



Australian Capital Territory

Financial Management Act 1996

A1996-22

Republication No 2B

Effective: 29 March 2001 – 28 June 2001

Republication date: 4 February 2019

Last amendment made by A2001-11

Not all amendments are in force: see last endnote

About this republication

The republished law

This is a republication of the *Financial Management Act 1996* effective 29 March 2001 to 28 June 2001.

Kinds of republications

The Parliamentary Counsel's Office prepares 2 kinds of republications of ACT laws (see the ACT legislation register at www.legislation.act.gov.au):

- authorised republications to which the *Legislation Act 2001* applies
- unauthorised republications.

The status of this republication appears on the bottom of each page.

Editorial changes

The *Legislation (Republication) Act 1996*, part 3, division 2 authorised the Parliamentary Counsel to make editorial amendments and other changes of a formal nature when preparing a law for republication. Editorial changes do not change the effect of the law, but have effect as if they had been made by an Act commencing on the republication date (see *Legislation (Republication) Act 1996*, s 14 and s 16). The changes are made if the Parliamentary Counsel considers they are desirable to bring the law into line, or more closely into line, with current legislative drafting practice.



Australian Capital Territory

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACT 1996

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As in force on
29 March 2001



Australian Capital Territory

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACT 1996

An Act to provide for the financial management of the government of the Territory, to provide for the scrutiny of that management by the Legislative Assembly, to specify financial reporting requirements for the government of the Territory and for related purposes

PART 1—PRELIMINARY

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

2 Act subject to Territory Superannuation Provision Protection Act

This Act is subject to the *Territory Superannuation Provision Protection Act 2000*.

3 Definitions

(1) In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears—

appropriation means an appropriation of public money by any Act including this Act.

Appropriation Act means an Act that makes appropriations in respect of a financial year for purposes referred to in section 8.

appropriation unit means a class of outputs, or a group of output classes, for which an appropriation is made by an Appropriation Act.

banking account means an account with an authorised deposit-taking institution that is, or is substantially the same as, a bank account.

borrowing includes—

- (a) raising money or obtaining credit, whether by dealing in securities or otherwise; and
- (b) entering into a financing lease;

but does not include using a credit card or overdraft facility, or otherwise obtaining credit, in a transaction forming part of the day-to-day operations of the Territory or a Territory authority.

budget papers means documents laid before the Legislative Assembly under section 10 or subsection 13 (1).

capital injection means money provided, or to be provided, to a department for—

- (a) the purchase of assets to be held by the department or to be owned by a Territory authority or Territory owned corporation; or
- (b) the development of assets held by the department or owned by a Territory authority or Territory owned corporation; or
- (c) augmenting the assets held by the department or owned by a Territory authority or Territory owned corporation; or
- (d) reducing the liabilities of the department, a Territory authority or a Territory owned corporation;

but does not include money provided from an appropriation for a purpose referred to in paragraph 8 (a) or (c).

chief executive officer, in relation to a Territory authority, means the person who has responsibility for managing the affairs of the authority.

class of outputs means a group of outputs identified as a class by an Appropriation Act.

department means—

- (a) an administrative unit (excluding any part of an administrative unit prescribed for the purposes of paragraph (b) and any administrative unit forming part of a

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group of administrative units prescribed for the purposes of paragraph (c)); or

- (b) a part of an administrative unit prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph; or
- (c) a group of 2 or more administrative units prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph.

departmental banking account means a banking account referred to in subsection 34 (1).

expenses, in relation to an output, means the expenses incurred in providing the output quantified on an accrual accounting basis and includes the overhead expenses properly attributable to the output.

financial management guidelines means the financial management guidelines under this Act.

general government sector means—

- (a) those organisations whose primary function is to provide services which are mainly not market orientated, are mainly for the consumption of the community generally, involve the transfer or redistribution of income, and are financed mainly through appropriation; and
- (b) those organisations that are controlled by the Territory and provide investment or other financial services.

generally accepted accounting practice means accounting practices and procedures recognised by the accounting profession as appropriate for reporting financial information relating to government, a department or a Territory authority, being practices and procedures that are consistent with this Act and any relevant Appropriation Act.

GST—see the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999* (Cwlth), dictionary.

input tax credit—see the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999* (Cwlth), dictionary.

Legislative Assembly secretariat means the clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the officers and employees of the public service who assist the clerk in the exercise of his or her powers and the performance of his or her duties.

outcomes means the consequences for the community of outputs.

outputs means goods produced or services provided by a department or Territory authority or a person producing goods or providing services on behalf of a department or Territory authority.

prescribed means prescribed by the financial management guidelines.

public money means all moneys received by the Territory, including the proceeds of all loans raised on behalf of the Territory, but does not include—

- (a) money held by the Territory as trust money; or
- (b) money received by a Territory owned corporation; or
- (c) money received by a Territory authority.

public trading enterprise means an organisation whose primary function is to provide goods and services which are mainly market orientated, non-regulatory and non-financial in nature and who recover a significant part of their costs from individual consumers.

public trading enterprise sector means those organisations whose primary function is to provide goods and services which are mainly market orientated and non-regulatory in nature and who may recover a significant part of their costs from individual consumers.

responsible chief executive, in relation to a department, means—

- (a) if the department is constituted by an administrative unit or a part of an administrative unit—the chief executive of that administrative unit; or
- (b) if the department is constituted by a group of 2 or more administrative units—the person prescribed as the responsible chief executive in relation to the department.

responsible Minister means—

- (a) in relation to a department that is constituted by an administrative unit or a part of an administrative unit—the Minister to whom responsibility for that administrative unit has been allocated under section 14 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*; and
- (b) in relation to a department that is constituted by a group of 2 or more administrative units—the Minister prescribed as the responsible Minister in relation to the department; and

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- (c) in relation to a Territory authority—the Minister administering the Act by which the authority was established.

securities includes stocks, debentures, notes, bonds, promissory notes, bills of exchange, and any other securities approved in writing by the Treasurer.

statement of intent means a statement of a Territory authority under section 58.

superannuation appropriation—see the *Territory Superannuation Provision Protection Act 2000*, dictionary.

superannuation banking account—see the *Territory Superannuation Provision Protection Act 2000*, section 7.

taxable supply—see the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999* (Cwlth), dictionary.

Territory activities are all activities of departments other than budget-funded departmental activities.

Territory authority means a body corporate established by an Act but does not include a body declared under section 3A not to be a Territory authority.

Territory banking account means the banking account referred to in section 33.

Treasurer means the Minister administering this Act and includes a Minister for the time being acting on behalf of that Minister.

trust money means—

- (a) money deposited with the Territory pending the completion of a transaction or the determination of a dispute and which may become repayable to the depositor or payable to the Territory or any other person; or
- (b) all money that is paid into a Territory court for possible repayment to the payee or a third party by virtue of any Act, order, instruction or authority; or
- (c) money that belongs to or is due to any person and is collected by the Territory as a result of an agreement between the Territory and that person; or

- (d) unclaimed money that is due to or belongs to any person and is deposited with the Territory; or
- (e) money that is paid to the Territory in trust for any other lawful purpose including interest on trust money.

warrant means an instrument by which the Treasurer authorises payments from the Territory banking account.

