

VOTE

*Parliamentary
Counsel*

Parliamentary Counsel

Overview

Appropriations sought for Vote Parliamentary Counsel in 2000/01 total \$6.737 million. This is intended to be spent as follows:

- \$5.923 million (87.9% of the Vote) on the purchase of Law Drafting Services.
- \$183,000 (2.7% of the Vote) on the Compilation of Reprinted Legislation and of Tables and Indexes of Legislation.
- \$631,000 (9.4% of the Vote) on the Publication and Sale of Legislation.

Details of how the appropriations are to be spent appear in Parts B1 and C of this Vote.

Footnotes

Note 1 Not applicable as Crown revenue is not appropriated.

Note 2 Appropriations stated are inclusive of GST (where applicable).

Parliamentary Counsel

VOTE MINISTER: Attorney-General

ADMINISTERING DEPARTMENT: Parliamentary Counsel Office

The Attorney-General is the Responsible Minister for the Parliamentary Counsel Office

Part A - Statement of Objectives and Trends

Part A1 - Objectives for Vote Parliamentary Counsel

Outcomes

The appropriations sought for Vote Parliamentary Counsel will support the Government's objectives:

- by enabling the drafting of changes in the law that are necessary to implement Government policies
- by making the law accessible to the public in an accurate and authoritative form.

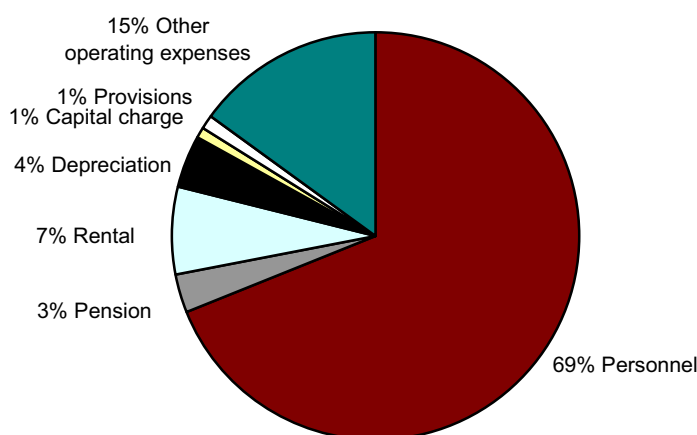
To this end the appropriations will fund the following activities:

- Drafting Government Bills (including amendments) and Statutory Regulations, supervising the printing of Bills before introduction to Parliament and of regulations before they are made, examining and reporting on local Bills and private Bills and drafting amendments to them.
- Compiling for printing and publication reprints of Acts and Statutory Regulations, Tables of New Zealand Acts and Ordinances and Statutory Regulations in Force, and interim indexes to Statutory Regulations, and supervising their printing up to and including the stage at which they are approved for publication.
- Arranging the printing, publication, and sale of Acts and Statutory Regulations (including reprints), annual bound volumes of Acts and Statutory Regulations, bound volumes of reprints, Tables of New Zealand Acts and Ordinances and Statutory Regulations in Force, and interim indexes to Statutory Regulations.

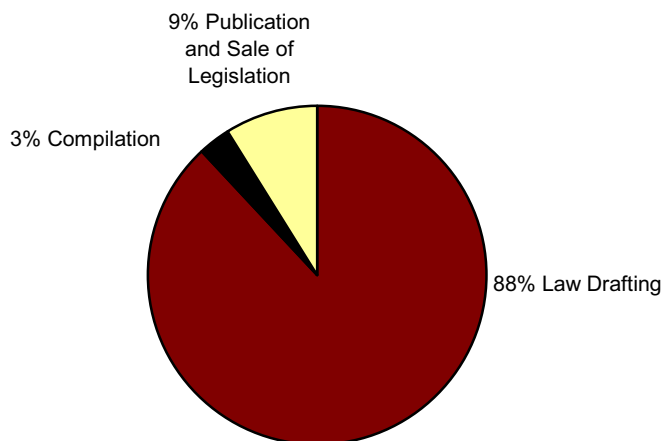
Output Classes	Related Outcomes
<p><u>D1 - Law Drafting Services</u></p> <p>Drafting Government Bills (including amendments) and Statutory Regulations.</p> <p>Supervising the printing of Government Bills and draft Statutory Regulations.</p> <p>Examining and reporting on local Bills and private Bills and drafting amendments to them.</p>	<p>Legislation that gives effect to the policies of the Government requiring changes in the law, and that is clearly drafted.</p>

Output Classes	Related Outcomes
<p><u>D2 – Compilation of Reprinted Legislation and of Tables and Indexes of Legislation</u></p> <p>Compiling for printing and publication reprints of Acts and reprints of Statutory Regulations, Tables of New Zealand Acts and Ordinances and Statutory Regulations in Force, and interim indexes to Statutory Regulations.</p> <p>Supervising the printing of reprints, tables and indexes up to and including the stage at which they are approved for publication.</p>	<p>Legislation that is accessible to the public in an accurate and authoritative form.</p>
<p><u>D3 – Publication and Sale of Legislation</u></p> <p>This output class involves arranging the printing, publication, and sale of Acts and Statutory Regulations, and covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts of Parliament (including reprinted Acts of Parliament) • Statutory Regulations (including reprinted Statutory Regulations) • annual bound volumes of Acts • annual bound volumes of Statutory Regulations • bound volumes of Reprinted Statutes of New Zealand • Tables of New Zealand Acts and Ordinances and Statutory Regulations in Force • interim indexes to Statutory Regulations. 	<p>Legislation that is available to the public in printed form.</p>

Figure 1 - Vote Parliamentary Counsel: Expenses



Source: Parliamentary Counsel Office

Figure 2 - Vote Parliamentary Counsel: Outputs

Source: Parliamentary Counsel Office

Part A2 - Trends in Vote Parliamentary Counsel

The appropriation for Vote Parliamentary Counsel, as shown in the trends table, has increased since 1994.

This has been in response to the need to strengthen the Office, to meet the costs associated with employing additional drafters and other staff, and to meet the cost of renting accommodation outside Parliament Buildings. Appropriations for 1994/95, 1995/96, and 1996/97 were based on the Office having 15 drafters plus support staff. Appropriations for 1997/98 and 1999/2000 have enabled the Office to continue to increase its resources to the point where it now has 19 drafters and 3 consultant drafters, plus support staff.

Benefits of strengthening the Office include:

- increased capacity to meet the drafting requirements of the Government
- adoption of clear drafting practices designed to make legislation more accessible, including new drafting techniques such as the use of outline Parts and examples, and the avoidance of archaic and unnecessary language
- organising drafters into drafting teams with responsibility for legislation of particular departments and agencies
- earlier involvement of drafters in the development of legislative policy, and team drafting for large or urgent Bills
- succession planning, and involvement of drafters in management and operational matters
- introduction of a quality assurance system

- implementing changes to the format of legislation to improve readability and comprehension, including many of the recommendations of the Law Commission in its Report No 27 *The Format of Legislation*
- undertaking a project to modernise the reprint system
- publication of a drafting manual and other resources for drafters
- adoption of a training programme for new drafters
- development of recruitment policies and procedures and publication of a recruitment brochure
- timely publication of the annual volumes of Statutes and Statutory Regulations
- publication of *A Guide to Working with the Parliamentary Counsel Office* to assist departments and agencies
- development of a performance management system.

The appropriation for 2000/01 will be used for:

- increasing the number of drafters and support staff
- retaining experienced drafting and support staff
- implementing recommendations of a review of remuneration policies and practices
- additional training
- plain language advice
- focus groups for user input to legislative drafting.

Key tools in the development of the Office are the strategic plan, completed in 1997, and the annual business plan. These include a Mission Statement, which sets out the Office's main aims; a Vision Statement, which sets out the objectives to which the Office is committed in seeking to achieve those aims; and strategies regarded as necessary to achieve those aims. The Strategic Result Areas in the Business Plan for 2000/01 are:

- Best Practice Legislative Drafting Services
- Ready Access to New Zealand Legislation
- Process and System Management
- Client Service and Relationship
- Capability Management.

