Bali Process Handbook on Addressing Irregular Migration through Effective Campaigns.

In September 2025, the RSO and the Australian National University Migration Hub published a literature mapping on disasters, irregular migration, and labor mobility.[270] This study identified policy gaps, served as a basis for the development of the RSO Research Strategy 2026–2030, now in its final draft, and provided evidence for Australia's Department of Home Affairs Climate Security Policy Unit on environmental migration drivers.

The RSO also targeted technology-enabled threats through research and convenings. Key publications included *The Business of Exploitation: The Economics of Cyber-Scam Operations in Southeast Asia*[271] and, with AIC, *Gender, Technology and Trafficking in Persons*.[272] Supported by the Cyber-Scam Centre Situational Update Series, these outputs informed key events like the Crisis Preparedness Forum and a Bangkok regional conference that convened 58 officials from nine Member States. By pairing research with briefings and consultations, the RSO ensured data directly shaped regional cooperation and prevention strategies.

269. https://rso.baliprocess.net/community-perceptions-and-information-needs-of-persons-at-risk-of-irregular-migration-rso-and-mixed-migration-centre-launch-new-report/
270. Literature-Mapping-Impact-of-Natural-and-Humanitarian-Disasters-on-Irregular-Migration-and-Irregular-Labour-Migration-in-the-Bali-Process-Region.pdf
271. Kristina-Amerhauser-Audrey-Thill-The-business-of-exploitation-The-economics-of-cyber-scam-operations-in-Southeast-Asia-GI-TOC-July-2025-2MR-11-Aug-CJ.pdf
272. https://rso.baliprocess.net/new-rso-australian-institute-of-criminology-report-highlights-womens-unique-experiences-and-vulnerabilities-in-the-context-of-trafficking-for-forced-criminality-into-cyber-scam-centres/

The RSO, jointly with IOM published an Assessment of the Responsiveness of National Legal and Institutional Frameworks to Emerging Forms of Trafficking in Persons, analysing evidence from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Malaysia.[273] The Assessment aimed at identifying gaps and opportunities to address new forms of trafficking in persons through existing legislation and systems in four Member States.

Together, these efforts demonstrate the RSO's role in advancing data-informed migration governance. By expanding the knowledge base, addressing gaps in migration pathways, and connecting research, briefings, workshops and Member State consultations, the RSO helped ensure evidence was not only produced but shaped how practical cooperation, prevention approaches and operational responses were adopted across the Bali Process region.

Responding to Bali Process Member States' capacity building needs

During 2025–26, the RSO continued to strengthen the operational capacities of Member States through a series of targeted capacity-building initiatives. Responding to Member States priorities, activities focused on counter-people smuggling, counter-trafficking, border management, migrant screening and referral, information sharing, and victim-centred responses. Delivered across South and Southeast Asia, these initiatives emphasised practical learning, peer exchange, and the application of operational tools to strengthen frontline capability and regional cooperation.

Delivered on 19–20 November 2025, the Fourth RSO Border Forum remained RSO's flagship capacity development event, bringing together 140 practitioners from 35 Bali Process Member and Observer States and organisations to strengthen practical cooperation across air, land, and maritime borders. Through applied workshops, scenario-based exercises, and peer exchange, participants enhanced operational capability in areas including fraudulent travel document detection, information sharing, inter-agency coordination, victim identification, trauma-informed interviewing and responses to trafficking for forced criminality.

Operational priorities identified by practitioners during the Fourth RSO Border Forum informed the agenda for the Fourth RSO Constructive Dialogue (27–28 January 2026), which brought together Senior Officials to consider frontline perspectives on emerging migration challenges and opportunities for stronger regional cooperation. Together, these forums strengthened the link between operational experience and policy development, supporting more coordinated and practical regional responses to people smuggling, trafficking in persons, and related transnational crime.

273. https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/assets.rso.baliprocess.net/app/uploads/2026/06/30171600/Assessment-of-the-Responsiveness-of-National-Legal-and-Institutional-Frameworks-to-Emerging-Forms-of-Trafficking-in-Persons-CTiP-Final-1-1.pdf

To strengthen investigative capability, the RSO delivered the IPSIP for 24 frontline officers in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, from 14 to 25 September 2025, alongside specialised OSINT training for 171 practitioners from 17 Member States. In addition, the RSO hosted a technical regional workshop on countering trafficking into cyber-scam centres, gathering 45 law enforcement officers from across Southeast Asia. The RSO also convened a Regional Workshop on Disrupting the Logistics of People Smuggling in Colombo, from 25 to 27 November 2025 bringing together officials from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste to strengthen cross-border cooperation against maritime people smuggling. Collectively, these initiatives enhanced investigative techniques, intelligence analysis, and operational coordination to better disrupt transnational criminal networks.

The RSO also strengthened regional capacity on border management and protection-sensitive responses. In partnership with UNITAR CIFAL Jeju, it delivered the Workshop on Border Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, from 8-9 June 2026, supporting stronger border intelligence and regional cooperation. Complementing this, the RSO delivered training on migrant screening and referral in Jakarta, Indonesia, and advanced the regional rollout of the RSO–UNHCR Screening and Referral Toolkit through a technical pilot involving 12 Member States. Collectively, these initiatives reinforced the RSO's strategic role in equipping Member States with the practical skills, operational tools, and partnerships needed to address rapidly shifting migration dynamics. By embedding frontline training within broader policy frameworks, the RSO ensured Member States are better prepared to detect and dismantle complex transnational criminal networks.

Alongside capacity building, the RSO progressed regional policy and operational guidance through the refresh of the Bali Process Policy Guide on Returns and Reintegration, updated the Quick Reference Guide for the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Persons, and supported the development of ASEAN regional guidance on alternatives to detention for children in the context of migration. These efforts reinforced evidence-based and protection-sensitive approaches across the Bali Process region.

Responding to Bali Process Member States' challenges related to technology-enabled trafficking into cyber-scam centres

The RSO continued to strengthen Member States' capacity to investigate and respond to trafficking for forced criminality linked to online scam operations. Through a practical, multi-sectoral approach, the RSO supported frontline practitioners to strengthen detection, investigations, victim identification, and regional cooperation in response to the growing convergence of trafficking in persons, online fraud, and organised crime.

The RSO delivered specialised OSINT training to 171 practitioners from 17 Member States, equipping law enforcement and border officials with practical skills to identify online recruitment patterns, analyse digital information, and disrupt cyber scam centre recruitment networks and related criminal activity. Responding to calls from Member States to strengthen capabilities against technology-enabled organised crime, the RSO also partnered with IOM and Freedom Collaborative to train Thai immigration officers on screening, referral, and victim-centred responses at the border. These activities were complemented by practical guidance on victim identification in complex cyber environments, trauma-informed interviewing, and the preservation and use of digital evidence. In addition, the RSO's technical regional workshop on countering trafficking into cyber-scam centres[274] brought together 45 law enforcement officers from across Southeast Asia.

