

PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL

Drafting Direction No. 1.2 Portfolio for cover page of Bill

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Contents

Part 1—Identifying the correct portfolio	2
Part 2—Relevance of portfolio	2
Part 3—Ministers appointed to administer more than one department	2
Attachment A—Current list of “portfolios” for cover page of Bill	4

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.

Peter Quiggin PSM
First Parliamentary Counsel
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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 and Youth
Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business

Finance

Foreign Affairs and Trade

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

Health

Health and Aged Care
Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government
Senior Australians and Aged Care Services
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

Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts
Decentralisation and Regional Education
Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government

Prime Minister

Indigenous Australians
Public Service
Women

Social Services

Families and Social Services
Government Services
Homelessness, Social and Community Housing
National Disability Insurance Scheme

Treasury

Assistant Treasurer
Housing
Superannuation, Financial Services and the Digital Economy