

Memorandum



**To: Directors
Executive
Constituent Bodies' Presidents
Constituent Bodies' CEOs
Section Chairs
Committee Chairs**

From: Arthur Moses SC, President

Date: 2 April 2019

2019-20 Federal Budget Overview

Introduction

1. On Tuesday, 2 April 2019, the Law Council of Australia attended the Federal Budget 'lock-up' and has prepared the following summary of key announcements of interest to the legal profession.
2. A copy of the Law Council's submission to the Pre-Budget consultation process can be found on the Law Council's [website](#).
3. The Law Council will engage in further analysis of the Budget papers as necessary and advise Directors, Constituent Bodies, Sections and Committees of further matters of interest or concern.

The Broad Picture

4. The Budget predicts that there will be a deficit of \$4.2 billion at the end of the 2018-19 financial year, before a predicted surplus of \$7.1 billion (up from a predicted \$4.1 billion in the mid-year budget update). The Budget forecasts surpluses in each year over the forward estimates.
5. The Budget forecasts a 5 per cent unemployment rate for the next four years, with wage growth predicted to grow from 2.5 per cent in 2018-19 to 3.5 per cent by 2021-22.

Funding of the Federal Courts and Tribunals

Change in overall funding of the Federal courts

6. Overall funding for the Federal courts has increased by \$7.3 million in 2019-20 (see breakdown in below table).
7. In 2019-20, the registry services functions for the Federal Court of Australia, the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit Court of Australia have been amalgamated into a separate program under Outcome 4: Commonwealth Courts Corporate Services.

Memorandum



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA

	2018-19 estimated actual (\$m)	2019-20 Budgeted (\$m)	\$m Change (% change)
Federal Court of Australia	90.523	87.365	-3.158 (3.5)
Family Court of Australia	45.053	41.383	-3.670 (-8.1)
Federal Circuit Court of Australia	97.013	66.262	-30.751 (-31.7)
Commonwealth Courts Corporate Services	126.787	171.700	44.913 (35.4%)
Total	359.376	366.710	7.334 (2.0)

Extension of the Federal Court of Australia's jurisdiction to include corporate crime

8. The Government has announced more than \$35 million over the forward estimates to support this expansion of the jurisdiction of the Federal Court of Australia to include corporate crime.
9. The funding will support the appointment of two judges, 11 registry and support staff and the construction of new court facilities for the hearing of criminal proceedings.
10. The funding is in addition to \$9.9 million provided in November 2018 to the Federal Court to fund the appointment of additional resources, including two new judges to support civil cases, and \$41.6 million to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions to prosecute briefs from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (**ASIC**).

Administrative Appeals Tribunal

11. Funding for the Administrative Appeals Tribunal will increase from \$175.6 million in the current year to \$177.3 in 2019-20 before dropping back to \$167.5 million in 2020-21, \$170.8 in 2021-22 and \$166.8 in 2022-23.

Legal assistance sector funding

12. The Government will provide \$1.2 billion over three years from 2020-21 in Commonwealth funding for legal assistance services. This includes including services delivered by Legal Aid Commissions (**LACs**), Community Legal Centres (**CLCs**) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (**ATSILS**).
13. As indicated in the table below, this represents only an incremental increase and falls significantly short of the \$310 million per year in additional required funding identified in the Law Council's Justice Project and the recommendation of the Productivity Commission's 2014 report.

14. While the allocation does not represent a significant increase in annual funding, the Budget has provided a degree of financial certainty for the sector with the following multi-year allocations (in \$ millions):

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
LACs	\$217.243	\$219.941	\$226.4	\$229.8	\$233.2
CLCs	\$48.637	\$50.071	\$45.4*	\$52.7	\$53.5
ATSILS	\$73.915	\$74.826	\$75.5*	\$82.7	\$84.1

*This figure is likely to be supported by the Social and Community Services Sector supplementation

15. The Budget has also provided approximately \$10 million per annum over three years to the following legal assistance support programs:
- additional support for legal assistance services;
 - expensive Commonwealth criminal cases; and
 - family advocacy and support services.