3A Declaration that certain authorities are not Territory authorities for this Act

- (1) The Treasurer may declare that a stated body is not a Territory authority for this Act.
- (2) The Treasurer must publish in the Gazette notice of the making of a declaration under this section as soon as practicable after it is made.

4 Application of Parts 2, 3 and 5 to Legislative Assembly secretariat

Unless the contrary intention appears, the provisions of Parts 2, 3 and 5 apply to the Legislative Assembly secretariat as if—

- (a) a reference in those provisions to a department included a reference to the Legislative Assembly secretariat; and
- (b) a reference in those provisions to the responsible Minister of a department were a reference to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly; and
- (c) a reference in those provisions to the responsible chief executive of a department included a reference to the clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

PART 2—TERRITORY BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

5 Timing of first Appropriation Bill for financial year

Except as otherwise provided by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly, the first Appropriation Bill relating to a financial year shall be introduced into the Legislative Assembly not later than 3 months after the commencement of the financial year.

6 Necessity for appropriation

No payment of public money shall be made otherwise than in accordance with an appropriation.

7 Payments authorised on lapse of appropriation

If, before the end of a financial year, no Act other than this Act has been passed appropriating public money to meet the requirements of the next financial year, the Treasurer may pay such sums as are necessary to meet those requirements subject to the following provisions:

- (a) the authority of the Treasurer under this section shall cease upon the commencement of the first Appropriation Act for the next financial year; and
- (b) upon that commencement all payments made under this section for the next financial year shall be taken for all purposes to have been paid out of moneys appropriated by that Act; and
- (c) the payments made under this section for any purpose shall not exceed, in total, 1/2 of the amount appropriated by Appropriation Acts for the immediately preceding financial year for that purpose.

8 Form of appropriation

An Appropriation Act shall make separate appropriations in respect of each department for—

- (a) the provision of outputs by the department; and
- (b) any capital injection to be provided to the department; and
- (c) any payments to be made by the department on behalf of the Territory.

9 Net appropriations for outputs

(1) An appropriation for the provision of outputs may be expressed to be made for the net cost of providing the outputs.

(2) Despite section 6, if an appropriation for a department is stated to be made for the net cost of providing outputs, the department may apply the following in paying the expenses and liabilities of the department in providing the outputs:

- (a) the payments it is entitled to receive otherwise than under an appropriation Act for providing the outputs;
- (b) the value of the input tax credits to which it is entitled for taxable supplies in relation to providing the outputs.

(3) To remove any doubt, it is declared that, if the appropriations made by an Appropriation Act for a department do not state an amount, or state an '0' appropriation, for the provision of outputs by the department, the appropriations have effect as if they included an appropriation stated to be made for the provision of outputs by the department at no net cost to the Territory.

9A Net appropriations for capital injections

(1) An appropriation for a capital injection may be stated to be made for, or partly for, the net cost of purchasing or developing assets.

(2) Despite section 6, if an appropriation is stated to be made for, or partly for, the net cost of purchasing or developing assets, the value of the input tax credits to which the relevant entity is entitled for taxable supplies in relation to purchasing or developing the assets may be applied by the entity in paying the expenses and liabilities of the entity in purchasing or developing the assets.

(3) In this section:

relevant entity, in relation to an appropriation for a capital injection, means the department, authority or corporation that is to undertake the purchasing or developing of assets for which the appropriation is made.

10 Budget papers

The Treasurer shall, for each financial year, immediately after the presentation of the Bill for the first Appropriation Act relating to the year, cause to be laid before the Legislative Assembly—

- (a) the proposed budget for the Territory for the year; and
- (b) the proposed budget for each department for the year; and

- (c) the proposed budget for each public trading enterprise for the year; and
- (d) a consolidated financial management statement in relation to—
 - (i) the general government sector; and
 - (ii) the public trading enterprise sector.

11⁶ Territory budgets

(1) A proposed budget for the Territory for a financial year that is laid before the Legislative Assembly pursuant to paragraph 10 (a) shall include—

- (a) an estimated operating statement for the Territory for the year; and
- (b) a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Territory at the commencement of the year or, if the proposed budget is laid before the Legislative Assembly before the commencement of the year, a statement of the assets and liabilities that the Territory is expected to have at the commencement of the year; and
- (c) a statement of the assets and liabilities that it is planned that the Territory will have at the end of the year; and
- (d) a statement of the estimated cash flows of the Territory for the year.

(2) A proposed budget shall be prepared in a form that facilitates a comparison, for each appropriation unit, between the budget for the Territory for the previous financial year and the proposed budget.

(3) A proposed budget shall include budget estimates, for each appropriation unit, for each of the next 3 financial years.

12 Departmental budgets

(1) A proposed budget for a department for a financial year that is laid before the Legislative Assembly pursuant to paragraph 10 (b) shall include—

- (a) an estimated operating statement for the department for the year; and
- (b) a statement of the assets and liabilities of the department at the commencement of the year or, if the proposed budget is laid before the Legislative Assembly before the commencement of the year, a statement of the assets and liabilities that the department is expected to have at the commencement of the year; and
- (c) a statement of the assets and liabilities that it is planned that the department will have at the end of the year; and

- (d) a statement of the estimated cash flows of the department for the year; and
 - (e) a statement of the classes of outputs that it is proposed that the department should provide during the year and the performance criteria to be met by the department in providing those outputs; and
 - (f) if the department is to be provided during the year with a capital injection that is to be repaid—a statement that—
 - (i) identifies the capital injection as such an injection; and
 - (ii) specifies the conditions subject to which the injection is to be provided, including the requirements relating to the period within which it is to be repaid.
- (2) An estimated operating statement for a department that is prepared for the purposes of paragraph (1) (a) shall include—
- (a) an estimated operating statement in respect of each appropriation unit proposed for the department; and
 - (b) an estimated operating statement in respect of each class of outputs which it is proposed that the department should provide during the year.
- (3) Paragraphs (1) (e) and (2) (b) do not apply in relation to the Legislative Assembly secretariat.
- (4) A proposed budget is to be in a form that facilitates a comparison, in respect of outputs, between—
- (a) the proposed budget; and
 - (b) the budget for the department for the previous financial year; and
 - (c) the expected whole of year results for the department for that previous financial year.
- (5) A proposed budget shall include budget estimates in respect of outputs of the department for each of the next 3 financial years.

12A Public trading enterprise budgets

- (1) A proposed budget that is laid before the Legislative Assembly pursuant to paragraph 10 (c) shall include—
- (a) an estimated operating statement for each public trading enterprise for the year; and

- (b) a statement of the assets and liabilities of each public trading enterprise at the commencement of the year or, if the proposed budget is laid before the Legislative Assembly before the commencement of the year, a statement of the assets and liabilities that the public trading enterprise is expected to have at the commencement of the year; and
 - (c) a statement of the assets and liabilities that it is planned each public trading enterprise will have at the end of the year; and
 - (d) a statement of the estimated cash flows of each public trading enterprise for the year.
- (2) A proposed budget shall be prepared in a form that facilitates a comparison between the budget for the public trading enterprise for the previous financial year and the proposed budget.
- (3) A proposed budget shall include budget estimates for each of the next 3 financial years.