Research and strategic analysis remained central to the RSO's support for Member States, providing practical evidence to inform policy, operational planning and frontline action. Alongside a suite of research products developed with ASEAN-ACT and the ASEAN Institute for Counter-Trafficking, the RSO launched the Cyber Scam Centre Situational Update Series and contributed to the development of ASEAN indicators on trafficking for forced criminality. Collectively, these initiatives informed regional dialogue and promoted more consistent approaches to policy and practice across the region.

The RSO further advanced regional dialogue and policy coordination through a webinar series with the OSCE on New Frontiers: Generative AI and Human Trafficking, a regional conference with Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs[275] on strengthening responses to online scam centres, and broader engagement with ASEAN, COMMIT, OSCE, and international partners. Recognising the importance of upstream prevention, in partnership with Freedom Collaborative, the RSO convened ideation workshops in Kenya and Sri Lanka, bringing together 36 civil society representatives from 21 organisations to map emerging digital recruitment schemes, establish community early-warning systems, and equip frontline actors with practical tools to intercept vulnerable individuals before they are trafficked.

These initiatives delivered a tangible contribution to the region's capacity to respond to technology-facilitated trafficking. By equipping law enforcement, prosecutors, and private sector partners with advanced investigative skills and policy insights, the RSO has been able to strengthen Member States' ability to detect, disrupt, and prosecute transnational trafficking networks, particularly those exploiting emerging digital technologies.

274. https://rso.baliprocess.net/rso-hosts-technical-regional-workshop-on-countering-trafficking-into-cyber-scam-centres/
275. https://rso.baliprocess.net/rso-and-thai-ministry-of-foreign-affairs-co-host-regional-conference-on-strengthening-online-scam-centre-response-and-coordination/"

RSO workshops and policy guidance have also supported the fostering of regional collaboration, enhanced information sharing, and promoted a coordinated approach to countering cyber-enabled crimes. Aligned with the objectives of the RSO Strategic Plan and Work Plan, these efforts reflect a deliberate strategy to build operational readiness, deliver measurable outcomes, and reinforce the Bali Process commitment to protecting vulnerable populations while responding to evolving threats in a rapidly changing technological environment.

Strategic planning, relationship building and collaboration

The RSO continued to advance the objectives of the Regional Cooperation Framework through implementation of the 2024–2026 Strategic Plan to provide a clear roadmap for aligning programmes, partnerships, and organisational priorities with emerging regional needs. Institutional capability was further strengthened through the finalisation of the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning Framework and Capacity Development Approach, reinforcing RSO's ability to deliver evidence-based support and practical regional cooperation.

In parallel, the RSO expanded its engagement with academic institutions to strengthen the link between research and policy. Building on its established partnership with Mahidol University International College, the RSO initiated discussions with Chulalongkorn University and the Balsillie School of International Affairs to explore potential collaboration opportunities. These engagements aim to promote knowledge exchange, applied research and internship opportunities for emerging professionals, while ensuring academic evidence informs policy development and practical operational responses across the Bali Process region.

The RSO Secondment Programme remained a cornerstone of practical collaboration and regional capacity building. By hosting immigration and border management officials from Member States, the programme enabled direct technical exchange while embedding expert knowledge into RSO research, training, and operational initiatives.

Secondees played a central role in driving frontline results, most notably in the revitalisation of RILON to strengthen cross-border operational cooperation. A key operational milestone was the launch of the RILON Maritime People Smuggling Response Group, which brought together frontline practitioners and policy counterparts from Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste as secondees to the RSO to establish a trusted mechanism for timely, actionable information sharing.

Additionally, through the New Zealand-funded Sri Lanka Secondee Programme, secondees directly supported cross-border investigations and helped identify high-risk people smuggling cases across key transit routes.

Externally, the RSO reinforced its role as a trusted regional convenor by linking operational experience with senior level policy dialogue through flagship platforms such as the RSO Border Forum and Constructive Dialogue. Complementing these efforts, the RSO strengthened engagement with regional and international mechanisms, including ASEAN, Australia Counter Trafficking, the Budapest Process, COMMIT, OSCE, and United Nations partners, helping align Bali Process priorities with broader regional and global initiatives, promote complementarity and reduce duplication.

Through these initiatives, the RSO reinforced its role as a premier regional platform for strategic alignment, knowledge exchange, and practical cooperation. By combining strategic planning, institutional partnerships, and government secondments, the RSO enabled Member States to exchange technical expertise, institutionalise best practices, and deepen operational collaboration across border management, counter-trafficking, and counter-smuggling. Collectively, these efforts built lasting institutional capacity, promoted evidence-based decision-making, and advanced coordinated, protection-sensitive responses across the Bali Process region.

Supporting Bali Process Working Groups

During 2025–26, the RSO continued to facilitate technical cooperation and policy dialogue through the Bali Process Working Groups, supporting Member States and Organisations to address priority challenges related to international migration, people smuggling, trafficking in persons, and related transnational crime.

The RSO also supported the 11th Annual Meeting of the Bali Process Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and the Eighth Meeting of the Technical Experts Group on Returns and Reintegration (TEG-RR) in Manila,[276] Philippines, from 1 to 5 December 2025, contributing operational inputs on trafficking trends, returns, and reintegration. In support of the TEG-RR, the RSO advanced the refresh of the Bali Process Policy Guide on Returns and Reintegration through a co-funded technical expert, ensuring regional guidance remains responsive to contemporary migration management and protection challenges. Moreover, the RSO provided practical and technical support to the SCIM Initiative which includes Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Timor-Leste. This pilot senior-level policy dialogue was established following discussions under the Indonesia–Australia Immigration Cooperation Working Group, and acts as a structured link between frontline operational cooperation under the RILON Initiative and senior-level policy discussion.

276. https://rso.baliprocess.net/philippines-hosts-joint-annual-meetings-of-the-working-group-on-trafficking-in-persons-wg-tip-and-the-technical-experts-group-on-returns-and-reintegration-teg-rr/

The RSO also participated in the 18th Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials' Meeting and 19th Steering Group Meeting, presenting progress under the RSO 2024–2026 Work Plan.

A key institutional development was the establishment of the PATIE mechanism. Convening Working Group Co-Chairs, the RSO and RSO Co-Managers on 3 occasions during 2025–26, PATIE provided a structured platform to exchange information, and align planned activities with the Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation and the RSO Work Plans.

Strengthening and Growth: RSO Alumni Network

In 2025–26, the RSO Alumni Network[277] expanded to over 300 members, strengthening professional linkages across the region and providing a structured platform for peer-to-peer learning, collaboration, and knowledge exchange among former participants of RSO programmes.

Alumni benefit from ongoing access to RSO resources, including skill-enhancement opportunities and an active professional network. Weekly regional highlights and headlines are disseminated to keep members informed of emerging trends and operational priorities.

The RSO Alumni Camp 2025,[278] held in Bangkok on 17–18 November 2025, brought together 23 practitioners from nine Member States: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Palau, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The Camp focused on leadership development, peer learning, and information exchange, recognising that countering irregular migration and transnational crime requires adaptive leadership and trusted networks alongside technical skills. Participants engaged in practical sessions on communication, mentoring, and building psychologically safe teams. Sequenced directly ahead of the Fourth RSO Border Forum, the workshop enabled alumni to immediately apply their learning and contribute practitioner perspectives to the broader Border Forum discussions.

By connecting former trainees across borders and agencies, the Alumni Network served as an operational multiplier for the RSO, fostering a continuous community of practice for OSINT, border management, and counter-trafficking and sustaining the professional relationships, leadership capabilities, and trust required for effective cross-border investigations, referrals, and information sharing across the Bali Process membership.

277. https://rso.baliprocess.net/rso-alumni-network-drives-regional-cooperation-and-future-leadership-in-migration-management/
278. https://rso.baliprocess.net/rso-alumni-camp-2025-supports-leadership-development-and-regional--einformationxchange-among-frontline-practitioners/

Conclusion

The RSO continued its long-term implementation of the Regional Cooperation Framework, supporting Member States to address priority challenges relating to international migration, people smuggling, trafficking in persons, and related transnational organised crime.

Secondments at the RSO office, targeted training, multi-stakeholder dialogue and the first RILON Maritime People Smuggling Response Group of the RILON Initiative contributed to efforts to strengthen joint responses to maritime people smuggling facilitating non-operationally sensitive information sharing and practitioner cooperation across the most affected countries in the region.

Evidence-based research provided critical data and strategic foresight to inform regional policy and operational responses. Simultaneously, targeted capacity building initiatives, such as the IPSIP, OSINT training, and cyber-scam trafficking workshops, strengthened the practical skills of law enforcement and border officials across the region, complemented by institutional partnerships with universities, research centres and other operational actors.

Operational coordination, policy dialogue, and multi-stakeholder collaboration were further strengthened through intensified engagement with regional and international partners, alongside the revitalisation of the RILON network, anchored by the RSO Secondment Programme, and structured alignment mechanisms such as PATIE, which helped synchronise priorities across Bali Process Working Groups.

Supported by these platforms and the expanding RSO Alumni Network, these combined efforts deepened information sharing, strategic alignment, and institutional trust, equipping Member States to respond more effectively to evolving transnational crime threats across the region.

Annex A—Glossary:

- ACWC: ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
- ADSP: Asia Displacement Solutions Platform
- AFP: Australian Federal Police
- AI: Artificial Intelligence
- AIC: Australian Institute of Criminology
- AICHR: ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
- ANDEX: Asian Network for Document Examination

- ANU: Australian National University
- ARAT: Asia Regional Anti-Trafficking Conference
- ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- ASEAN-ACT: ASEAN–Australia Counter Trafficking
- BCAMP: Border Control Agency Management Program
- BPMS: Bali Process Member States
- CBSA: Canada Border Services Agency
- CDA: Capacity Development Approach
- CIFAL: International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders
- COMMIT: Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking
- CPS: Countering People Smuggling
- CRVS: Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
- CTOC-TIP: Counter Transnational Organised Crime – Trafficking in Persons
- DFAT: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- DHA: Department of Home Affairs
- DSI: Department of Special Investigation
- G7: Group of Seven
- GCNT: UN Global Compact Network Thailand
- GITOC: Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime
- IGC: Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees
- IMOSC: International Management of Serious Crime
- IOM: International Organization for Migration
- IPSIP: International People Smuggling Investigations Program
- JCLEC: Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation
- JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency
- KEMLU: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia
- KPI: Key Performance Indicator
- MAP-TNC: Mekong–Australia Program on Transnational Crime
- MERL: Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning
- MoU: Memorandum of Understanding
- MSDHS: Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
- OHCHR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- OSCE: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- OSINT: Open-Source Intelligence

- PATIE: Practical and Technical Information Exchange
- PPA: People's Police Academy of Viet Nam
- RCF: Regional Cooperation Framework
- RCMP: Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- RILON: Regional Information, Liaison and Outreach Network
- RRAF: Rohingya Response Advocacy Forum
- RRRC: Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner
- RSO: Regional Support Office
- SAR: Strategic Analysis Report
- SCF: Stakeholder Coordination Forum
- SCIM: Six Countries Irregular Migration Initiative
- SOM: Senior Officials' Meeting
- SOMTC: Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime
- SOP: Standard Operating Procedure
- TEG-RR: Technical Experts Group on Returns and Reintegration
- TIA: Trends, Insights and Analysis
- TICA: Thailand International Cooperation Agency
- TIP: Trafficking in Persons
- ToR: Terms of Reference
- UN: United Nations
- UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
- UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNITAR: United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

APPENDIX F: ADMINISTRATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE MIGRATION AGENTS REGISTRATION AUTHORITY

Overview of the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority

The Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (OMARA) regulates the activities of Australian Registered Migration Agents (RMAs) providing immigration assistance. This provides protection and assurance to consumers who receive immigration assistance from RMAs.

Functions of the OMARA

The OMARA safeguards consumers of migration advice services by regulating RMAs. As outlined in section 316 of the *Migration Act 1958*, OMARA's key functions include:

- assessing and deciding applications for registration
- monitoring the conduct of RMAs
- investigating complaints related to immigration assistance. Where appropriate, the OMARA also undertakes disciplinary action against RMAs and former RMAs.

Information about Registered Migration Agents

Overview of the profession

At 30 June 2026, 5,581 people were registered as migration agents by the OMARA. This represents a 4.6% increase from 5,337 on 30 June 2025.

Profile of registered migration agents:

As at 30 June 2026, the profile of RMAs consisted of:

- average age, 47.7 years
- 47.4% female and 52.6% male.

Table F1: Experience of registered migration agents, at 30 June 2026

Experience (years)	Agents	Per cent (of total agents)
< 1	477	8.5%
1–3	1,020	18.3%
4–6	385	6.9%
7–9	1,056	18.9%
> 10	2,643	47.4%
Total	**5,581**	

Registration refusals and withdrawals

During 2025–26, 6 registration applications were refused and a further 48 were withdrawn, compared to 8 and 25 respectively in 2024–25.