A new single mechanism for Commonwealth legal assistance funding

16. The funding will be delivered through a new, single mechanism for Commonwealth legal assistance funding, replacing the National Partnership on Legal Assistance Services and the Indigenous Legal Assistance Program. This new mechanism is subject to negotiations with the states and territories, and if agreed, will commence on 1 July 2020.

Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services

17. The Government has announced an additional \$3.8 million in funding in the 2019-20 financial year for the 14 Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services across Australia.

Throughcare Services in central Australia

18. The Government will provide \$2.3 million in funding over three years to support the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (**NAAJA**) to deliver throughcare services at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre and the Barkly Work Camps. NAAJA's throughcare projects seek to reduce recidivism and incarceration rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Central Australia by providing comprehensive case management for prisoners in the lead up to, and following, their release from prison.

Elder Abuse Service Trials

19. As part of the National Plan to Respond to the Abuse of Older Australians (see further details below), the Federal Government has announced funding of \$18 million over four years for 12 trials of frontline services designed to support older people who are victims of abuse.
20. The funding will support the establishment of three types of specialist support services:

- five specialist elder abuse units in existing Legal Aid Commissions and Community Legal Centres;
- three health-justice partnerships in existing Community Legal Centres; and
- four case management and mediation services to be run by four Relationships Australia offices.

Fair Work Commission Workplace Advice Service

21. The Government will provide \$1.4 million over four years from 2018-19 (and \$0.4 million per year ongoing) to expand the Fair Work Commission's Workplace Advice Service clinics from 1 January 2019.

Changes in agency funding

Australian Securities and Investments Commission

22. ASIC will be provided with more than \$400 million in additional funding, representing on average, a 25 per cent increase in its annual funding compared to 2017-18.
23. The ASIC funding includes support for:
- an accelerated enforcement strategy (\$146 million);
 - implement its new enforcement strategy and expand its capabilities and roles in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission (\$404.8 million over four years);
 - enhanced onsite supervision of large financial institutions (\$63.3 million);
 - ASIC's expanded role as the primary conduct regulator for superannuation (\$69.9 million); and
 - expanded regulation of financial services in accordance with the Banking Royal Commission recommendations – specifically, in relation to credit, financial advice and insurance.
24. The funding for ASIC announced builds on the additional \$70.1 million provided by the Federal Government in August 2018.

Australian Prudential Regulation Authority

25. Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) will be provided with more than \$150 million in additional funding, representing on average a 30 per cent increase in its annual funding compared to 2017-18.
26. The APRA funding is intended to:
- strengthen its supervisory and enforcement activities which will support its response to key areas of concern raised by the Royal Commission, including with respect to governance, culture and remuneration (\$145 million over four years from 2019-20);

- extend the Banking Executive Accountability Regime to all APRA-regulated entities including insurers and superannuation funds;
 - increase supervision intensity across APRA-regulated entities, including a strong focus on underperforming superannuation funds and members outcomes; and
 - enhance the supervisory framework for governance, culture and remuneration applying to all APRA-regulated entities, including through building internal technical expertise and accessing technical specialists outside of APRA, supporting APRA's response to key areas of concern raised by Commissioner Hayne.
27. The funding for APRA builds on \$58.7 million provided by the Federal Government in November 2018 to increase the number of frontline supervisors and enhance APRA's ability to identify and address new and emerging risk areas.
28. The Government is establishing an independent financial regulator oversight authority, to assess and report on the effectiveness of ASIC and APRA in discharging their functions and meeting their statutory objectives (\$7.7 million over three years from 2020-21).

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

29. The Federal Government has announced that it will provide the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (**OAIC**) \$25 million over three years.
30. The Law Council noted in its 2019-20 Pre-Budget Submission that while the OAIC had received \$12.9 million over four years in funding as part of the establishment of the new National Consumer Data Right, it remained critically underfunded.
31. The additional funding provided in the 2019-20 Budget will be significant in allowing the OAIC to meet growing demand for its services. It will also underpin new penalties and enforcement powers under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth).