13 Supplementary budget papers

- (1) The Treasurer shall, on the presentation of a Bill for an Appropriation Act other than the first Appropriation Act relating to a financial year, cause to be laid before the Legislative Assembly supplementary budget papers.
- (2) The supplementary budget papers shall provide details of the variations proposed to be made to the budget of each department for which an appropriation is provided for by the Bill.
- (3) In subsection (2), a reference to the budget of a department is a reference to the budget for the department for the relevant financial year that was laid before the Legislative Assembly pursuant to paragraph 10 (b) or, if that budget has previously been varied as a consequence of the provision of additional appropriations for the department, that budget as so varied.

14 Transfer of funds between appropriations

- (1) Notwithstanding section 6, the Executive may, by instrument, direct that appropriations made by an Appropriation Act be varied by transfers of funds between the appropriations.
- (3) A transfer of funds between appropriations under this section shall not cause an appropriation from which funds are transferred to be reduced by more than 3%.

(4) Where the Executive gives a direction under subsection (1), the Treasurer shall cause—

- (a) a copy of the direction; and
- (b) a statement of the reasons for giving it;

to be laid before the Legislative Assembly within 3 sitting days after the direction is given.

(5) Subsection (1) does not apply to a superannuation appropriation.

15 Transfer of funds within appropriations

(1) The Executive may, by instrument, direct that funds within the same appropriation that are allocated for the provision of different classes of outputs be reallocated in respect of those classes of outputs.

(2) Where a reallocation of funds under subsection (1) involves an amount exceeding—

- (a) 3% of the appropriation within which the reallocation is made; or
- (b) \$150,000;

whichever is the greater, the Treasurer shall cause—

- (c) a copy of the direction under subsection (1); and
- (d) a statement of the reasons for the reallocation;

to be laid before the Legislative Assembly within 3 sitting days after the direction is given.

15A Reclassification of certain appropriations

(1) Where an appropriation has been classified by the Act by which it was made as an appropriation for payments to be made by a department on behalf of the Territory, the Treasurer may, if he or she is satisfied that the appropriation should be classified as an appropriation for the provision of outputs by the department, by instrument direct that the classification of the appropriation be changed accordingly.

(2) Where an appropriation has been classified by the Act by which it was made as an appropriation for the provision of outputs by a department, the Treasurer may, if he or she is satisfied that the appropriation should be classified as an appropriation for payments to be made by the department on behalf of the Territory, by instrument direct that the classification of the appropriation be changed accordingly.

(3) Where the Treasurer gives a direction under subsection (1) or (2), he or she shall cause a copy of the direction to be laid before the Legislative Assembly within 3 sitting days after the direction is given.

16 Transfer of functions between departments

(1) Where, after the passing of an Appropriation Act for a financial year, the responsibility for a service or function for which an appropriation is made in that Act is transferred from the department for which the appropriation was made to another department, the Treasurer may, by instrument, direct that the appropriation shall not lapse but may be issued to, or applied by, that other department, in accordance with the instrument, for that service or function.

(2) Where the Treasurer gives a direction under subsection (1), he or she shall cause a copy of the direction to be laid before the Legislative Assembly within 3 sitting days after it is given.

(3) This section does not apply to a superannuation appropriation.

17 Variation of appropriations for Commonwealth grants

(1) This section applies to an appropriation that is declared by the Act by which it is made to be an appropriation to which this section applies.

(2) Where—

- (a) an appropriation to which this section applies is to be funded in whole or in part by a specific purpose payment made to the Territory by the Commonwealth; and
- (b) an estimate of the level of the funding to be provided to the Territory by the Commonwealth for that purpose is contained in the budget papers laid before the Legislative Assembly in conjunction with the Bill for the Act by which the appropriation was made; and
- (c) the level of funding provided to the Territory by the Commonwealth for that purpose for the financial year for which the appropriation was made is greater than the level of funding specified in those budget papers;

the Treasurer may, by instrument, direct that the appropriation be increased by an amount not exceeding the difference between the level of funding specified in the budget papers and the level of funding provided by the Commonwealth.

(3) Where the Treasurer gives a direction under subsection (2), he or she shall cause a copy of the direction to be laid before the Legislative Assembly within 3 sitting days after it is given.

17A Variations of appropriations for certain payments to the Commonwealth

(1) This section applies to an appropriation that is declared by the Act by which it is made to be an appropriation to which the section applies.

(2) Where—

- (a) an appropriation to which this section applies is made wholly or partially for a payment required to be made to the Commonwealth for the provision of a service; and
- (b) an estimate of the amount of the payment is contained in the budget papers laid before the Legislative Assembly in conjunction with the Bill for the Act by which the appropriation is made; and
- (c) the amount of the payment exceeds the amount of the estimate;

the Treasurer may, by instrument, direct that the appropriation be increased by an amount not exceeding the difference between the amount of the estimate and the amount of the payment.

(3) Where the Treasurer gives a direction under subsection (2), he or she shall cause a copy of the direction to be laid before the Legislative Assembly within 3 sitting days after it is given.

(4) This section ceases to have effect on the expiration of 30 June 2001.

18 Treasurer's advance

(1) Expenditure that is—

- (a) in excess of the amount specifically appropriated for expenditure of that kind; or
- (b) not provided for by any appropriation;

may be authorised by the Treasurer by instrument provided that—

- (c) the need for the expenditure could not reasonably have been foreseen at the time of the passing of any of the Appropriation Acts relating to the financial year in which the expenditure is to occur; and

- (d) the total expenditure authorised under this subsection in any financial year does not exceed the amount appropriated for that year for the purposes of this section.

(2) The amount appropriated for the purposes of this section for a financial year shall not exceed 1% of the total amount appropriated by all Appropriation Acts for that year.

(3) Where the Treasurer has authorised expenditure under subsection (1) during a financial year and expenditure has been incurred under that authorisation during the year, the Treasurer shall cause—

- (a) a copy of the authorisation; and
- (b) a statement of the reasons for giving it;

to be laid before the Legislative Assembly as soon as practicable after the end of the year.

18A Payments in anticipation of appropriation or supply

(1) Where, after 1 June in a financial year—

- (a) a department has an obligation to discharge a liability that is not provided for by an appropriation or for which the money available from an appropriation is insufficient to enable the liability to be discharged in full; and
- (b) in the interests of prudent financial management, the liability should be discharged before the end of the financial year; and
- (c) money will become available to discharge the liability during the next financial year from an appropriation made by an Appropriation Act that has already been passed or from money to be provided under section 7; and
- (d) the Treasurer has, by instrument, authorised the discharge of the liability before the end of the financial year;

the department may discharge the liability before the end of the financial year from the money referred to in paragraph (c).

(2) The Treasurer shall not authorise a payment under paragraph (1) (d) if the amount of the payment would exceed—

- (a) if the payment is to be made from an appropriation made by an Appropriation Act that has already been passed—3% of the amount of that appropriation; or
- (b) if the payment is to be made from money to be provided under section 7—3% of the money to be provided under that section for the purpose for which the liability was incurred.

(3) Where the Treasurer has given an authorisation under paragraph (1) (d) during a financial year, he or she shall cause a copy of the authorisation to be laid before the Legislative Assembly as soon as practicable after the end of the year.

19 Refunds of payments made without liability

(1) Where a payment is made to the Territory in purported discharge of a liability that does not exist, the amount paid may be refunded to the person by whom the payment was made whether or not there is an appropriation available for that purpose.