In 2025–26, the primary reason for refusing an applicant's request for registration was that they had been subject to disciplinary action and/or were found not to be a fit and proper person to provide immigration assistance under the *Migration Act 1958*. During the same period, the primary reasons for applicants withdrawing their registration applications included that the applicant did not meet the English language requirements or Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements for re-registration.

Complaint processing

Throughout 2025–26, the OMARA received 495 complaints relating to RMAs and finalised 300 complaints; this is an increase from the 363 complaints received and the 267 complaints finalised in 2024–25.

Complaint outcomes

Table F2: Complaint outcomes for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Outcome	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Resulted in sanction decision	33
Suspected breach notice issued	23
Addressed with RMA	72
No breach found	11
Dismissed[279]	161
Total complaints finalised	**300**

Monitoring outcomes

In November 2025, the OMARA commenced proactively monitoring RMA compliance with the obligations under the Code of Conduct and CPD Providers compliance with the CPD Provider Standards.

Table F3: RMA compliance with the Code of Conduct

RMA compliance with the Code of Conduct	1 Nov 2025 to 30 June 2026
Number of RMAs monitored	85
Number of monitoring activities finalised	59
Compliant with Code of Conduct	16
Non-compliant with Code of Conduct	43
Resulted in sanction decision	1
Suspected breach notice issued	7
Addressed with RMA	35

279. Complaints are dismissed for a number of reasons including when the substance of a complaint is outside the OMARA's jurisdiction, such as a complaint against a legal practitioner. Other reasons to dismiss a complaint include there being no merit to the complaint; there being insufficient evidence to make a finding; or the complaint being withdrawn.

Table F4: CPD Providers compliance with the Provider Standards

CPD Providers compliance with the Provider Standards	1 Nov 2025 to 30 June 2026
Number of CPD Providers monitored	3
Number of monitoring activities finalised	2
Compliant with CPD Provider Standards	1
Non-compliant with CPD Provider Standards	1
Addressed with provider	1
s55 Cancellation	0

Sanction outcomes

In 2025–26, the OMARA sanctioned 28 RMAs.

Of those:

- 10[280] had their registration cancelled, in comparison to 8 in 2024–25
- 9 had their registration suspended, in comparison to 6 in 2024–25
- 7 were cautioned, in comparison to 3 in 2024–25
- 2 former registered migration agents were barred from being registered for periods of 2 and 3 years respectively, in comparison with 3 former agents being barred for 1, 2 and 3 years respectively in 2024–25.

The increase in sanction decisions in 2025–26 is attributable to a continued investment in investigative capability and the ongoing maturation of operational processes that support the effective and timely management of complaints.

280. One cancellation decision was set aside by the Administrative Review Tribunal and substituted with a decision to impose a 3 year suspension.

APPENDIX G: SCREENING OFFICER REQUIREMENT EXEMPTIONS

As required under Section 94D of the *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004 (*Aviation Act), no exemptions to screening officer requirements were provided under section 94B(1) of the Aviation Act to an aviation industry participant during the reporting period. No exemptions to screening officer requirements were provided under section 165B(1) of the *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003* during this reporting period.

APPENDIX H: GENDER EQUALITY REPORTING

The *Working for Women: A Strategy for Gender Equality* sets out principles for progressing gender equality. In 2025–26, departmental initiatives aligned with the priority areas of gender-based violence, economic equality and security, and leadership, representation and decision-making.

Gender-based violence

During 2025–26, the department's Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Support service received 930 referrals. The service provides temporary visa holders experiencing domestic and family violence with tailored assistance on visa and immigration matters and referrals to specialist support and legal services where required. The primary focus of the DFV service is to support temporary visa holders experiencing DFV so that they do not feel compelled to remain in an abusive relationship due to concerns regarding their visa status.

The department administers the Human Trafficking Visa Framework, which provides temporary and permanent visa pathways for eligible victim-survivors of human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices, supporting their safety, recovery and long-term stability. This includes the Referred Stay visa, which provides a permanent pathway for eligible victim-survivors who engage with the criminal justice process. Women comprise a significant proportion of people assisted through this pathway.

The first phase of the National Hate Crimes Database was launched in December 2025. It captures legislated hate-related offences recorded by police where an offender has been charged, using data from all states and territories and the Commonwealth. The database improves available data on offences and incidents involving protected attributes, including gender, to support law enforcement and policy responses.

The department also engaged with government, academic and civil society stakeholders to examine misogyny and gender-based grievance narratives in the context of violent extremism, including online radicalisation and harm.

The department also engaged with government, academic and civil society stakeholders to examine misogyny and gender-based grievance narratives in the context of violent extremism, including online radicalisation and harm.

Economic equality and security

During 2025–26, the department continued the Workplace Justice visa and Strengthening Reporting Protections pilot. These measures are intended to reduce visa-related barriers to temporary migrant workers reporting workplace exploitation and seeking support. Related information, education and grant activities supported awareness of workplace rights and protections. While not specifically targeted at women, these measures are relevant to migrant women in insecure or vulnerable employment.

Under the Australian Cyber Security Strategy 2023–2030, the department published Inclusive Cyber Security Recruitment Guidance. The guidance identifies barriers to entry and progression and provides advice to employers and recruiters on inclusive recruitment and retention practices, including for women, who remain underrepresented in the sector. This supports the greater participation of women in a high-growth sector and contributes to economic security and workforce diversity.

Leadership, representation and decision-making

The National Community Hubs Program provides migrant and refugee women and their families with community-based activities, childminding, volunteering opportunities and connections to services, education, training and employment. The program is intended to reduce social isolation and improve access to community and economic participation.

The department-chaired Victorian Multicultural Reference Group provided a forum for multicultural women leaders and community representatives to raise emerging issues, share perspectives and inform departmental consideration of community matters. The group promoted diverse voices in decision-making and fostered collaboration, networking and information sharing among multicultural women leaders.

Between November 2025 and February 2026, the department supported 16 facilitated workshops in south-east Melbourne, including a dedicated women's workshop, with more than 150 participants. The workshops examined social cohesion and barriers to legal, health and settlement services. Participants identified practical issues relating to language services, transport, child-friendly programs and access to local services.

The Humanitarian Settlement Program provides tailored settlement assistance to humanitarian entrants and other eligible clients, including women and children arriving through the Woman at Risk visa. This visa supports refugee women and their dependants in particularly vulnerable circumstances, including those at risk of victimisation, harassment or serious abuse because of their gender. Support includes connections to English language learning, education, employment, health, housing and community services. In 2025–26, most Woman at Risk visa holders exiting the program had developed the skills and knowledge needed to use services in Australia.