Commonwealth Integrity Commission

32. The Government will provide \$104.5 million over four years from 2019-20 (including \$10.0 million in capital funding over four years from 2019-20) to establish a Commonwealth Integrity Commission (**CIC**).
33. The CIC will be an independent statutory agency, led by an Independent Integrity Commissioner and two deputy commissioners, tasked with the investigation of corruption in the public sector. It will also work with agencies to build resilience to Attorney-General's 51 corruption and bolster agency capability to detect, deter and investigate corrupt conduct.
34. The Government will also provide
- \$2.2 million in 2019-20 (including \$0.8 million in capital funding) for the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (**ACLEI**) to commence its reconstitution as the law enforcement integrity division of the CIC with a

significantly expanded jurisdiction and to engage an Integrity Commissioner designate prior to the commencement date of the CIC;

- \$4.9 million over four years from 2019-20 for the Attorney-General's Department to support the CIC and to provide legal services assistance; and
- \$1.0 million over three years from 2020-21 for the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman to oversee operations of the CIC.

Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre

35. \$28.4 million over four years from 2019 20 (including \$6.5 million in capital funding) to the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre to expand the Fintel Alliance. The Fintel Alliance is a public private partnership that builds resilience in the financial system and disrupts money laundering, terrorism financing and other serious crime.

Summary of other key budgetary initiatives

Taxation

36. The maximum amount of the low-income tax offset will increase from \$530 to \$1,080. The change means people earning up to \$126,000 will receive \$1,080 back after lodging an end of year tax return from 1 July 2019.
37. In 2022-23, the Government will increase the top threshold of the 19 per cent tax bracket from \$41,000 to \$45,000. And in 2024-25, the Government will reduce the 32.5 per cent tax rate to 30 per cent. This will be accompanied by the abolition of the 37 per cent tax bracket (as already legislated)
38. The Government is increasing and expanding access to the instant asset write-off. From tonight small and medium-sized businesses with an annual turnover of up to \$50 million (up from \$10 million currently) will be able to immediately deduct eligible assets costing up to \$30,000 (up from \$25,000).
39. Tax cuts for small and medium businesses will be brought forward and will include businesses with turnovers below \$50 million. The tax rate will drop from 27.5 per cent in the 2019-20 financial year to 25 per cent in 2021-22 — five years earlier than planned.

Superannuation

40. The Government has announced an intention to establish a superannuation consumer advocate and is calling for expressions of interest. The advocate will provide input on behalf of superannuation fund members in policy discussions and work to educate and assist members navigate the superannuation system. Treasury has been asked to recommend to the Government a potential provider or providers from the field of expressions of interest; define the potential scope of the advocate's activities; and formulate accountability, governance and funding arrangements.

Infrastructure

41. \$100 billion investment in infrastructure. This is an increase from the previous \$75 million infrastructure investment.

42. Key initiatives include:

- \$2 billion to deliver fast rail between Melbourne and Geelong, including \$40 million for detailed assessment of five fast rail corridors from Sydney to Wollongong, Sydney to Parkes (via Bathurst and Orange), Melbourne to Albury Wodonga, Melbourne to Traralgon and Brisbane to the Gold Coast;
- an increase of the Urban Congestion Fund from \$1 billion to \$4 billion;
- further \$1 billion to improve Roads of Strategic Importance on top of existing \$3.5 billion;
- \$500 million to establish the Commuter Car park Fund to allow more people to park and ride;
- a Road Safety Package of \$2.2 billion including \$1.1 billion for vital maintenance and repair, \$550 million in increased funding for the Black Spots Program and an additional \$571 million for bridge renewal and safety including heavy vehicles; and
- an extra \$15.6 billion in major road and rail projects in addition to increased commitments for safety, fast rail, urban congestion and Roads of Strategic Importance.

