

# PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL

## Drafting Direction No. 1.2 Portfolio for cover page of Bill

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## **Part 1—Identifying the correct portfolio**

1 The descriptions set out in Attachment A should be used on the cover page of a Bill in the space shown for “(*Portfolio*)”. The descriptions may change after an election or a Cabinet reshuffle.

2 The descriptions set out in bold font should be used as a general rule. The descriptions set out in normal font should be used when the Bill is sponsored by the Minister with the responsibilities so described and you are instructed to use that description.

## **Part 2—Relevance of portfolio**

3 The only relevance of the portfolio mentioned is that the Minister introducing the Bill should be the Minister for that portfolio or someone representing that Minister. The portfolio should therefore be that of the Minister who is to be responsible for the carriage of the Bill through the Parliament (also known as the sponsoring Minister).

4 In some cases, the sponsoring Minister will not be the Minister who is to be responsible for administering the legislation. For example, the Human Cloning legislation is administered by the Minister for Health, but it was introduced by the Prime Minister at that time because he had taken a particular interest in it (and so the Prime Minister appeared as the portfolio).

## **Part 3—Ministers appointed to administer more than one department**

5 A Minister may be appointed to administer more than one department. Such a Minister may have a title that does not reflect all of the Minister’s responsibilities.

6 For example, following the 2019 federal election, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health was appointed to administer the following departments:

- (a) Health;
- (b) Prime Minister and Cabinet (*public service*).

7 Particular care is taken in preparing Attachment A in these cases to ensure that the correct portfolios are used in relation to Ministers appointed to administer more than one department.

8 A full list of Ministers and the departments they have been appointed to administer is in Folio Office Documents.

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First Parliamentary Counsel  
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**Document History**

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Note: Before the issue of the current series of Drafting Directions, this Drafting Direction was known as Drafting Direction No. 11 of 2005.

## **Attachment A—Current list of “portfolios” for cover page of Bill**

Note: The descriptions set out in bold font should be used as a general rule. The descriptions set out in normal font should be used when the Bill is sponsored by the Minister with the responsibilities so described and you are instructed to use that description.

### **Agriculture, Water and the Environment**

Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management  
Environment  
Resources, Water and Northern Australia

### **Attorney-General**

Industrial Relations

### **Defence**

Defence Industry  
Defence Personnel  
**Veterans’ Affairs**

### **Education, Skills and Employment**

Decentralisation and Regional Education  
Education  
Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business

### **Finance**

### **Foreign Affairs and Trade**

Foreign Affairs  
International Development and the Pacific  
Trade, Tourism and Investment

### **Health**

Aged Care and Senior Australians  
Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government  
Youth and Sport

### **Home Affairs**

Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management  
Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs

### **Industry, Science, Energy and Resources**

Energy and Emissions Reduction  
Industry, Science and Technology  
Resources, Water and Northern Australia

### **Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management  
Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts  
Decentralisation and Regional Education  
Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development  
Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure  
Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government

### **Prime Minister**

Government Services  
Indigenous Australians  
Public Service  
Women

### **Social Services**

Families and Social Services  
Government Services  
National Disability Insurance Scheme

**Treasury**

Assistant Treasurer

Housing

Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure