

Portfolio glossary

Term	Meaning
Accrual accounting	System of accounting where items are brought to account and included in the financial statements as they are earned or incurred, rather than as they are received or paid.
Accumulated depreciation	The aggregate depreciation recorded for a particular depreciating asset.
Additional Estimates	Where amounts appropriated at Budget time are insufficient, Parliament may appropriate more funds to portfolios through the Additional Estimates Acts.
Administered	Revenues, expenses, assets, or liabilities managed by agencies on behalf of the Commonwealth. Agencies do not control administered items. Administered expenses include grants, subsidies, and benefits. In many cases, administered expenses fund the delivery of third-party outputs.
Annual appropriation	Two Appropriation Bills are introduced into Parliament in May and comprise the Budget for the financial year beginning 1 July. Further Bills are introduced later in the financial year as part of the additional estimates. Parliamentary departments have their own appropriations.
Appropriation	An authorisation by Parliament to spend monies from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for a particular purpose.
Capital expenditure	Expenditure by an agency on capital projects, for example purchasing a building.
Consolidated Revenue Fund	Section 81 of the Constitution stipulates that all revenue raised, or money received by the Commonwealth forms the one consolidated revenue fund (CRF).
Departmental	Revenue, expenses, assets, and liabilities that are controlled by the agency in providing its outputs. Departmental items would generally include computers, plant and equipment assets used by agencies in providing goods and services and most employee expenses, supplier costs and other administrative expenses incurred.
Depreciation	Apportionment of an asset's capital value as an expense over its estimated useful life to take account of normal usage, obsolescence, or the passage of time.

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Effectiveness indicators	Measure the joint or independent contribution of programs to the achievement of their specified outcome.
Efficiency indicators	Measure the adequacy of an agency's management of its programs. Includes price, quality, and quantity indicators. The interrelationship between the three efficiency indicators of any one program should be considered when judging efficiency.
Equity or net assets	Residual interest in the assets of an entity after deduction of its liabilities.
Expense	Total value of all the resources consumed in producing goods and services or the loss of future economic benefits in the form of reductions in assets or increases in liabilities of an entity.
Fair value	Valuation methodology: the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable and willing parties in an arm's length transaction. The fair value can be affected by the conditions of the sale, market conditions and the intentions of the asset holder.
Operating result	Equals revenue less expense.
Outcomes	The Government's objectives in each portfolio area. Outcomes are desired results, impacts or consequences for the Australian community as influenced by the actions of the Australian Government. Actual outcomes are assessments of the end results or impacts achieved.
Price	One of the three key efficiency indicators. The amount the Government or the community pays for the delivery of programs.
Program	Activity that delivers benefits, services or transfer payments to individuals, industry and/or the community, with the aim of achieving the intended result specified in an outcome statement.
Quality	One of the three key efficiency indicators. Relates to the characteristics by which customers or stakeholders judge an organisation, product or service. Assessment of quality involves use of information gathered from interested parties to identify differences between the user's expectations and experiences.

Term	Meaning
Quantity	One of the three key efficiency indicators. Examples include: the size of a program; count or volume measures; how many or how much.
Revenue	Total value of resources earned or received to cover the production of goods and services.
Special Account	Special Accounts allow money in the Consolidated Revenue Fund to be acknowledged as set-aside (hypothecated) for a particular purpose. Amounts credited to a Special Account may only be spent for the purposes of the Special Account. Special Accounts can only be established by a written determination of the Finance Minister (section 78 of the <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> (PGPA Act 2013)) or through an Act of Parliament (section 80 of the PGPA Act 2013).
Special Appropriations (including Standing Appropriations)	An amount of money appropriated by a particular Act of Parliament for a specific purpose and number of years. For Special Appropriations the authority to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Revenue Fund does not generally cease at the end of the financial year. Standing Appropriations are a sub-category consisting of ongoing Special Appropriations – the amount appropriated will depend on circumstances specified in the legislation.