

Commonwealth of Australia

Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999

**Telecommunications (Overall Levy Target Amount)
Statement 2023**

I, JIM BETTS, Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, make the following Statement under section 42 of the *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999*.

Dated:

28 October 2023



JIM BETTS

Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts

1 Name of Statement

This Statement is the *Telecommunications (Overall Levy Target Amount) Statement 2023*.

2 Commencement

This Statement commences on the day after it is made.

3 Application

This Statement applies in relation to the relevant period.

4 Definitions

In this Statement:

Act means the *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999*.

relevant period means the eligible levy period that is the 2022–23 financial year.

Note: The terms *Appropriation Act*, *eligible administrative costs*, *eligible levy period*, *overall levy target amount* and *Secretary* have the same meanings as in the Act.

5 Statement

Overall levy target amount

- (1) For the purposes of subsection 42(1) of the Act, the overall levy target amount for the relevant period is \$209,013,314.
- (2) The amount specified in subsection (1) is the sum of the components specified in subsection (3), reduced by the amount specified in subsection (4).

Components of overall levy target amount

- (3) For the purposes of:
 - (a) subsection 42(2) of the Act – the total amount paid by the Secretary on behalf of the Commonwealth during the relevant period under contracts made under section 14 of the Act was \$305,349,950;
 - (b) subsection 42(3) of the Act – the total amount paid by the Secretary on behalf of the Commonwealth during the relevant period by way of grants made under section 14 of the Act was \$486,364; and
 - (c) subsection 42(4) of the Act – the total amount of the eligible administrative costs of the Commonwealth incurred during the relevant period was \$3,177,000.

Amounts appropriated by Appropriation Acts

- (4) The total of the amounts appropriated by Appropriation Acts for the purposes referred to in paragraphs 41(1)(d), (e) and (f) of the Act for the relevant period was \$100,000,000.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999

Telecommunications (Overall Levy Target Amount) Statement 2023

Authority

The *Telecommunications (Overall Levy Target Amount) Statement 2023 (Statement)* is made by the Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (**Department**) under section 42 of the *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999 (Act)*. Under that section the Secretary of the Department must take all reasonable steps to ensure that a statement setting out the overall levy target amount for an eligible levy period is prepared within four months after the end of that period.

Purpose

The Statement specifies the total expenditure on eligible contracts and grants and the Department's administrative costs incurred during the 2022–23 eligible levy period that needs to be collected from participating persons (that is, relevant carriers, see section 44 of the Act). Once the overall levy target amount is calculated, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (**ACMA**) is responsible under the Act for assessing and collecting individual levy contributions from participating persons.

The Statement is not a legislative instrument (see subsection 42(11) of the Act) and therefore is not subject to disallowance and would not need to be registered on the Federal Register of Legislation.

Effect or operation of the Statement

For the 2022–23 eligible levy period, the *overall levy target amount* is set according to the calculation outlined in subsection 41(1) of the Act. Under subsection 41(1) of the Act, the overall levy target amount for the 2022–23 eligible levy period is the sum of:

- (a) all amounts paid by the Secretary on behalf of the Commonwealth during that period under contracts made under section 14 of the Act;
- (b) all amounts paid by the Secretary on behalf of the Commonwealth during that period by way of grants made under section 14 of the Act; and
- (c) the total amount of the eligible administrative costs of the Commonwealth incurred during the period; less the total amount of money appropriated by any Appropriation Act in relation to that period for the purposes of meeting costs under any of these three categories (see paragraphs 41(1)(d) to (f) of the Act).

For the 2022–23 eligible levy period, the total amount paid under relevant contracts¹ made under section 14 of the Act was \$305,349,950. This is based on a fixed amount of \$270,000,000 for contracts relating to the Universal Service Obligation and variable amounts totaling \$35,349,950 for other contracts for voice-only migration, the Emergency Call Service and the National Relay Service. The total amount paid by way of relevant grants² made under section 14 of the Act was \$486,364. The eligible administrative costs for the relevant period was \$3,177,000. The total amount of money appropriated for the purposes of the three categories under paragraphs 41(1)(d) to (f) of the Act was \$100,000,000. Therefore, the overall levy target amount for the 2022–23 eligible levy period, as noted in subsection 5(1) of the Statement, is \$209,013,314.

¹ A register of public interest telecommunications contracts and grants can be found on the Department's website: www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-technology-communications/phone/phone-services/universal-service-guarantee-telecommunications/telecommunications-contract-and-grant-registers

² As above.