(2) Where a payment made to the Territory to discharge a liability exceeds the amount of the liability, the amount by which the payment exceeds the liability may be refunded to the person by whom the payment was made whether or not there is an appropriation available for that purpose.

(3) Where—

- (a) a person has paid an amount to the Territory for tax claimed by the Territory to be due from that person; and
- (b) a court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction subsequently finds that the person was not liable for that tax or was liable for an amount of tax less than the amount paid;

the amount paid, or the amount by which the payment exceeds the liability, as the case requires, may be refunded to the person who made the payment whether or not there is an appropriation available for that purpose.

19A Payments for Territory GST liabilities

Payments may be made to the Commonwealth for the GST liabilities of the Territory whether or not there is an appropriation for the purpose.

19B Authorisation of expenditure of certain Commonwealth grants

- (1) Notwithstanding section 6, where—
- (a) funds have been provided to the Territory by the Commonwealth under an agreement that specifies how the funds may be applied; and
 - (b) no appropriation has been made in respect of the funds;

the Treasurer may, by instrument, authorise the expenditure of the funds in accordance with the agreement.

- (2) Where the Treasurer gives an authorisation under subsection (1), he or she shall cause a copy of the authorisation to be laid before the Legislative Assembly within 3 sitting days after it is given.

20 Budgets for Legislative Assembly secretariat

Before the commencement of a financial year, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly may—

- (a) after consultation with an appropriate committee of the Legislative Assembly, advise the Treasurer of the appropriations that the Speaker considers should be made for the Legislative Assembly secretariat for the financial year; and
- (b) provide the Treasurer with a draft budget for the Legislative Assembly secretariat for the financial year that contains the information referred to in section 12 other than that referred to in paragraphs 12 (1) (e) and (2) (b).

PART 3—FINANCIAL REPORTS

Division 1—Financial reports of the Territory

21 Interpretation

In this Division, a reference to *the Territory* shall be read as including a reference to all Territory authorities and all Territory owned corporations.

22 Annual financial statements of the Territory

(1) The Treasurer shall, as soon as practicable after the end of a financial year, prepare annual financial statements for the Territory for that year.

(2) The annual financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice and shall include—

- (a) an operating statement for the Territory for the year; and
- (b) a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Territory at the end of the year; and
- (c) a statement of the cash flows of the Territory for the year; and
- (d) a statement of the accounting policies adopted by the Territory; and
- (e) such other statements as are necessary to fairly reflect the financial operations of the Territory during the year and its financial position at the end of the year.

23 Responsibility for annual financial statements

(1) Annual financial statements of the Territory shall have endorsed on them, or attached to them, a statement of responsibility signed by—

- (a) the Treasurer; and
- (b) the chief executive of the administrative unit to which responsibility for the administration of this Act has been allocated under section 14 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

(2) A statement of responsibility shall comprise—

- (a) a statement by the Treasurer that in his or her opinion the financial statements fairly reflect the financial operations of the Territory during the year to which they relate and the financial position of the Territory at the end of the year; and

- (b) a statement by the chief executive that the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

24 Audit of annual financial statements

(1) The Treasurer shall forward a copy of the annual financial statements relating to a financial year to the auditor-general within 4 months after the end of the year.

(2) The auditor-general shall, within 30 days after he or she receives a copy of annual financial statements under subsection (1), provide the Treasurer with an audit opinion concerning the statements.

25 Tabling of annual financial statements

Where the Treasurer receives, under subsection 24 (2), an audit opinion concerning annual financial statements, he or she shall cause to be laid before the Legislative Assembly, within 3 sitting days after receiving the opinion—

- (a) a copy of the annual financial statements; and
- (b) a copy of the audit opinion.

25A Quarterly departmental performance reports

(1) A Minister shall within 30 days after the end of each quarter of a financial year, prepare a quarterly performance report for each department for which he or she is responsible.

(2) A Minister shall, on the first sitting day after a report referred to in subsection (1) has been prepared, cause the report to be laid before the Legislative Assembly.

(3) Where the first sitting day referred to in subsection (2) does not fall within 30 days after the end of the relevant quarter, a Minister shall cause a copy of a report prepared under subsection (1) to be made available to members of the Legislative Assembly within those 30 days.

(4) A report referred to in subsection (1) shall include—

- (a) a progress report on delivery of outputs; and
- (b) an explanation of any significant variations from performance targets.

26 Monthly financial statements of the Territory

(1) The Treasurer shall, within 30 days after the end of each month of a financial year, prepare—

- (a) an operating statement for the Territory for the month; and
- (b) a statement of the cash flows of the Territory for the month; and
- (c) a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Territory at the end of the month; and
- (d) an operating statement for the Territory for the period commencing at the beginning of the financial year and ending on the expiration of the month; and
- (e) a statement of the cash flows of the Territory for the period commencing at the beginning of the financial year and ending on the expiration of the month.

(2) The Treasurer shall, within 30 days after the end of each month, prepare—

- (a) an operating statement; and
- (b) a cash flow statement;

in relation to—

- (c) the general government sector; and
- (d) the public trading enterprise sector;

for—

- (e) that month; and
- (f) the period commencing at the beginning of the financial year and ending at the expiration of the month.

(3) The Treasurer shall, within 30 days after the end of each month, prepare a statement of the assets and liabilities of—

- (a) the general government sector; and
- (b) the public trading enterprise sector;

at the end of the month.

(4) The Treasurer shall cause a copy of each statement prepared under subsections (1), (2) and (3) to be laid before the Legislative Assembly on the first sitting day after that set of statements has been prepared.

(5) Where the first sitting day referred to in subsection (4) does not fall within 30 days after the end of the relevant month the Treasurer shall cause a copy of each statement prepared under subsections (1), (2) and (3) to be made available to members of the Legislative Assembly within those 30 days.

Division 2—Financial reports of departments

27 Annual financial statements of departments

(1) A department shall, as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year, prepare annual financial statements relating to its operations during the year.

(2) The annual financial statements of a department shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice and in a form that facilitates a comparison between the financial operations of the department during the year and the estimates of those operations contained in the budget for the department for the financial year that was laid before the Legislative Assembly pursuant to paragraph 10 (b).

(3) The annual financial statements of a department shall include—

- (a) an operating statement for the department for the year; and
- (b) a statement of the assets and liabilities of the department at the end of the year; and
- (c) a statement of the cash flows of the department for the year; and
- (d) a statement of the performance of the department in providing each class of outputs provided by it during the year, being a statement that—
 - (i) compares that performance with the forecast of the performance contained in the budget for the department for the year that was laid before the Legislative Assembly pursuant to paragraph 10 (b); and
 - (ii) gives particulars of the extent to which the performance criteria specified in that budget in relation to the provision of those outputs were satisfied; and
- (e) a statement of the accounting policies adopted by the department; and

- (f) such other statements as are necessary to fairly reflect the financial operations of the department during the year and its financial position at the end of the year.

28 Responsibility for departmental financial statements

- (1) Annual financial statements of a department shall have endorsed on them, or attached to them, a statement of responsibility made by the responsible chief executive.
- (2) A statement of responsibility shall—
 - (a) state that, in the opinion of the responsible chief executive, the financial statements fairly reflect the financial operations and service performance of the department during the year to which they relate and the financial position of the department at the end of the year; and
 - (b) be signed by the responsible chief executive.

