

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

Inquiry into Annual Performance Statements 2021–22

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

Hearing of 28 July 2023

Written Question on Notice 1 (Mr Hill)

What has Finance's role in performance statement audits been to date?

- a. What Finance's engagement with ANAO on current and future performance statements audits?

Response

Finance regularly engages with the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) on performance statement audits and performance statements policy.

Examples of Finance's engagement with the ANAO includes:

Finance was represented on a *Pilot Program Governance Committee* 2019 that advised the Auditor-General on audit methodology and approach. Similarly, Finance is represented on the *Performance Statements Audits Expert Advisory Panel*, which the ANAO formed in 2023 to advise the Auditor-General as the audit program expands.

Supporting these governance forums, there is regular dialogue between Senior Executive and officers of both entities. These engagements cover policy and practice both specific to current audits and the audit approach and methodology moving forward. Finance and the ANAO have also contributed to a range of governance and practitioner forums with other entities.

Finance reviews all performance audit reports, all tabled performance statements audit opinions and reports on performance statements audits tabled by the Auditor-General.

Ongoing engagement with the ANAO informs Finance's guidance and advice to entities, including briefings to all new accountable authorities, Performance Community of Practice sessions, tailored 101 sessions, regular PGPA Newsletters and direct advice.

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Hearing of 28 July 2023

Written Question on Notice 2 (Mr Hill)

In its submission to the inquiry, DSS stated clearer guidance on the PGPA Act and best practice examples would assist entities with their compliance. In Finance's view is the current guidance sufficient, noting Finance's submission included its additional activities on performance statements such as communities of practice and 101 sessions?

Response

The Department of Finance (Finance) considers that its guidance and support is appropriate and will continue to support entities as performance statements policy, reporting and audit practice matures. Finance will also continue to cooperatively work with entities to identify opportunities to enhance existing arrangements.

Examples of Finance's guidance and support include:

Resource Management Guides (RMGs) and guidance resources on the Finance website support Commonwealth entities and companies to meet the requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014* (PGPA Rule).

To assist entities meet PGPA Rule requirements, [RMG-131 Developing performance measures](#) provides guidance on developing measures and [RMG-132 Corporate plans for Commonwealth entities](#) provides guidance on the presentation of performance measures in corporate plans, including better practice examples drawn from Commonwealth entities. The RMGs also cover objective reporting, data sources, reporting methodology, record keeping and the development of performance measures.

Commonwealth entities are further supported to meet requirements through briefing of all new accountable authorities, Performance Community of Practice (CoP) sessions, tailored 101 sessions, regular PGPA Newsletters and direct advice.

Over the past 12 months Finance has delivered: CoP sessions focussed on assurance audit and performance audit programs attended by over 300 people from 130 Commonwealth entities and companies; and tailored 101 sessions for 25 entities including executive leadership teams.