Regional Australia

43. Key measures include:

- \$100 billion over 10 years has been committed to regional road safety.
- A further \$200 million for fourth round of Building Better Regions Fund.
- Allocation of \$22.7 million for another round of Stronger Communities Program.
- A new \$220 million investment in improved internet and mobile services through the Stronger Regional Connectivity Package.
- \$100 million in regional airport infrastructure to improve airport safety and access.
- \$543 million in tourism, including \$184 million to support tourism along the great Ocean road and in Geelong and up to \$126 million to upgrade visitor facilities in Kakadu National Park.
- Additional \$150 million to remove barriers to participation in sport for women through provision of better change rooms and access to a community swimming facilities.
- Regional deals including the Barkly Deal covering Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory (\$45.5 million), the Hinkler Deal covering Bundaberg and Hervey Bay area in Queensland (\$173 million) and the Albury Wodonga Deal (under negotiation).

- The Government will provide approximately \$30 million over four years to enhance agricultural exports and trade.
- Earlier this year, the Government provided for a \$3.9 billion Future Drought Fund. \$4.2 million has also been allocated to improve and maintain the National Drought Map.
- Over \$3 million will be added to extend the reach of the Farm Household Allowance.
- The Government will provide funding to improve communications outside the cities, including \$160 million to address mobile blackspots and \$60 million to address internet and mobile access.
- The Budget provides a \$70 million grant for regional tourism.
- \$34 million in funding is allocated for pilot programs where farmers are paid to enhance biodiversity.
- There is also \$62 million in initial funding for the national rural generalist pathway, to get doctors into the bush.
- The Government has already announced that flood-affected farmers in North Queensland will get \$300 million in relief grants to help re-build damaged farm infrastructure, replace livestock and replant crops.

Drought Assistance

44. Key measures include:

- \$6.3 billion in drought assistance and concessional loans for farmers and farming communities.
- \$199 million provided to help farming facilities in hardship by increasing access to income support through the Farm Household Allowance.
- \$35 million in cash payments and vouchers to help meet the basic needs of struggling families.
- \$50 million to cover up to a quarter of farmers' investment in on-farm water infrastructure.
- \$1 million to 98 drought-affected local councils for local infrastructure and drought relief under the Communities Program.
- \$2.5 million for increased mental health and wellbeing support for farmers in hardship in drought-affected communities.
- \$5 million of increased funding for the Rural Financial Counselling Service

- \$3.9 billion for the Future Drought Fund, to grow to \$5 billion over the next decade allowing investment of \$100 million each year in water infrastructure and drought resilience.
- Farmers in North Queensland will have access of up to \$300 million in grants to rebuild farm infrastructure, replace livestock and replant crops.
- \$28 million in four new weather radars to help Queenslanders prepare and mitigate the impact of future floods.

North Queensland Flood Recovery Package

45. \$3.1 billion over five years from 2018-19 to support North Queensland's livestock industry and associated communities to recover from the impacts of the 2019 flood event.

Energy

Climate Solutions Package

46. \$3.5 billion over 15 years from 2018-19 for a Climate Solutions Package to deliver on Australia's 2030 climate commitments including:
- \$2.0 billion over 15 years from 2019-20, including \$189.1 million over four years to 2022-23, to establish a Climate Solutions Fund that will allow for expanded investments in low cost abatement currently underway through the Emissions Reduction Fund;
 - up to \$1.38 billion in equity over six years from 2019-20, to support the delivery of the Snowy 2.0 project, subject to Snowy Hydro Limited (SHL) achieving financial close on the project and the commencement of the main project works, expected in 2020;
 - \$5.5 million over four years from 2019-20 (and \$0.8 million per year ongoing) to the Department of the Environment and Energy, and \$4.3 million over four years from 2019-20 (and \$0.7 million per year ongoing) to the Department of Finance, to support Commonwealth oversight of SHL and the Snowy 2.0 project;
 - \$61.2 million over four years from 2019-20 to establish the Energy Efficient Communities Program, which will provide grants to businesses and community organisations to improve energy efficiency practices and technologies to better manage energy consumption;
 - \$56.0 million in 2018-19 for a feasibility study to accelerate the delivery of Marinus Link, a second interconnector between Tasmania and the mainland, to unlock pumped hydro storage potential in Tasmania;
 - \$18.0 million over six years from 2019-20 for households and businesses to improve energy efficiency and lower energy bills; and

- \$0.4 million in 2019-20 to develop a National Electric Vehicle Strategy to ensure a planned and managed transition to new vehicle technology and infrastructure.