29 Audit of financial statements of departments

- (1) The responsible chief executive of a department shall forward a copy of the financial statements of the department for a financial year to the auditor-general as soon as practicable after they are prepared.
- (2) The auditor-general shall, within 30 days after he or she receives a copy of financial statements of a department under subsection (1), provide the chief executive of the department with an audit opinion concerning the statements.

30 Tabling of departmental financial statements

Where, under subsection 29 (2), the responsible chief executive of a department receives an audit opinion concerning annual financial statements of the department, the responsible Minister of the department shall cause to be laid before the Legislative Assembly, within 6 sitting days after the chief executive receives the audit opinion—

- (a) a copy of the annual financial statements; and
- (b) a copy of the audit opinion.

**PART 4—FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES
OF CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF DEPARTMENTS**

31 Responsibilities of chief executives of departments

- (1) The responsible chief executive of a department shall be accountable to the responsible Minister of the department for the efficient and effective financial management of the department.
- (2) The responsible chief executive of a department shall be responsible under the responsible Minister, for ensuring—
- (a) that the moneys spent by the department are within the appropriations made for the department; and
 - (b) that the operations of the department during a financial year give a financial result at the end of the year that is in accordance with the estimates contained in the budget papers for that year relating to the department; and
 - (c) that the officers and employees of the department comply with the requirements of this Act and the financial management guidelines; and
 - (d) that proper accounts and records are kept of the transactions and affairs of the department in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice; and
 - (e) that adequate control is maintained over the assets of the department and assets in the control of the department; and
 - (f) that adequate control is maintained over the incurring of liabilities by the department.

PART 5—BANKING AND INVESTMENT

32 Agreement for the conduct of banking for the Territory

- (1) The Treasurer may enter into an agreement with an authorised deposit-taking institution relating to the conduct of banking for the Territory.
- (2) An agreement shall not be entered into unless it contains a provision to the effect that it may be terminated by the Territory at any time subject to the giving of notice in writing which specifies the date on which the termination is to take effect.

33 Territory banking account

The Treasurer shall open and maintain a banking account for the purposes of the Territory.

34 Departmental banking accounts

- (1) The responsible Minister or the responsible chief executive may open 1 or more banking accounts for the purposes of the relevant department.
- (2) A departmental banking account shall be maintained by the chief executive.
- (3) A departmental banking account shall not, without the approval in writing of the Treasurer, be opened or maintained except with the authorised deposit-taking institution that is for the time being the authorised deposit-taking institution with which the Territory banking account is maintained.
- (4) The Treasurer may, at any time, after consultation with the responsible Minister, close or suspend the operation of a departmental banking account.
- (5) A Minister or a chief executive shall not open or operate a departmental banking account otherwise than in accordance with this Act.

34A End of year balances of departmental banking accounts

- (1) Where at the end of a financial year amounts appropriated for a department for that financial year are held in a departmental banking account, the amounts may be applied after the end of that financial year for the purposes for which they were appropriated.

(2) Where at the end of a financial year a departmental banking account has a debit balance, the chief executive of the department shall devise and implement a scheme to recoup the amount of the deficit.

35 Payments into banking accounts

(1) All public money is the property of the Territory.

(2) Where public money is received by a person other than for the purpose of making a payment in the course of his or her duties, the person shall take reasonable steps to safeguard the money until it is paid into a banking account in accordance with this section.

(3) Money shall be paid into a departmental banking account of a department if the money is—

- (a) money that may be disbursed to the department as a consequence of an appropriation; or
- (b) a receipt relating to the operations of the department; or
- (c) a receipt relating to the sale or disposal of assets of the Territory held by the department.

(4) All public money, except money payable into a departmental banking account, shall be paid into the Territory banking account.

(5) The Treasurer may issue financial management guidelines regarding the banking of public money.

36 Transfer following change in departmental responsibilities

(1) Where, in the opinion of the Treasurer, it is necessary as a consequence of changes in departmental responsibilities, to transfer to another account moneys held in the Territory banking account or a departmental banking account, the Treasurer shall determine the amount to be transferred and direct that the transfer be made.

(2) The Treasurer shall not exercise his or her powers under subsection (1) in relation to a departmental banking account except after consultation with the responsible Minister.

37 Authority to issue public money

(1) Money shall not be paid out of the Territory banking account except to a departmental banking account where authorised by a warrant signed by the Treasurer in accordance with an appropriation.

- (2) A warrant shall specify the total amounts of public money to be paid to departmental banking accounts.
- (3) This section is subject to—
- (a) subsection 11 (2) of the *Territory Superannuation Provision Protection Act 2000* (which is about transfers between the Territory banking account and departmental banking accounts to facilitate investment of superannuation funds); and
 - (b) subsection 38 (2) of this Act (which is about transfers between the Territory banking account and departmental banking accounts to facilitate investment of other public money).

38 Investment of certain public money

- (1) The Treasurer may invest any money held in the Territory banking account or departmental banking accounts for such period and on such terms and conditions as he or she thinks fit—
- (a) on deposit with an authorised deposit-taking institution; or
 - (b) in the purchase of a bill of exchange that is drawn or accepted by an authorised deposit-taking institution; or
 - (c) in a loan to a person who is a dealer in the short-term money market; or
 - (d) in Territory, State or Commonwealth securities; or
 - (e) in any prescribed investment.
- (2) Transfers between the Territory banking account and departmental banking accounts to facilitate investments may be made without appropriation.
- (3) Interest received from the investment of public money under this section shall be paid to the Territory banking account.
- (4) The Treasurer may decide the amounts of interest from investments under this section that are to be credited to departmental banking accounts.
- (5) The amounts decided by the Treasurer may be paid from the Territory banking account without further appropriation.
- (6) However, the total of the amounts paid under subsection (5) must not exceed the total of the interest received from investments under this section.

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(7) This section does not apply to money held in a superannuation banking account.

**PART 6—BORROWING, GUARANTEES AND FINANCIAL
DERIVATIVES**

39 Power of Territory to borrow

The Territory may only borrow in accordance with this Act or another law of the Territory.

40 Treasurer may borrow on behalf of Territory

The Treasurer may, on behalf of the Territory, if necessary or expedient in the public interest to do so—

- (a) borrow money; or
- (b) give security for the repayment of an amount borrowed or the payment of interest on such an amount; or
- (c) enter into a financing lease.

41 Power of Territory authorities to borrow

Despite any other Act, a Territory authority may only borrow (other than from the Territory) in accordance with this Act.

42 Borrowings by Territory authorities to be approved

A Territory authority shall not borrow unless—

- (a) the borrowing is approved in writing by the Treasurer; and
- (b) the terms and conditions of the borrowing include the terms and conditions (if any) specified in the approval and are otherwise consistent with the approval; and
- (c) the borrowing is within the borrowing limits (if any) of the authority for the financial year in which the borrowing is entered into, being limits approved in writing by the Treasurer.

43 Territory authorities may give security

Subject to the Treasurer's approval of the borrowing under paragraph 42 (a), a Territory authority may give security for the repayment of an amount borrowed, or for the payment of interest on that amount, by issuing securities.

44 Power to approve borrowings not delegable

The Treasurer shall not delegate to any person his or her power under paragraph 42 (a) to approve borrowings by Territory authorities.