APPENDIX I: CYBER INCIDENT REVIEW BOARD REPORTING

Part 5 of the *Cyber Security Act 2024*[281] establishes the Cyber Incident Review Board (the Board) as an independent advisory body to conduct no-fault, post-incident reviews of significant cyber security incidents in Australia. An Expert Panel, drawn from a pool of industry sector experts according to the specific review, will support the Board.

On 1 May 2026, the Honourable Tony Burke MP, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Cyber Security, announced the appointment of the Board.

The Board is chaired by Ms Narelle Devine and comprises the following 6 standing members:

- Professor Debi Ashenden
- Ms Valeska Bloch
- Mrs Jessica Burleigh
- Mr Darren Kane
- Mr Berin Lautenbach
- Mr Nathan Morelli.

Having been appointed towards the end of 2025–26, the Board did not commence, complete or discontinue any reviews during the reporting period.

281. The *Cyber Security Act 2024* received Royal Assent and became law on 29 November 2024.

APPENDIX J: ANNUAL CHILD SAFETY STATEMENT 2025–26 (COMMONWEALTH CHILD SAFE FRAMEWORK)

The department is committed to keeping children safe, supported and respected in all interactions with the department and its service providers, and to continuously strengthening its child-safe culture, governance, capability and risk management.

The department interacts with children directly and indirectly through migration and citizenship services, arrivals and departures at Australia's ports and airports, multicultural and social cohesion programs, and specialist services such as the Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minor Program. These interactions may include interviews, case management, welfare and support services, visa and citizenship processes, and airport and border engagements. The department also manages immigration detention arrangements for families and unaccompanied children, including their placement, safety, welfare and access to services.

Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy Statement

During 2025–26, the department updated its *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy Statement* to support staff, contractors and service providers to integrate child safety and wellbeing across its operations. The statement aligns with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, sets clear expectations and includes the department's promise to keep children safe and promote their wellbeing.

In addition to the release of an updated Policy Statement, key child safety initiatives undertaken during 2025–26 included:

- delivering an all-staff National Children's Week webinar to promote awareness of child wellbeing responsibilities and child-safe practices and support staff responding to and reporting child protection and wellbeing incidents, allegations and complaints improving access to child wellbeing data and progressing a Working with Children Checks dashboard to support workforce planning and compliance monitoring

- continuing to review the department's safeguard arrangements across departmental programs, service delivery and operational processes strengthening referral, escalation and accountability arrangements for child safety concerns engaging with the State and Territory Child Protection Authority National Online Forum to support information sharing and consistent child protection practices.

Overall risk rating and compliance

The department's 2025–26 annual child safety risk assessment assessed the overall child safeguarding risk as medium. Key risks related to:

- Workforce capability and awareness – maintaining staff training and awareness of child safeguarding responsibilities.
- Legislative and policy compliance – incorporating new and amended requirements, including best-interests-of-the-child considerations where applicable.
- Governance and oversight – clarifying accountability and coordinating assurance across relevant business areas.
- Safe service delivery – identifying and managing safeguarding risks in services involving or affecting children.
- Child-related information – managing information about children in accordance with privacy, security and recordkeeping requirements.
- Contracted service providers – improving assurance over compliance with the department's child safeguarding obligations.
- Child safety concerns – supporting timely identification, consistent documentation and escalation, with centralised reporting to strengthen SES oversight.

The department continued to mitigate these risks through strengthened safeguarding governance, information management, assurance and compliance arrangements across departmental programs and service delivery. Uplifting workforce capability and compliance is central to these efforts.

The department considers itself compliant with all Requirements outlined in the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework for 2025–26.

In 2026–27, the department will continue to strengthen implementation of its *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy Statement* to support ongoing compliance and continuous improvement.

PART 7:
REFERENCE MATERIAL

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

A	
AARs	After Action Review
ABF	Australian Border Force
ACIC	Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission
ACSC	Australian Cyber Security Centre
ACSIAF	Air Cargo Security Industry Advisory Forum
ADV	Australian Declaratory Visa
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AGD	Attorney-General's Department
AHRC	Australian Human Rights Commission
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AMEP	Adult Migrant English Program
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
ANZCTC	Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee
AO	Officer of the Order of Australia
APOD	Alternative Places of Detention
APS	Australian Public Service
APSC	Australian Public Service Commission
ASAF	Aviation Security Advisory Forum
ASD	Australian Signals Directorate
ASEAN	*Association of Southeast Asian Nations*
ASICs	Aviation Security Identification Cards
ASIO	Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
ATT	Australian Trusted Trader Program

B	
BCAMP	Border Control Agency Management Program
C	
CCD	Commonwealth Climate Disclosure
CEN	Community Engagement Network
CFI	Counter Foreign Interference
CGRPs	Commonwealth Grant Rules and Principles
CIAC	Critical Infrastructure Advisory Council
CIRMP	Critical Infrastructure Risk Management Program
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
CMAL	Central Migration Alert List
CMP	Compliance Monitoring Program
CPRs	Commonwealth Procurement Rules
CROMP	Climate Risk and Opportunity Management Program
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CVAL	Customs Value of Goods
CVE	Counter Violent Extremism
D	
DEX	Data Exchange
DSS	Department of Social Services
DTAP	Digital Trade Accelerator Program
E	
EA	Enterprise Agreement
ECSO	Enhanced Cyber Security Obligations
EDN	Export Declaration Number
EEGs	Excise Equivalent Goods
EPBC	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

F	
FBT	Fringe Benefits Tax
FDSP	Facility and Detainee Services Provider
FOI	Freedom of Information
FSP	*Facilities Service Provider*
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
FVPs	Family Violence Provisions
H	
HSP	Humanitarian Settlement Program
I	
IAP	Internal Audit Program
ICS	Integrated Cargo System
IDN	Immigration Detention Network
IHMS	International Health and Medical Services
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPP	Indigenous Procurement Policy
IPS	Information Publication Scheme
IPSIP	International People Smuggling Investigations Program
ISPS	*International Ship and Port Facilities Security Code 2003*
J	
JATF OSB	Joint Agency Taskforce Operation Sovereign Borders
K	
KMP	Key Management Personnel
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
L	
LPOC	Last Ports of Call
M	
MBC	Maritime Border Command
MIRs	Management-initiated Reviews
MISCF	Maritime Industry Security Consultative Forum
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

