

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Inquiry into Commonwealth Financial Statements 2019-20

Hearing of 15 September 2021

Hansard Question on Notice 1 (Mr Hill, Proof Hansard page 15)

Have you identified over the last few years entities that are consistently late in tabling the annual report? Could you give us a list over, say, the last three or four years, whatever's convenient, as to entities that are consistently late?

Response

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) is responsible for the Parliament's tabling guidelines, including the timeframes for annual reports. Accordingly, the Department of Finance does not monitor entities' performance in meeting the guidelines for tabling annual reports.

The Department of Finance (Finance) is responsible for the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (PGPA) Act 2013 and PGPA Rule. The PGPA Rule requires entities and companies to publish their annual reports to the Transparency Portal 'as soon as practicable' after the annual report has been tabled in the Parliament.

The requirement for entities to publish to the Transparency Portal has been in place for two reporting cycles, commencing 2018-19. A range of factors may influence what is practicable for entities and companies, including in 2019-20 the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.