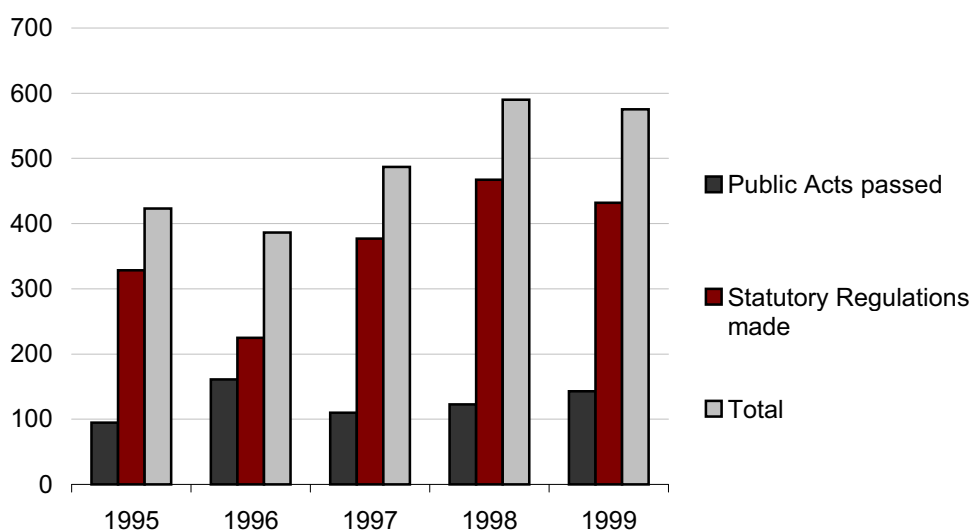
The Business Plan for 2000/01 includes initiatives under each Strategic Result Area that are the priority projects for the year.

Key Current Issues for Vote Parliamentary Counsel

Key current issues for the 2000/01 year include:

- maintaining and enhancing the drafting capability of the Parliamentary Counsel Office to better meet Government needs for legislation
- retaining experienced drafters and specialist support staff
- training and professional development
- improving public access to legislation in the context of e-government initiatives
- continued improvement to process and system management.

Figure 3 – Number of Public Acts passed and Statutory Regulations made 1995 to 1999



Source: Parliamentary Counsel Office

NOTE: General elections were held on 12 October 1996, and on 27 November 1999.

Trends in Vote Parliamentary Counsel - Summary of Appropriations and Crown Revenue

Types of Appropriation	2000/01 Appropriations to be Used										
	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000		By the Department Administering the Vote			For Non-Departmental Transactions	
	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Budget \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Annual \$000	Other \$000	Annual \$000	Other \$000	Total \$000
Operating Flows											
Classes of Outputs to be Supplied	3,496	3,857	4,681	5,020	5,884	5,884	5,884	6,737	-	-	6,737
Benefits and Other Unrequited Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-
Borrowing Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Flows											
Capital Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase or Development of Capital Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-
Repayment of Debt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-
Total Appropriations	3,496	3,857	4,681	5,082	5,884	5,884	5,884	6,737	-	-	6,737
Total Crown Revenue and Receipts (see note 1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	-

Part B - Statement of Appropriations

Part B1 - Details of 2000/01 Appropriations (see note 2)

Appropriations	1999/2000				2000/01		Description of 2000/01 Appropriations
	Vote		Estimated Actual		Vote		
	Annual \$000	Other \$000	Annual \$000	Other \$000	Annual \$000	Other \$000	
Departmental Output Classes (Mode B Gross)							
D1 Law Drafting Services	4,926	-	5,070	-	5,923	-	Drafting Government Bills (including amendments) and Statutory Regulations, supervising the printing of Bills before introduction into Parliament and of regulations before they are made, examining and reporting on local Bills and private Bills and drafting amendments to them.
D2 Compilation of Reprinted Legislation and of Tables and Indexes of Legislation	327	-	183	-	183	-	Compiling for printing and publication reprints of Acts and Statutory Regulations, Tables of New Zealand Acts and Ordinances and Statutory Regulations in Force, and interim indexes to Statutory Regulations, and supervising their printing up to and including the stage at which they are approved for publication.
D3 Publication and Sale of Legislation	631	-	631	-	631	-	Arranging the printing, publication, and sale of Acts and Statutory Regulations (including reprints), annual bound volumes of Acts and Statutory Regulations, bound volumes of reprints, Tables of New Zealand Acts and Ordinances and Statutory Regulations in Force, and interim indexes to Statutory Regulations.
Total Appropriations for Departmental Output Classes (Mode B Gross)	5,884	-	5,884	-	6,737	-	Refer to Part C1 for a full description.
Total Appropriations	5,884	-	5,884	-	6,737	-	