45 Loans to be paid into Territory banking account

Subject to this Act and any other Act, the proceeds of a loan raised on behalf of the Territory or by a Territory authority shall be paid into the Territory banking account.

46 Payments by Treasurer

The Treasurer may make such payments as are required in respect of expenses incurred in borrowing on behalf of the Territory, and in respect of repayments of borrowings on behalf of the Territory, without further appropriation.

47 Guarantees by Territory

(1) The Territory may only give a guarantee for the payment of money or the performance of an obligation in accordance with this Act.

(2) The Treasurer may approve in writing a guarantee by the Territory for the payment of money or the performance by any person of an obligation under a contract, subject to such conditions as the Treasurer may specify in the approval.

(3) Where the Treasurer approves a guarantee under subsection (2), he or she shall cause a copy of the approval to be laid before the Legislative Assembly within 3 sitting days after the approval is given.

48 Financial derivatives

(1) This section applies to transactions known as financial derivatives, for example—

- (a) interest rate swaps; and
- (b) currency swaps; and
- (c) forward rate agreements; and
- (d) interest rate options.

(2) The Territory may only enter into a transaction to which this section applies if the Treasurer certifies in writing that the transaction relates to a borrowing by the Territory.

PART 7—TRUST MONEY

49 Identity of trust money

All trust money held by the Territory shall be accounted for separately from public money.

50 Administration of trust money

(1) Trust money shall be administered by the appropriate department on behalf of the Territory.

(2) The Treasurer may, by instrument, specify a department as the appropriate department in respect of an amount of trust money.

(3) In this section—

appropriate department, in relation to an amount of trust money, means—

- (a) except where paragraph (b) applies—the department responsible for matters or enactments which relate most closely to the purpose of the payment; or
- (b) the department specified under subsection (2).

51 Departmental trust banking accounts

(1) The responsible Minister or the responsible chief executive may open a trust banking account for the purposes of the relevant department.

(2) A trust banking account shall be maintained by the chief executive.

(3) A trust banking account shall not, without the approval in writing of the Treasurer, be opened or maintained except with the authorised deposit-taking institution that is for the time being the authorised deposit-taking institution with which the Territory banking account is maintained.

(4) No money may be held in a trust banking account other than trust money.

(5) A Minister or a chief executive shall not open or operate a trust banking account otherwise than in accordance with this Act.

52 Transfers between banking accounts

Money may be transferred between trust banking accounts and the Territory banking account only for purposes related to investment.

53 Investment of trust money

The Treasurer may invest trust money as if the Treasurer were a trustee under the *Trustee Act 1925*.

53A Unclaimed trust moneys

(1) For the purposes of this section, money held in a trust banking account is unclaimed trust money if—

- (a) a period not less than 6 years has elapsed since the date on which the money became payable; and
- (b) during that period, no person entitled to the money has requested that the money be paid to him or her or according to his or her direction.

(2) Where on 1 January in any year a trust banking account contains unclaimed trust money, the chief executive responsible for maintaining the account shall, on or before 31 January next following, deliver to the Treasurer a statement of all unclaimed trust money held in the account.

(3) The statement shall set out—

- (a) the name, and last known address, of each person entitled to unclaimed trust money held in the account; and
- (b) the amount of the trust money to which each of those persons is entitled; and
- (c) the authorised deposit-taking institution, and the branch of the institution, with which the trust money is held; and
- (d) the chief executive shall cause the particulars set out in the statement in relation to each amount of unclaimed monies to be published in a daily newspaper published in the Territory and in the Gazette.

(4) The total amount shown in the statement shall be paid into the Territory banking account at the time of the delivery of the statement and, upon being paid into that account, shall become public money of the Territory.

(5) A person who claims to be entitled to any money paid into the Territory banking account in accordance with subsection (4) may apply to the Treasurer for a payment of an amount equal to the money to which he or she is entitled.

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(6) The Treasurer shall consider each application and either refuse it or grant it wholly or partly.

(7) The Treasurer shall give the applicant written notice of his or her decision.

53B Review of decisions

Application may be made to the administrative appeals tribunal for a review of a decision of the Treasurer under subsection 53A (6) refusing an application wholly or partly.

53C Notification of decisions

A notice given under subsection 53A (7) shall be in accordance with the requirements of the code of practice in force under subsection 25B (1) of the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1989*.

**PART 8—FINANCIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO TERRITORY
AUTHORITIES**

54 Responsibilities of chief executive officers

(1) The chief executive officer of a Territory authority is responsible, under the responsible Minister, for the efficient and effective financial management of the authority.

(2) Subsection (1) has effect in relation to the chief executive officer of a Territory authority subject to the Act by which the authority was established.

(3) The chief executive officer of a Territory authority shall be responsible, under the responsible Minister, for ensuring—

- (a) that the expenses incurred by the authority are properly authorised; and
- (b) that the operations of the authority during a financial year give a financial result at the end of the year that is in accordance with the estimates contained in the statement of intent of the authority for that year; and
- (c) that the payments made by the authority are properly authorised and correctly made; and
- (d) that the officers and staff of the authority comply with the requirements of this Act and the financial management guidelines; and
- (e) that proper accounts and records are kept of the transactions and affairs of the authority in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice; and
- (f) that adequate control is maintained over the assets of the authority and assets in the control of the authority; and
- (g) that adequate control is maintained over the incurring of liabilities by the authority.

55 Banking accounts

(1) A Territory authority may open 1 or more banking accounts for the purposes of the authority.

(2) A Territory authority shall at all times maintain at least 1 banking account.

(3) Except with the approval of the Treasurer, a banking account of a Territory authority shall only be opened or maintained with the authorised deposit-taking institution that is for the time being the authorised deposit-taking institution with which the Territory banking account is maintained.

56 Investment

(1) Funds not immediately required for the purposes of a Territory authority may be invested—

- (a) on deposit with an authorised deposit-taking institution; or
- (b) in Territory, State or Commonwealth securities; or
- (c) by the Treasurer on behalf of the Territory authority; or
- (d) in any other investment approved by the Treasurer.

(2) Transfers between the Territory banking account and the banking account of a Territory authority to facilitate investments may be made without appropriation.

(3) Interest received from the investment of the funds of a Territory authority remains funds of the authority.

57 Borrowing

(1) The Treasurer may—

- (a) borrow money on behalf of a Territory authority; or
- (b) lend public money to a Territory authority;

on such terms and conditions as the Treasurer thinks fit.

(2) Borrowing may be secured by the authority's assets approved by the Treasurer for the purposes of this section.

(3) A Territory authority may only arrange an overdraft or credit facility with the written approval of the Treasurer.

58 Statements of intent

(1) A Territory authority shall, in respect of each financial year, provide to the Treasurer a statement of intent.

(2) A statement of intent shall be in such form as the Treasurer requires and be provided to the Treasurer within such period as the Treasurer specifies.

- (3)** A statement of intent shall include—
- (a) an estimated operating statement for the authority for the year; and
 - (b) a statement of the assets and liabilities of the authority at the commencement of the year or, if the statement of intent is required to be provided before the commencement of the year, a statement of the assets and liabilities that the authority is expected to have at the commencement of the year; and
 - (c) a statement of the assets and liabilities that it is planned that the authority will have at the end of the year; and
 - (d) a statement of estimated cash flows of the authority for the year; and
 - (e) a statement of the objectives of the authority for the year; and
 - (f) a statement of the nature and scope of the activities to be undertaken by the authority during the year; and
 - (g) the performance criteria and other measures by which the performance of the authority may be assessed in relation to its objectives for the year; and
 - (h) such other information as the Treasurer directs.

