



Auditor-General for Australia



3 May 2016

The Hon Ian Macfarlane MP
Chair
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Macfarlane

JCPAA Report 452: Natural Disaster Recovery; Centrelink Telephone Services; and Safer Streets Program: Review of Auditor-General Reports Nos 24-50 (2014-15)

I am writing about the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit's (JCPAA) Report 452, which made a number of recommendations directed to the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO). The JCPAA recommendations and ANAO responses are set out below.

Recommendation 2: The Committee recommends that the Australian National Audit Office consider prioritising the Attorney-General's Department in its continuing series of audits of agencies' implementation of performance audit recommendations.

Recommendation 3: The Committee recommends that the Australian National Audit Office consider including in its schedule of performance audits a follow-up audit of administration of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements by the Attorney-General's Department.

Response to recommendation 2 and 3: A follow-up audit on the Attorney-General's Department implementation of performance audit recommendations, including its administration of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, will be considered in the context of the forward work plan for 2017-18.

Recommendation 9: To encourage better practice grants administration, the Committee recommends that the Australian National Audit Office consider including in its schedule of performance audits, priority follow-up audits of the grants program administration by the Attorney-General's Department.

Response: The ANAO has recently commenced an audit of the Living Safe Together grants programme. This audit was seen as an opportunity to assess whether the department has applied the lessons it advised the JCPAA that it learned in response to the ANAO's audit of the Safer Streets Programme. For example, the department advised the JCPAA that it has a toolkit with a guide and standard templates, has delivered training to specifically address the application and assessment process findings of the Safer Streets programme, and now has a grant programme gap analysis checklist. The audit report is expected to be tabled in May 2016.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Hehir', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Grant Hehir
Auditor-General