



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Audit and Fraud Control
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Commonwealth Department of
Health and
Ageing

Ref: 2003/008528

Submission No. 40

Mr Tas Luttrell
Sectional Committee Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Luttrell

INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT AND INTEGRITY OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH

I refer to my letter to you of 28 April 2003 and your subsequent telephone discussion with Bryan Rae regarding the Department's responses.

The Department has amended the responses provided to you with my 28 April letter, and they are attached. The changes relate to:

- the response to the question from Senator Lundy (PA 54) regarding the loss of or damage to ACT Government child immunisation records;
- the response to the question from the Chairman (PA 57) regarding the currency of security clearances.

In relation to the publication of these responses as a supplementary submission, the Department requests that the responses to the following questions remain confidential on the grounds of preservation of Commonwealth security:

- breaches of security (question from Chairman - transcript reference PA 56);
- security clearances of IBM/GSA personnel (question from Chairman - transcript reference PA 57); and
- information encryption (question from Senator Lundy - transcript reference PA 53)

If you have any further questions regarding these matters, please contact Bryan Rae on ☎62897736 in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Dellar
Assistant Secretary
Audit & Fraud Control Branch

6 May 2003

**JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT - INQUIRY INTO THE
MANAGEMENT AND INTEGRITY OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION IN THE
COMMONWEALTH**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGEING RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE FROM THE
PUBLIC HEARING ON 31 MARCH 2003

Transcript Reference: PA 52

Issue: Question from Ms Plibersek - Use of FedLink

Departmental Response

The Department was one of the initial subscribers to FedLink in late 2001. Initially use of Fedlink was limited because there were few subscribers. Currently there are around 25000 FedLink transmissions per month, or about 3% of Departmental external email, and this is increasing as more agencies come online.

Transcript Reference: PA 53

Issue: Question from Senator Lundy - Whether the Department's contract with IBM/GSA stipulates that data assets must be physically held within Australia

Departmental Response

The Services Agreement with IBM/GSA requires that all services shall be performed in Australia unless agreed by Health.

Transcript Reference: PA 54

Issue: Question from Senator Lundy - Impact on the Federal Department of loss or damage (from January 2003 ACT fires) to ACT Government child immunisation records.

Departmental Response

The ACT Department of Health's Immunisation Unit was destroyed in the bushfires on 18 January 2003. Included in the loss were several weeks of immunisation notifications that had not been sent to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR). Up until the time of the bushfires, ACT Health maintained a Territory-based immunisation register, receiving immunisation data directly from providers and transferring information to the ACIR each week. The Health Insurance Commission (HIC) manages the ACIR on behalf of the Department of Health and Ageing. ACT Health was planning to decommission its immunisation register in March 2003 and these plans were brought forward immediately after the fires so that immunisation providers could report immunisation services directly to the ACIR. HIC is currently liaising with ACT Health to implement measures to recover the missing immunisation notifications. The Department of Health and Ageing has consulted with the Department of Family and Community Services, and Centrelink has implemented temporary measures to ensure parents in receipt of the Government's Child Care Benefit and Maternity Immunisation Allowance do not have their family payments cancelled as a result of the loss of the back logged immunisation services that have not been notified to the ACIR.

Transcript Reference: PA 55

Issue: Questions from Senator Lundy - Ownership of hardware assets and risk assessment of not having the assets in the possession of the Department.

Departmental Response

The arrangement the Department has through the Whole-of-Government outsourcing process is one of a formal asset sale to IBM Global Services Australia in June 2000 and a lease back through IBM Global Financing Australia. This arrangement applies to hardware assets only as software assets have been retained by the Department.

The Department in general relied upon the OASITO process for risk assessment, however on the basis of the Group's and the Department's own perception of the risks involved with the transaction, the successful tenderer was required to provide an increased unconditional financial undertaking (UFU).

Transcript Reference: PA 56

Issue: Question from Chairman - Extent of Department's involvement with Defence Signals Directorate (DSD)

Departmental Response

The Department's Internet and gateway service provider is 90East, which is required to have the Internet gateway certified by DSD. Otherwise, there is occasional contact with DSD for advice and guidance.

Transcript Reference: PA 56

Issue: Question from Chairman - External penetration testing

Clarification of response by Ms Seittenranta

The Department purchases secure gateway services through 90East (Asia Pacific Pty Ltd). A requirement of this contract is that 90East maintain Defence Signals Directorate (DSD) accreditation to the level of Protected and that the services be provided from an accredited ASIO T4 Protected facility.

The annual compliance testing by both DSD and ASIO satisfies the Department's security requirements and as such the Department does not commission separate penetration tests to those conducted as part of the accreditation process.