Part C - Explanation of Appropriations for Output Classes

Part C1 - Departmental Output Classes

For performance information, refer to the Departmental Forecast Report of the Parliamentary Counsel Office for the year ending 30 June 2001.

Output Class D1 - Law Drafting Services

Description

Under this output class, the Attorney-General will purchase from the Parliamentary Counsel Office a service that provides for:

- the drafting of Government Bills (including amendments to Government Bills) and of draft Statutory Regulations
- the supervision of the printing of Government Bills before their introduction, and of draft Statutory Regulations before their making
- the examining and reporting on local Bills and private Bills, and the drafting of amendments to them.

Outcomes

This output will contribute to the outcomes by ensuring that:

- Government Bills and Statutory Regulations are properly drafted and properly printed
- reports on the form and effect of local Bills and private Bills are prepared.

Output Class D2 - Compilation of Reprinted Legislation and of Tables and Indexes of Legislation

Description

Under this output class, the Attorney-General will purchase from the Parliamentary Counsel Office a service that provides for:

- the compiling for printing and publication of:
 - reprints of Acts and reprints of Statutory Regulations (with their amendments incorporated)
 - Tables of New Zealand Acts and Ordinances and Statutory Regulations in Force
 - interim indexes to Statutory Regulations
 - the supervision of the printing of the reprints, tables and indexes up to and including the stage where they are approved for publication.

Outcomes

This output will contribute to the outcomes by ensuring the compilation and printing of:

- reprints of Acts and reprints of Statutory Regulations that are up to date and accurate
- Tables of New Zealand Acts and Ordinances and Statutory Regulations in Force
- interim indexes to Statutory Regulations.

*Output Class D3 - Publication and Sale of Legislation***Description**

Under this output class, the Attorney-General will purchase from the Parliamentary Counsel Office a service under which the Parliamentary Counsel Office will arrange for the printing, publication and sale of Acts after they have been assented to and of Statutory Regulations after they have been made. This covers:

- Acts of Parliament (including reprinted Acts of Parliament)
- Statutory Regulations (including reprinted Statutory Regulations)
- the annual bound volumes of Acts
- the annual bound volumes of Statutory Regulations
- the bound volumes of Reprinted Statutes of New Zealand
- Tables of New Zealand Acts and Ordinances and Statutory Regulations in Force
- interim indexes to Statutory Regulations.

Outcomes

This output will contribute to the outcomes by ensuring the printing, publication and sale in an accurate and timely fashion of the publications listed in the description of this output.

Part D - Explanation of Appropriations for Other Operating Flows

Part D1 - Benefits and Other Unrequited Expenses

There is no appropriation for Part D1.

Part D2 - Borrowing Expenses

There is no appropriation for Part D2.

Part D3 - Other Expenses

There is no appropriation for Part D3.

Part E - Explanation of Appropriations for Capital Flows

Part E1 - Capital Contributions

There is no appropriation for Part E1.

Net Worth of Entities Owned

Statement of Estimated and Forecast Net Worth

	Balance Date	Estimated Net Worth 2000 \$ million	Forecast Net Worth 2001 \$ million
Parliamentary Counsel Office	30 June	0.568	0.568

Part E2 - Purchase or Development of Capital Assets by the Crown

There is no appropriation for Part E2.

Part E3 - Repayment of Debt

There is no appropriation for Part E3.