Harry Butler Environmental Education Centre

47. \$25 million over four years from 2019-20 to Murdoch University to establish the Harry Butler Environmental Education Centre to grow understanding of the positive relationship between economic development and environmental sustainability.

Reliable Energy Infrastructure

48. \$75.5 million over seven years from 2018-19 (including \$3.1 million in 2023-24 and \$0.1 million in 2024-25) to support investment in network infrastructure, dispatchable generation and reliable energy supplies in the National Electricity Market.

Australian Energy Regulator

49. \$13.3 million over four years from 2019-20 to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to support the increased workload of the Australian Energy Regulator. The increased workload relates to rule changes by the Australian Energy Market Commission and decisions of the COAG Energy Council aimed at improving access to reliable, affordable energy.

National security

Foreign Interference

50. \$34.8 million over four years from 2019-20 to counter activities that seek to undermine Australia's sovereign democratic institutions. This includes funding to support investigations under the *National Security Legislation Amendment (Espionage and Foreign Interference) Act 2018*.
51. An additional \$3.9 million, from within existing resources, will support the implementation of a diplomatic strategy to enable intensified cooperation with international partners.
52. Funding for this measure has already been partially provided for by the Government.
53. \$6.7 million to AFP, \$8 million to ASIO, \$8.5 million to DPP, \$900,000 to Attorney-General's Department.

National Security Agencies

54. \$571.4 million over five years from 2018-19 (including \$68.6 million in capital funding) to support the operations of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) to strengthen their capacity to meet the Government's national security objectives.

Safer Communities Fund

55. \$58.2 million over four years from 2019-20 to increase funding available under the *Safer Communities Fund (SCF)*, including:

- \$35.1 million over four years from 2019-20 for Round Five of the SCF to provide grant funding to local government and community organisations to address crime and anti-social behaviour by funding crime prevention initiatives and to protect schools, pre-schools and community organisations that are facing security risks associated with racial or religious intolerance; and
56. \$23.1 million in 2019-20 to increase funding for Round Four of the SCF, which provides grants to local government and community organisations, such as organisations of religious worship and religious assembly, to fund crime prevention initiatives to keep children safe, including those who face a risk of attack, harassment or violence stemming from racial or religious intolerance

Survivors of child sexual abuse

57. \$2.5 million in 2019-20 for stakeholder consultation on potential options and form of a national museum or memorial for victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse and to undertake preparatory work for a national orphanage museum, including engagement with states and territories on funding arrangements.
58. \$5.1 million over four years from 2019-20 (and \$1.0 million per year ongoing) to the National Office for Child Safety within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, to provide national leadership in the implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and to progress work in response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
59. \$25.5 million over six years from 2019-20 (including \$4.4 million in 2023-24 and in 2024-25) to establish an independent National Centre for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (the Centre) to reduce stigma, raise awareness, and prevent child sexual abuse.

Education

60. The Government will provide an estimated \$450 million to extend the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education and related programs in 2020. This includes \$1.4 million on strategies to increase preschool attendance rates among disadvantaged and Indigenous children. About 350 000 children are expected to benefit. There is no longer-term commitment.
61. The Government has committed \$22 million over five years to student achievement and wellbeing. This includes new and continued funding for wholistic program providers such as Life Education Australia, Music Australia, and Bell Shakespeare, as well as \$9.5 million to support the mathematics and phonics skillsets of teachers.
62. The Government will make changes to HELP debts for remote teachers. For example, those in very remote locations will have indexation of their debt frozen at the current rate.
63. The Government will invest an additional half billion dollars over five years in the Vocational Education and Training system. This provides for the creation of a \$48 million National Skills Commission, as well as a National Careers Institute and National Careers Ambassador, which were all recommendations of the Joyce Review intended

to align vocational training with industry needs. There is also approximately \$60 million to upskill at risk workers and \$200 million over four years to expand existing incentives for apprentices and target skills shortages. 80 000 apprenticeships are expected to be funded.

