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Auditor-General for Australia



19 December 2024

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

By email: jcpaa@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Burney

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit Report 504: *Inquiry into procurement at Services Australia and the NDIA*

I am writing in relation to the recommendation directed to the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) contained in JCPAA Report 504: *Inquiry into procurement at Services Australia and the NDIA*, in June 2024.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Australian National Audit Office consider the evidence and issues raised in this inquiry and consider further audits in relation to gifts and hospitality issues in the public sector to identify practices of concern, raise awareness, and help to build ethical cultures that operate with probity. This may include exercising its powers to obtain information from private sector entities that contract to the Commonwealth, in relation to gifts and hospitality provided to public officials.

ANAO Response: Agreed

The Australian National Audit Office's (ANAO) 2024–25 Annual Audit Work Program (AAWP) includes a potential topic on [Compliance with legislative and policy requirements](#). The potential topic includes assessing compliance with legislative and Australian Government policy requirements, such as gifts, benefits and hospitality requirements.

In 2023–24 and 2024–25, the ANAO has presented three performance audits for tabling in the Australian Parliament that focussed on gifts, benefits and hospitality:

- Auditor-General Report No.44 2023–24 [Compliance with Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Requirements in the Department of the Treasury](#);
- Auditor-General Report No.46 2023–24 [Compliance with Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Requirements in the Australian Communications and Media Authority](#); and

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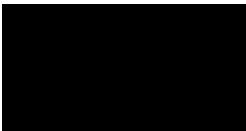
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- Auditor-General Report No.15 2024–25 [Compliance with Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Requirements in the Murray–Darling Basin Authority](#). Paragraph 3.27 of this report sets out that the ANAO approached seven organisations that made potential offers of hospitality to Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) officials and asked whether they had records of hospitality being provided to MDBA officials. The organisations’ responses are outlined in Table 3.2 of the report.

A performance audit on [Compliance with gifts, benefits and hospitality requirements in the Department of Defence](#) is expected to be presented for tabling in June 2025.

In addition, in October 2024, the Auditor-General published a new edition of Audit Insights: [Lessons on Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality](#). This edition is targeted at those responsible for implementing internal policies and controls on the receipt of gifts, benefits and hospitality in Australian Government entities. It sets out what the ANAO has found in recent audits on gifts, benefits and hospitality and seven lessons aimed at improving Australian Government entities’ compliance with gifts, benefits and hospitality requirements.

Yours sincerely



Dr Caralee McLiesh PSM
Auditor-General