

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16**

**Finance Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 1/1.1

**Topic:** Top 20 fastest-spending programs in the Budget

**Senator:** Gallagher

**Question reference number:** F33

**Type of question:** Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 121, 27 May 2015

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 10 July 2015

**Number of pages:** 3

**Question:**

**Senator GALLAGHER:** I have a question on what I understand is an update, so it must have come up at a previous hearing, on the top 20 fastest-spending programs in the budget.

**Senator Cormann:** I think there is actually a table, isn't there? To the extent that it is not publicly available, we will see whether we can provide you with some information on notice. There is some information about expenditure.

**Ms Huxtable:** It is page 5-13 of BP1.

**Senator Cormann:** This is not quite what you have just asked.

**Ms Huxtable:** Top 20 ranked by expenses 2015-16.

**Senator Cormann:** Is that it?

**Ms Halton:** Yes. Table 3.1?

**Senator GALLAGHER:** Yes.

**Ms Huxtable:** Is that what you asked for?

**Senator GALLAGHER:** I did.

**Senator Cormann:** These are the top 20 programs by expenditure. I understood that you asked about the top 20 fastest growing.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** Yes.

**Senator Cormann:** We might take that on notice.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** They are different, are they? I see, these are the top 20. These are the largest; not necessarily the fastest growing.

**Senator Cormann:** There is information in a separate table, which I am trying find, not about programs but about portfolio areas.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** Okay, that would be great.

**Senator Cormann:** If you go to table 3 in Budget Paper 1, page 1-9 you will see the expenditure growth trends across the various portfolios.

**Ms Halton:** We would need to give it to you on notice in terms of the specific question you asked to begin with, but this gives you a feel.

**Answer:**

A list of the 20 fastest growing programmes as at the 2015-16 Budget is provided at Attachment A.

The top 20 fastest spending programmes<sup>(a)</sup>

## Expenses as at the 2015-16 Budget

Programme name	Portfolio	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Real growth from 2014-15 to 2018-19	Nominal growth from 2014-15 to 2018-19
		\$million	\$million	\$million	\$million	\$million	%	%
National Partnership Payments - Assistance to People with Disabilities	Treasury	17	115	186	321	1,813	9,695%	10,690%
Support for Markets and Business <sup>(b)</sup>	Treasury	12	19	400	400	396	2,801%	3,096%
National Disability Insurance Scheme <sup>(c)</sup>	Social Services	629	1,079	4,331	11,785	19,202	2,670%	2,951%
Comcare - Departmental - Outcome 1 <sup>(d)</sup>	Employment	25	439	442	456	469	1,611%	1,784%
Capability Development	Defence	502	1,324	2,773	3,518	4,788	766%	854%
Administrative Appeals Tribunal - Other Administered	Attorney-General's	1	6	6	6	6	730%	814%
Clean Energy Regulator - Other Administered <sup>(e)</sup>	Environment	80	304	359	421	472	439%	494%
New Colombo Plan - Transforming Regional Relationships	Foreign Affairs and Trade	11	28	28	51	51	322%	365%
South Australian Riverland Floodplain Integrated Infrastructure Projects	Environment	7	25	40	30	30	289%	329%
Research Capacity and Quality	Health	68	73	116	191	283	278%	316%
Administrative Appeals Tribunal - Departmental - Outcome 1	Attorney-General's	38	134	152	150	149	256%	292%
Income Support for Vulnerable People	Social Services	66	86	126	160	211	193%	222%
Other Departmental - Australian Electoral Commission	Finance	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	177%	205%
Regulatory Policy	Health	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	146%	170%
Building Skills and Capability	Education and Training	542	1,445	1,391	1,426	1,453	144%	168%
Adjustment to Military Rehab Compensation Acts Liability Provision - Income Support and Compensation	Defence	60	112	133	145	145	118%	140%
Inspector General of Taxation - Departmental - Outcome 1	Treasury	3	7	7	7	7	117%	139%
National Partnership Payments - Welfare	Treasury	5	5	6	8	10	88%	107%
Water Reform	Environment	229	370	375	633	464	84%	102%
Higher Education Loan Programme	Education and Training	887	954	1202	1457	1705	75%	92%

(a) Highest to lowest real and nominal growth between 2014-15 to 2018-19 - growth over four years to 2018-19.

(b) An existing programme. The increase in expenses in the forward years relates to the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility announced in the 2015-16 Budget.

(c) Includes the States and Territories' contributions to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

(d) The growth in expenditure in 2015-16 compared to previous years is due to the consolidation of Comcare's 3 outcomes into a single outcome from 2015-16.

(e) Predominantly relates to the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) programme. Only around \$4.0 million to \$4.5 million annually relates to the Renewable Energy Target (Inspections Component) programme.