MSIC	Maritime Security Identification Cards
MTOFSA	*Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003*
N	
NAATI	National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters
NSIP	National Support and Intervention Program
O	
OMARA	Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority
OSB	Operation Sovereign Borders
OSINT	Open-Source Intelligence
P	
PARs	Post Activity Reports
PBS	Portfolio Budget Estimates
PATIE	*Practical and Technical Information Exchange*
PGPA Act	*Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*
PSM	Public Service Medal
PSPF	Protective Security Policy Framework
PTV	Post Transaction Verifications
Q	
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
QF	Quality Failure
R	
RASAF	Regional Aviation Security Advisory Forum
RCF	Regional Cooperation Framework
RILON	Regional Information, Liaison and Outreach Network
RMA	Registered Migration Agent
ROCs	Reports of Crime
RSO	Regional Support Office of the Bali Process

S	
SASM	Strategic Aviation Security Meeting
SCIM	Streamlining the Cargo Intervention Model
SCORE	Standard Client Outcomes Reporting
SETS	Settlement Engagement and Transition Support
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SOCI Act	*Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*
SOLAS	*International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea 1974*
SoNS	System of National Significance
T	
TechFIT	Technology Foreign Interference Taskforce
TEG-RR	Technical Experts Group on Returns and Reintegration
TEU	Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit
TISN	Trusted Information Sharing Network
U	
UMA	Unauthorised Maritime Arrival
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
W	
WCO	World Customs Organization
WHS	Work health and safety
WSA	Western Sydney Airport
WSI	Western Sydney International
Y	
YAG	Youth Advisory Groups

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
A	
Auditor-General	The Auditor-General for Australia is an independent officer of the Parliament with responsibility under the *Auditor-General Act 1997* for auditing Commonwealth entities and reporting to the Australian Parliament. The Auditor-General is supported by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO).
AusCheck	Provides background checking services for security-sensitive critical infrastructure sectors in Australia.
AusTender	The Australian Government tendering website, used to advertise open tenders and expressions of interest in accordance with the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
Australian Trusted Trader	A voluntary trade facilitation initiative open to all eligible Australian businesses active in the international trade supply chain.
B	
Border continuum	The department's approach which views the Australian border as a continuum that includes its overseas, maritime, physical and domestic dimensions.
C	
Child safeguarding framework	Outlines the principles, policies and procedures for the department's staff and contracted service providers to safeguard the children who receive its services. The development of this framework was a focus of the independent Child Protection Panel.
Comcare	The national Work Health and Safety (WHS) regulator, worker's compensation authority, and claims manager for the Commonwealth public sector.
Commonwealth Fraud Control Policy	Supports accountable authorities of non-corporate Commonwealth entities to effectively discharge their responsibilities under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and section 10 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014.*
Commonwealth Grant Rules and Principles 2024	The Australian Government grants policy framework applies to all non-corporate Commonwealth entities subject to the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013.*
Commonwealth Child Safe Framework	A whole-of-government policy that sets minimum standards for Commonwealth entities to create and maintain behaviours and practices that are safe for children.
Commonwealth Climate Disclosure	The Australian Government's policy for Commonwealth entities to publicly disclose their exposure to climate risks and opportunities, as well as their actions to manage them.
Commonwealth Procurement Rules	Governs how entities buy goods and services and are designed to ensure the government and taxpayers get value for money.

Term	Definition
Countering foreign interference	The Australian Government works with all levels of government, intelligence agencies and police forces to combat foreign interference and other activities that threaten our safety and security, and raise the cost and reduce the benefit to foreign actors interfering in Australian society.
Countering terrorism	The comprehensive whole-of-nation approach to protect our people and our communities from the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms [by leveraging] collective enforcement, intelligence-driven responses, and proven prevention strategies.
Countering violent extremism	Involves a range of activities which aim to address the drivers of violent extremism and help individuals disengage from violent extremism. A violent extremist is someone who believes their fringe ideological goals can only be achieved through the use of violence.
Corporate plan	The Corporate Plan is the department's primary planning document. It sets out our purposes, priorities and performance measures over a 4-year period, and supports the department's annual business planning cycle, and informs individual performance agreements.
Cyber Security Policy	The strategic and legislative framework designed to secure Australia's digital future, protect networks and systems, and support the technology industry.
D	
Data limitations	A data limitation acknowledges potential limits to the accuracy of a claim within a performance target.
F	
Fraud and Corruption Control Plan	The department's plan that outlines its commitment to effectively manage and mitigate fraud and corruption, setting out appropriate strategies to take all reasonable steps to prevent, detect, and deal with fraud and corruption appropriately.
Foreign interference	Foreign interference is activities carried out by, on behalf of, are directed or subsidised by, or are undertaken in active collaboration with, a foreign power and either involves a threat to a person or is clandestine or deceptive and detrimental to Australia's interests.
H	
Humanitarian Settlement Program	The Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP) supports humanitarian entrants and other eligible visa holders integrate into Australian life. It does this by helping new arrivals build the skills and knowledge they need to become self-reliant and active members of the community.
Humanitarian Program	Australia operates a dedicated Humanitarian Program that offers resettlement for refugees and others overseas who are in humanitarian need; and protection for people who arrive lawfully in Australia and engage Australia's protection obligations.
I	
Immigration Detention Network (IDN)	The Immigration Detention Network (IDN) comprises all immigration detention centres and alternative places of detention in Australia used to hold unlawful non-citizens under the *Migration Act 1958*.

Term	Definition
Inspection	May include use of non-intrusive examination through X-ray technology (static or mobile), trace particle detection, detector dogs or physical examination of cargo.
Intervention	Actions undertaken by ABF officers to prevent and detect the import or export of prohibited items and to control the movement of restricted items, including examinations and inspections.
L	
Legacy caseload	Persons who arrived by unauthorised maritime methods between 2008 and 2014 to seek protection and were not taken to a Regional Processing Country, including children born to UMA parents.
M	
Migration Program	The annual planned permanent intake determined by the Australian Government in a budgetary context which governs the number of visas granted for permanent entry from offshore and for permanent resident status onshore.
Migration Strategy	*The Migration Strategy: Getting migration working for the nation* was released on 11 December 2023 and outlines the Australian Government's commitment to build a migration system that matches the needs of the nation, delivering for Australia and migrants.
O	
Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority	An office within the department of Home Affairs that regulates the migration advice industry to provide appropriate protection and assurance to people using migration advice services.
Operation AEGIS	Established to coordinate efforts for the new compliance and enforcement of visa conditions, including electronic monitoring and preventative detention under distinct lines of effort.
Operation Sovereign Borders	Operation Sovereign Borders is a military-led, whole-of-government border security operation to combat maritime people smuggling.
P	
Portfolio Additional Estimate Statements	Documents that inform Senators and Members of Parliament of the proposed allocation of resources to government outcomes by entities within the portfolio.
Portfolio Budget Statements	Documents that inform parliamentarians and the public of the proposed allocation of resources to achieve government outcomes.
Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act)	The primary piece of Commonwealth legislation that establishes a coherent system of governance, resource management, and accountability for all public resources across Commonwealth entities and companies.
Public Service Act 1999	The principal piece of Commonwealth legislation that defines the legal framework for the effective, fair employment, management, and leadership of the Australian Public Service (APS).
Protective Security Policy Framework	The Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF) sets the Australian Government's minimum protective security standards to achieve effective and efficient secure delivery of government business, both domestically and internationally.