64. The Budget allocates \$2 million over the next two years to the High Court's Australian Constitution Centre, which aims to increase public understanding of Australia's constitutional framework.

Health

65. \$1.1 billion over five years from 2018-19 to support primary care and improve frontline health services, including:
- \$448.5 million over the three years from 2020-21 for a new chronic disease care funding model;
 - \$187.2 million over four years from 2019-20 to re-introduce indexation to all remaining General Practitioner services on the Medicare Benefits Schedule;
 - \$12.0 million over three years from 2019-20 to enhance and extend the Childhood Immunisation Education Campaign;
 - \$12.0 million over three years from 2019-20 to Heart of Australia to provide mobile specialist services
 - \$308.9 million over five years from 2018-19 for improved access to diagnostic imaging services.
66. \$187.2 million over four years from 2019-20 to re-introduce indexation to all remaining General Practitioner services on the Medicare Benefits Schedule.
67. \$1.0 billion over three years from 1 January 2020 for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS), including extending the payment of benefits for eligible dental services provided in the public sector.
68. The Government will invest in mental health and suicide prevention, adding \$461 million to a youth mental health strategy, and \$5 million to services in Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland for people affected by natural disasters.

Domestic and Family Violence

69. The Budget confirms the Government's commitment of an additional \$328 million over four years for measures addressing domestic violence, including \$82 million for frontline services, \$75 million for emergency accommodation, \$64 million for the 1800RESPECT hotline service, and \$68 million for prevention strategies, as well as \$35 million towards support and prevention in Indigenous communities.

Women's safety and welfare

70. The Budget will provide \$150.0 million over four years from 2019-20 to support the development of female change room facilities at sporting grounds and for community swimming facilities across Australia.

71. The Budget provides \$4.0 million over seven years from 2018-19 for The Esther Foundation young women's residential health, development and leadership program to provide counselling to assist with issues such as domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health and self-harm.
72. The Government will provide \$3.4 million over four years from 2019-20 to encourage more women into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and careers. The funding will support an extension of the Science in Australia Gender Equity program for an additional three years and the creation of a National Awareness Raising Initiative, led by the Women in STEM Ambassador.
73. There is also \$12.0 million over four years from 2019-20 to Tennis Australia to increase opportunities for women and girls to participate in grassroots tennis; and
74. \$2.1 million to the Australian Music Industry Network to provide mentoring programs for female musicians.

Older Australians

75. The Government announced an investment of \$724.8m to deliver 10,000 new home care packages, provide additional financial support for residential care, facilitate a capital works program with a focus on regional Australia, and to improve the quality and safety of aged care services.
76. \$5.9bn will be provided over two years from 2020-21 to extend the Commonwealth Home Support Program, which covers a range of services including Meals on Wheels.
77. The Government announced multiple measure to improve access to aged care, including: a \$320m one-off increase to the basic subsidy for residential aged care in 2018-19; \$282.4m to support the creation of an additional 10,000 home care packages; and the provision of support to dementia patients, carers, and the trial of a needs assessment funding tool.
78. Additionally, several measures were announced to improve the quality of care, including: \$38.4m over five years to strengthen regulation through the establishment of a risk-based compliance and information sharing system; and increase compliance and oversight measures.
79. Superannuation rules will be modified to allow voluntary contributions (both concessional and non-concessional) by those aged 65 and 66 without meeting the work test from 1 July 2020. Those up to age 74 will be able to receive spouse contributions, with those 65 and 66 no longer needing to meet a work test.

Disability

80. The National Disability Insurance Scheme will receive \$7.1m to improve payment administration but was otherwise allocated no additional funding due to a significant underspend of previously allocated funding. This balance of funds is understood to have been re-absorbed, and forms part of the announced surplus, as well as offsetting increased funding requirements for public hospitals. The Government describes the NDIS as a demand-based scheme and confirms that services requested are supplied.