59 Annual financial statements

- (1)** A Territory authority shall, as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year, prepare annual financial statements relating to its operations during the year.
- (2)** The annual financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice and in a form that facilitates a comparison between the financial operations of the authority during the year and the estimates of those operations contained in the statement of intent for the year that was provided by the authority pursuant to section 58.
- (3)** The annual financial statements shall include—
- (a) an operating statement for the authority for the year; and
 - (b) a statement of the assets and liabilities of the authority at the end of the year; and
 - (c) a statement of the cash flows of the authority for the year; and
 - (d) a statement of the performance of the authority in achieving the objectives specified in the statement of intent for the year that was provided by the authority pursuant to section 58; and

- (e) such other statements as are necessary to fairly reflect the financial operations of the authority during the year and its financial position at the end of the year.

(4) The statement of performance under paragraph (3) (d) shall assess the performance of the authority in achieving the objectives specified in the statement of intent by reference to the performance criteria and other measures specified in that statement pursuant to paragraph 58 (3) (g).

60 Responsibility for annual financial statements

(1) Annual financial statements of a Territory authority shall have endorsed on them, or attached to them, a statement of responsibility signed by the chief executive officer of the authority.

(2) A statement of responsibility shall comprise—

- (a) a statement of the chief executive officer's responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements and the judgments exercised in preparing them; and
- (b) a statement that, in the opinion of the chief executive officer, the financial statements fairly reflect the financial operations and service performance of the authority during the year to which they relate and the financial position of the authority at the end of the year.

61 Audit of annual financial statements

(1) The chief executive officer of a Territory authority shall, within the prescribed period after the end of a financial year, forward a copy of the financial statements of the authority for the year to the auditor-general.

(2) The auditor-general shall, within 30 days after he or she receives a copy of financial statements of a Territory authority under subsection (1), provide the chief executive officer of the authority with an audit opinion concerning the statements.

62 Tabling of annual financial statements

(1) Where, under subsection 61 (2), the chief executive officer of a Territory authority receives an audit opinion concerning annual financial statements of the authority, he or she shall, within 7 days after receiving the opinion, forward to the responsible Minister of the authority—

- (a) a copy of the annual financial statements; and

(b) a copy of the audit opinion.

(2) The responsible Minister shall, within 6 sitting days of the Legislative Assembly after he or she receives the documents referred to in paragraphs (1) (a) and (b), cause the documents to be laid before the Legislative Assembly.

63 Interim financial statements

(1) The Treasurer may, by instrument, direct the chief executive officer of a Territory authority to provide the responsible Minister of the authority with financial or other statements relating to the authority—

(a) for each month of the year; or

(b) for each period of 3 months ending on 30 September, 31 December, 31 March or 30 June.

(2) A chief executive officer of a Territory authority who receives a direction under subsection (1) shall prepare the statements specified in the direction and deliver them to the responsible Minister within such period as is specified in the direction.

PART 9—MISCELLANEOUS

64 Act of grace payments

- (1) If the Treasurer considers it appropriate to do so because of special circumstances, he or she may authorise the payment by a department of an amount to a person (in this section called the *payee*) although the payment of that amount (in this section called the *relevant amount*) would not otherwise be authorised by law or required to meet a legal liability.
- (2) The authorisation may provide for the relevant amount to be paid by—
- (a) more than 1 instalment and on the dates specified in the authorisation; or
 - (b) periodical payments of an amount, and for the period, specified in the authorisation.
- (3) An authorisation may be expressed to be subject to conditions to be complied with by the payee.
- (4) Where a condition is contravened, the Treasurer may by notice in writing addressed to the last known address of the payee require the payee, within 30 days of receipt of the notice, to pay an amount equal to all or part of the relevant amount.
- (5) Where the payee does not pay the amount specified in the notice under subsection (4), the amount may be recovered by the Territory as a debt.
- (6) Where the payment of an amount by a department is authorised under this section, the Treasurer shall—
- (a) direct that the amount be paid from an appropriate appropriation for the department specified by the Treasurer; or
 - (b) authorise payment of the amount under section 19; or
 - (c) authorise payment of the amount out of the public money of the Territory.
- (7) The public money of the Territory is appropriated for the purposes of paragraph (6) (c).
- (8) A payment made by a department under this section shall be reported in notes to the financial statements of the department that relate to the financial year during which the payment was made.

(9) The notes shall indicate in relation to each payment under this section the amount and grounds for the payment.

(10) The notes relating to a payment under this section shall not disclose the identity of the payee unless disclosure was agreed to by the payee as a condition of authorising the payment.

65 Waiver of debts etc

(1) The Treasurer may, by instrument, on behalf of the Territory—

- (a) waive the Territory's right to payment of an amount payable to the Territory; or
- (b) postpone any right of the Territory to be paid a debt in priority to another debt; or
- (c) allow the payment by instalments of an amount payable to the Territory; or
- (d) defer the time for payment of an amount payable to the Territory.

(2) A waiver relating to an amount payable to the Territory by a person may be expressed to be subject to a condition that the person agrees to pay an amount to the Territory in circumstances specified in the waiver.

(3) A waiver relating to an amount payable to the Territory shall be reported in the notes to the financial statements of the relevant department that relate to the year in which the right to payment was waived.

66 Payments in respect of deceased estates

(1) If, at the time of a person's death (whether before or after the commencement of this section), the Territory owed an amount to the person, the Treasurer may pay that amount to the person who the Treasurer considers should receive the payment.

(2) In deciding who should be paid, the Treasurer shall have regard to—

- (a) the provisions of any will of the deceased person which identify the persons entitled to property under the will; and
- (b) the law relating to the disposition of the property of deceased persons.

- (3) Before making a payment to a person, the Treasurer may require the person to produce any documents and other evidence relating to—
- (a) the disposition of the deceased person's estate; or
 - (b) the family of the deceased person and any other persons apparently entitled to share in the estate of the deceased person.
- (4) Subject to subsection (3), the Treasurer may make the payment without requiring production of probate of the will, or letters of administration of the estate, of the deceased person.
- (5) Where a payment is made in relation to an amount owing to a deceased person, the Territory is discharged from any further liability in respect of that amount.
- (6) This section does not relieve the recipient of a payment from liability to deal with the money in accordance with law.

66A Guideline-making power

- (1) The Treasurer may make financial management guidelines, not inconsistent with this Act or the regulations, prescribing matters—
- (a) required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed by financial management guidelines; or
 - (b) necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.
- (2) A financial management guideline is a disallowable instrument.

67 Regulation-making power

- (1) The Executive may make regulations for the purposes of this Act.

ENDNOTES

1 About this republication

This is a republication of the *Financial Management Act 1996* as in force on 29 March 2001. It includes all amendments made to the Act up to Act 2001 No 11.

Amending laws are annotated in the table of legislation and table of amendments.

The Parliamentary Counsel's Office currently prepares 2 kinds of republications of ACT laws: authorised printed republications to which the *Legislation (Republication) Act 1996* applies and unauthorised electronic republications. The status of this republication appears on the cover.