Term	Definition
R	
Refugee	A person recognised as needing protection under the *1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.*
Registered Migration Agents	A person outside their country of nationality or formal habitual residence (their home country), and owing to a 'well-founded fear of persecution', is unable or unwilling to return to their home country or to seek the protection of that country.
S	
SmartGate	The department's automated border processing system.
Social cohesion	Australia's social cohesion and democratic resilience are underpinned by our commitment to the inclusion of all Australians and our shared values. This includes respect for individual freedoms and equality of opportunity for all people.
System of National Significance	A significantly smaller subset of critical infrastructure assets that are most crucial to the nation by virtue of their interdependencies across sectors and potential for cascading consequences to other critical infrastructure assets and sectors if disrupted.
T	
Tariff classification	The process of self-assessing and determining the correct legal commodity code for imported goods under the *Customs Tariff Act 1995*, which dictates the matching rate of customs duty, import taxes, and statistical tracking requirements.
U	
Unauthorised Maritime Arrival	Under section 5AA(1) of the *Migration Act 1958*, an unauthorised maritime arrival is a person, (other than an 'excluded maritime arrival') who entered Australia by sea at either an excised offshore place or any other place at any time after 1 June 2013, and the person became an unlawful non-citizen because of that entry into Australia.

PGPA RULE LIST OF REQUIREMENTS

PGPA rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
17AD(g)	**Letter of transmittal**		
17AI	Letter of transmittal	A copy of the letter of transmittal signed and dated by Accountable Authority on date final text approved, with statement that the report has been prepared in accordance with section 46 of the Act and any enabling legislation that specifies additional requirements in relation to the annual report.	Mandatory
17AD(h)	**Aids to access**		
17AJ(a)	Contents	Table of contents (print only).	Mandatory
17AJ(b)	Part 7: Reference Material	Alphabetical index (print only).	Mandatory
17AJ(c)	Part 7: Reference Material	Glossary of abbreviations and acronyms.	Mandatory
17AJ(d)	Part 7: Reference Material	List of requirements.	Mandatory
17AJ(e)	Page ii	Details of contact officer.	Mandatory
17AJ(f)	Page ii	Entity's website address.	Mandatory
17AJ(g)	Page ii	Electronic address of report.	Mandatory
17AD(a)	**Review by accountable authority**		
17AD(a)	Review by the Accountable Authority	A review by the Accountable Authority of the entity.	Mandatory
17AD(b)	**Overview of the entity**		
17AE(1)(a)(i)	Roles and functions of the department	A description of the role and functions of the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(ii)	Organisational structure and key executive	A description of the organisational structure of the entity.	Mandatory

PGPA rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
17AE(1)(a)(iii)	Performance results	A description of the outcomes and programmes administered by the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(iv)	Performance results	A description of the purposes of the entity as included in corporate plan.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(i)	Accountable Authority	Name of the Accountable Authority or each member of the Accountable Authority.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(ii)	Accountable Authority	Position title of the Accountable Authority or each member of the Accountable Authority.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(iii)	Changes to the executive team	Period as the Accountable Authority or member of the Accountable Authority within the reporting period.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(b)	Roles and functions of the portfolio	An outline of the structure of the portfolio of the entity.	Portfolio departments - mandatory
17AE(2)	N/A	Where the outcomes and programs administered by the entity differ from any Portfolio Budget Statement, Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement or other portfolio estimates statement that was prepared for the entity for the period, include details of variation and reasons for change.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AD(c)	**Report on the performance of the entity**		
	Annual performance Statements		
17AD(c)(i); 16F	Statement by the Accountable Authority	Annual performance statement in accordance with paragraph 39(1)(b) of the Act and Section 16F of the Rule.	Mandatory
17AD(c)(ii)	***Report on financial performance***		
17AF(1)(a)	Part 3: Report on financial performance	A discussion and analysis of the entity's financial performance.	Mandatory
17AF(1)(b)	Part 4: Financial statements	A table summarising the total resources and total payments of the entity.	Mandatory

PGPA rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
17AF(2)	Part 3: Report on financial performance	If there may be significant changes in the financial results during or after the previous or current reporting period, information on those changes, including: the cause of any operating loss of the entity; how the entity has responded to the loss and the actions that have been taken in relation to the loss; and any matter or circumstances that it can reasonably be anticipated will have a significant impact on the entity's future operation or financial results.	If applicable, Mandatory.
17AD(d)	**Management and accountability**		
	Corporate governance		
17AG(2)(a)	Fraud control and anti-corruption measures	Information on compliance with section 10 (fraud and corruption systems).	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(i)	Letter of transmittal	A certification by accountable authority that fraud and corruption risk assessments and fraud and corruption control plans have been prepared.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(ii)	Letter of transmittal	A certification by accountable authority that appropriate mechanisms for preventing, detecting incidents of, investigating or otherwise dealing with, and recording or reporting fraud and corruption that meet the specific needs of the entity are in place.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(iii)	Letter of transmittal	A certification by accountable authority that all reasonable measures have been taken to deal appropriately with fraud and corruption relating to the entity.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(c)	Home Affairs enterprise governance arrangements	An outline of structures and processes in place for the entity to implement principles and objectives of corporate governance.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(d) – (e)	Significant non-compliance issues with finance law	A statement of significant issues reported to Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the Act that relates to non-compliance with Finance law and action taken to remedy non-compliance.	If applicable, Mandatory.
	Audit committee		
17AG(2A)(a)	Audit and risk committee	A direct electronic address of the charter determining the functions of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(b)	Audit and risk committee	The name of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(c)	Audit and risk committee	The qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory

PGPA rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
17AG(2A)(d)	Audit and risk committee	Information about the attendance of each member of the entity's audit committee at committee meetings.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(e)	Audit and risk committee	The remuneration of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
	External scrutiny		
17AG(3)	Notable decisions	Information on the most significant developments in external scrutiny and the entity's response to the scrutiny.	Mandatory
17AG(3)(a)	Notable decisions	Information on judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals and by the Australian Information Commissioner that may have a significant effect on the operations of the entity.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(3)(b)	Reports by external bodies	Information on any reports on operations of the entity by the Auditor-General (other than report under section 43 of the Act), a Parliamentary Committee, or the Commonwealth Ombudsman.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(3)(c)	Capability reviews and broader transformation agenda	Information on any capability reviews on the entity that were released during the period.	If applicable, Mandatory
	Management of human resources		
17AG(4)(a)	Workforce profile People strategies People management, learning and development	An assessment of the entity's effectiveness in managing and developing employees to achieve entity objectives.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(aa)	Employee statistics	Statistics on the entity's employees on an ongoing and non-ongoing basis, including the following: • statistics on full-time employees; • statistics on part-time employees; • statistics on gender; • statistics on staff location.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(b)	Employee statistics	Statistics on the entity's APS employees on an ongoing and non-ongoing basis; including the following: • statistics on staffing classification level; • statistics on full-time employees; • statistics on part-time employees; • statistics on gender; • statistics on staff location; • statistics on employees who identify as Indigenous.	Mandatory

PGPA rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
17AG(4)(c)	Workplace agreements	Information on any enterprise agreements, individual flexibility arrangements, Australian workplace agreements, common law contracts and determinations under Subsection 24(1) of the *Public Service Act 1999*.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(i)	Workplace agreements	Information on the number of SES and non-SES employees covered by agreements etc identified in paragraph 17AG(4)(c).	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(ii)	Salary ranges	The salary ranges available for APS employees by classification level.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(iii)	Employee entitlements	A description of non-salary benefits provided to employees.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(i)	N/A	Information on the number of employees at each classification level who received performance pay.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(ii)	N/A	Information on aggregate amounts of performance pay at each classification level.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(iii)	N/A	Information on the average amount of performance payment, and range of such payments, at each classification level.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(iv)	N/A	Information on aggregate amount of performance payments.	If applicable, Mandatory
	Assets management		
17AG(5)	Assets management	An assessment of effectiveness of assets management where asset management is a significant part of the entity's activities.	If applicable, Mandatory
	Purchasing		
17AG(6)	Purchasing and procurement	An assessment of entity performance against the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.	Mandatory
	Reportable consultancy contracts		
17AG(7)(a)	Reportable consultancy contracts	A summary statement detailing the number of new reportable consultancy contracts entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on all such contracts (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing reportable consultancy contracts that were entered into during a previous reporting period; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting period on those ongoing contracts (inclusive of GST).	Mandatory

PGPA rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
17AG(7)(b)	Reportable consultancy contracts	A statement that "During [reporting period], [specified number] new reportable consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of $[specified million]. In addition, [specified number] ongoing reportable consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of $[specified million]".	Mandatory
17AG(7)(c)	Reportable consultancy contracts	A summary of the policies and procedures for selecting and engaging consultants and the main categories of purposes for which consultants were selected and engaged.	Mandatory
17AG(7)(d)	Reportable consultancy contracts	A statement that "Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website."	Mandatory
	Reportable non-consultancy contracts		
17AG(7A)(a)	Reportable non-consultancy contracts	A summary statement detailing the number of new reportable non-consultancy contracts entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on such contracts (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing reportable non-consultancy contracts that were entered into during a previous reporting period; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting period on those ongoing contracts (inclusive of GST).	Mandatory
17AG(7A)(b)	Reportable non-consultancy contracts	A statement that "Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable non-consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable non-consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website."	Mandatory
17AD(daa)	**Additional information about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts**		
17AGA	Reportable consultancy contracts Reportable non-consultancy contracts	Additional information, in accordance with Section 17AGA, about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts.	Mandatory
	Australian National Audit Office Access Clauses		
17AG(8)	Australian National Audit Office access clauses	If an entity entered into a contract with a value of more than $100, 000 (inclusive of GST) and the contract did not provide the Auditor-General with access to the contractor's premises, the report must include the name of the contractor, purpose and value of the contract, and the reason why a clause allowing access was not included in the contract.	If applicable, Mandatory

PGPA rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
	Exempt contracts		
17AG(9)	Exempt contracts	If an entity entered into a contract or there is a standing offer with a value greater than $10,000 (inclusive of GST) which has been exempted from being published in AusTender because it would disclose exempt matters under the FOI Act, the annual report must include a statement that the contract or standing offer has been exempted, and the value of the contract or standing offer, to the extent that doing so does not disclose the exempt matters.	If applicable, Mandatory
	Small business		
17AG(10)(a)	Small business and medium enterprises	A statement that "[Name of entity] supports small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Small Enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance's website."	Mandatory
17AG(10)(b)	Small business and medium enterprises	An outline of the ways in which the procurement practices of the entity support small and medium enterprises.	Mandatory
17AG(10)(c)	Small business and medium enterprises	If the entity is considered by the Department administered by the Finance Minister as material in nature — a statement that "[Name of entity] recognises the importance of ensuring that small businesses are paid on time. Further information on payment times can be found at [entity web address]."	If applicable, Mandatory
	Financial statements		
17AD(e)	Part 4: Financial Statements	Inclusion of the annual financial statements in accordance with subsection 43(4) of the Act.	Mandatory
	Executive remuneration		
17AD(da)	Executive remuneration	Information about executive remuneration in accordance with Subdivision C of Division 3A of Part 2–3 of the Rule.	Mandatory
17AD(f)	**Other mandatory information**		
17AH(1)(a)(i)	Advertising and market research expenditure	If the entity conducted advertising campaigns, a statement that "During [reporting period], the [name of entity] conducted the following advertising campaigns: [name of advertising campaigns undertaken]. Further information on those advertising campaigns is available at [address of entity's website] and in the reports on Australian Government advertising prepared by the department of Finance. Those reports are available on the department of Finance's website."	If applicable, Mandatory

PGPA rule reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement
17AH(1)(a)(ii)	N/A	If the entity did not conduct advertising campaigns, a statement to that effect.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(b)	Grants	A statement that "Information on grants awarded by [name of entity] during [reporting period] is available at [address of entity's website]."	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(c)	Disability reporting mechanism	Outline of mechanisms of disability reporting, including reference to website for further information.	Mandatory
17AH(1)(d)	Information Publication Scheme	Website reference to where the entity's Information Publication Scheme statement pursuant to Part II of FOI Act can be found.	Mandatory
17AH(1)(e)	Appendix A: Correction of material errors	Correction of material errors in previous annual report.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(2)	Work health and safety Appendix B: Commonwealth Climate Disclosure Appendix C: Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018 – 2025–26 Annual Report Appendix D: Legal Services Expenditure Appendix E: Reporting on the Bali Process Appendix F: Administration of the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority Appendix G: Screening Officer Requirement Exemptions Appendix H: Gender Equality Reporting Appendix I: Cyber Incident Review Board Reporting Appendix J: Annual Child Safety Statement	Information required by other legislation.	Mandatory

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