81. The Budget provided \$527.9m over five years to fund a Royal Commission into the mistreatment of people with disability.
82. The Government has set aside \$17.194 million between 2019-20 and 2021-22 for the provision of community legal services supporting the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

83. The budget expands the cashless debit card scheme with the provision of \$128.8m over four years, and provides for its rollout over an expanded area within the Northern Territory and Cape York.
84. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet will provide \$5 million over four years to implement suicide prevention initiatives targeted at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These initiatives will be led by local youth indigenous leaders to ensure cultural appropriateness.
85. The budget seeks to help Indigenous students remain in boarding schools by providing \$36.4m to allow families of ABSTUDY students to receive the Family Tax Benefit until the end of Year 12.

Migration

86. The budget included \$22.6m to expand the National Community Hubs Program and establish a National Youth Hubs Program. These services will provide support for vulnerable groups, including refugees and migrants.
87. Included in the budget was an allocation of \$39.5m to continue the Regional Cooperation Arrangement with Indonesia and support Australia's regional partners to respond to irregular people movements.
88. A reduced migration intake was announced as a component of the Government's Planning for Australia's Future Population, lowering the cap for permanent migration places from 190,000 to 160,000. This measure is described as having no budget impact.
89. The budget predicts a saving of \$77.9m over four years due to a streamlining of employment servicing arrangements for newly arrived refugees. Access to Jobactive services will commence after 12 months, which is raised from the current 6 month threshold.

Welfare

90. The Government has committed \$285 million to provide one-off payments of \$75 for singles and \$125 for couples to four million age pensioners, disability pensioners, carers, single parents and veterans to help cover energy bills.
91. The Budget confirms that the Government will spend \$129 million to extend the cashless welfare card to all the Northern Territory and to Cape York communities in Queensland.

92. The Government has not increased the Newstart payment. Those on unemployment benefits are also excluded from the energy rebate.
93. The Government announced that “improvements in technology that enable a more accurate reporting of income” for social security support recipients will result in savings of \$2.1bn.

Anti-slavery

Protecting vulnerable workers

94. \$26.8 million over four years from 2019-20 (and \$6.2 million per year ongoing), including \$1.0 million over four years in capital funding, to establish a National Labour Hire Registration Scheme to protect vulnerable workers, including migrant workers, including \$10.8 million over four years from 2019-20 to enhance the Fair Work Ombudsman’s capacity to conduct investigations into underpayment and related issues, and deliver information and education activities.

International aid and development

95. Overall spending on international aid and development will reduce from 2018-19 levels, with an increasing focus on the Pacific region.
96. Several aid programs are to be reduced, including five within Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Pakistan and Nepal).
97. \$57.4m has been allocated to strengthen and expand bilateral relationships in the Indo-Pacific region, including through leadership exchanges, maritime cooperation and addressing unregulated fishing.
98. The \$2bn Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific will receive an additional \$12.7m over four years.

Data/Privacy

Online Safety Grants Program

99. \$10.0 million over four years from 2019 20 to the Office of the eSafety Commissioner to establish a new Online Safety Grants Program to support the delivery of online safety education and training projects for children by non-government organisations. This measure builds on the 2018 19 MYEFO measure titled Children’s Online Safety Package.

Increasing analytical capabilities

100. \$70.0 million over two years from 2018-19 to undertake preparatory work required for the Australian Taxation Office to migrate from its existing data centre provider to an alternative data centre facility. The funding will also be used to prepare a second pass business case that will identify the full cost of activities required to complete the data centre migration project.



101. Additional \$6.9 million over four years from 2019-20 to support additional analytical capabilities within the Treasury and other agencies such as Department of Home Affairs, ASIO, and Department of Defence.

Cyber uplift

102. Undisclosed funding (not for publication for national security reasons) to enhance cyber security arrangements for whole-of-government systems in relation to the 2019 Federal election, and to mitigate potential cyber threats through enhanced monitoring and response capabilities. This includes the creation of cyber 'Sprint Teams' within the Australian Cyber Security Centre and a Cyber Security Response Fund.

GovPass

103. \$67.1 million in 2019-20 to continue the development of the *GovPass Program*, which enables the creation of a digital identity for Australian citizens which will allow them to access government services online.