Section 13 of the *Legislation (Republication) Act 1996* authorises the Parliamentary Counsel, in preparing a law for republication, to make textual amendments of a formal nature which the Parliamentary Counsel considers desirable in accordance with current legislative drafting practice. The amendments do not effect a substantive change in the law.

In preparing this republication, amendments have been made under section 13.

Not all amendments made under section 13 are annotated in the table of amendments. Full details of any amendments can be obtained from the Parliamentary Counsel's Office.

2 Abbreviation key

Key to abbreviations in tables

am = amended	pres = present
amdt = amendment	prev = previous
ch = chapter	(prev...) = previously
cl = clause	prov = provision
def = definition	pt = part
dict = dictionary	r = rule/subrule
div = division	reg = regulation/subregulation
exp = expires/expired	renum = renumbered
Gaz = Gazette	reloc = relocated
hdg = heading	R[X] = Republication No
ins = inserted/added	s = section/subsection
LR = Legislation (Republication) Act 1996	sch = schedule
mod = modified	sdiv = subdivision
No = number	sub = substituted
notfd = notified	SL = Subordinate Law
o = order	sp = spent
om = omitted/repealed	* = SL unless otherwise stated
orig = original	† = Act or Ordinance unless otherwise stated
p = page	
par = paragraph	

Financial Management Act 1996

3 Table of legislation

Act†	Year and number†	Gazette notification	Commencement	Transitional provisions
<i>Financial Management Act 1996</i>	1996 No 22	4 June 1996	1 July 1996	
<i>Financial Management (Amendment) Act 1997</i>	1997 No 39	1 Sept 1997	1 Sept 1997	—
<i>Financial Management (Amendment) Act (No. 2) 1997</i>	1997 No 102	24 Dec 1997	ss 1-3: 24 Dec 1997 remainder: 14 Jan 1998 (see Gaz 1998 No S24)	s 16
<i>Financial Management (Amendment) Act (No. 3) 1997</i>	1997 No 124	24 Dec 1997	24 Dec 1997	—
<i>Trustee (Amendment) Act 1999</i>	1999 No 28	21 May 1999	21 May 1999	—
<i>Financial Sector Reform (ACT) Act 1999</i>	1999 No 33	25 June 1999	ss 1 and 2 and dict: 25 June 1999 remainder: 1 July 1999 (see Cwlth Gaz 1999 No S289 p 2)	—
<i>Appropriation Act 1999-2000</i>	1999 No 36	12 July 1999	12 July 1999	—
<i>Financial Management Amendment Act 1999</i>	1999 No 58	10 Nov 1999	10 Nov 1999	—
<i>Territory Superannuation Provision Protection Act 2000</i>	2000 No 21	15 June 2000	ss 1 and 2: 15 June 2000 remainder: 1 July 2000	—
<i>Financial Management Amendment Act 2000</i>	2000 No 27	30 June 2000	30 June 2000	s 8 (2)
<i>Financial Management Amendment Act 2001</i>	2001 No 4	8 Mar 2001	ss 1-3: 8 Mar 2001 remainder: <u>awaiting commencement</u> (see endnote 6)	—
<i>Statute Law Amendment Act 2001</i>	2001 No 11	29 Mar 2001	29 Mar 2001	—

4 Table of amendments

Provision	How affected†
s 2	sub 2000 No 21 s 18 sch
hdg to s 3	sub 2000 No 21 s 18 sch
s 3	am 1997 Nos 102 and 124; 1999 No 33 s 47 sch; 2000 No 21 s 18 sch; 2000 No 27 s 4; 2001 No 11 amdt 3.125
s 3A	ins 2000 No 21 s 18 sch
s 9	am 2000 No 27 s 5
s 9A	ins 2000 No 27 s 6
ss 10, 11.....	am 1997 No 124
s 12	am 1997 Nos 102 and 124; 1999 No 58 s 3
s 12A	ins 1997 No 124
s 14	am 1997 No 102; 2000 No 21 s 18 sch

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4 Table of amendments—continued

Provision	How affected†
s 15	am 1997 No 102
s 15A	ins 1997 No 102
s 16	am 2000 No 21 s 18 sch
s 17	am 1997 No 102
s 17A	ins 1999 No 36 s 9 am 2000 No 27 s 7
s 18A	ins 1997 No 102
s 19A	ins 1997 No 39 sub 2000 No 27 s 8
s 19B	ins 1997 No 102
s 25A	ins 1997 No 124
s 26	am 1997 No 124
s 32	am 1999 No 33 s 47 sch
s 33	am 1997 No 102
s 34	am 1997 No 102; 1999 No 33 s 47 sch
s 34A	ins 1997 No 102
s 35	am 1997 No 102; 1999 No 33 s 47 sch
s 36	am 1997 No 102
s 37	am 1997 No 102; 2000 No 21 s 18 sch
hdg to s 38	sub 2000 No 21 s 18 sch
s 38	am 1997 No 102; 1999 No 33 s 47 sch; 2000 No 21 s 18 sch
s 45	am 1997 No 102
s 51	am 1997 No 102; 1999 No 33 s 47 sch
s 52	am 1997 No 102
s 53	am 1999 No. 28 s 20 sch
s 53A	ins 1997 No 102 am 1999 No 33 s 47 sch
ss 53B, 53C	ins 1997 No 102
ss 55, 56	am 1997 No 102; 1999 No 33 s 47 sch
s 66A	ins 2000 No 27 s 9
hdg to s 67	sub 2000 No 27 s 10
s 67	am 2000 No 27 s 10

5 Table of earlier republications

Republication No	Amendments to	Republication date
(1)	Act 1997 No 124	31 January 1998
2	Act 1999 No 58	10 November 1999
2A	Act 2000 No 27	1 July 2000

6 Uncommenced amendment

The following amendment has not been included in this republication because it was uncommenced at the republication date—

Financial Management Amendment Act 2001, No 4, s 4

4 Territory budgets

Section 11 of the Principal Act is amended by adding at the end the following subsections:

“(4) A proposed budget for the Territory for a financial year shall be prepared taking into account the principles of responsible fiscal management specified in subsection (5).

“(5) The principles of responsible fiscal management are—

- (a) ensuring that the total liabilities of the Territory are at prudent levels so as to provide a buffer against factors that may impact adversely on the level of total Territory liabilities in the future, and ensuring that, until such levels have been achieved, the total operating expenses of the Territory in each financial year are less than its operating levels revenues in the same financial year;
- (b) when prudent levels of total Territory liabilities have been achieved, maintaining these levels by ensuring that, on average, over a reasonable period of time, the total operating expenses of the Territory do not exceed its operating levels revenues;
- (c) achieving and maintaining levels of Territory net worth that provide a buffer against factors that may impact adversely on that net worth in the future; and
- (d) managing prudently the fiscal risks of the Territory.

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“(6) The proposed budget may depart from the principles specified in subsection (5), but when it does so—

- (a) any departure shall be temporary; and
- (b) the Treasurer shall cause to be laid before the Legislative Assembly, at the same time as the first Appropriation Bill relating to the financial year to which the departure relates is introduced into the Legislative Assembly—
 - (i) the reasons for the departure;
 - (ii) the approach intended to be taken to return to the principles; and
 - (iii) the period of time expected to be taken to return to those principles.”.

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