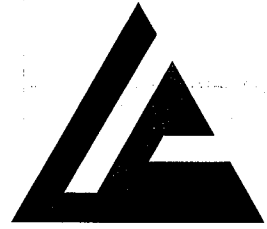
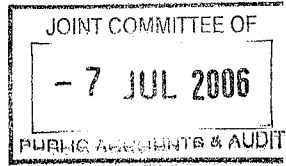




Submission No. 501



**Australian National  
Audit Office**



6 July 2006

Mr Russell Chafer  
Committee Secretary  
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit  
Department of the House of Representatives  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Chafer

**Review of Auditor-General's Reports No. 32 of 2005-06 – Public Hearing Friday, 2 June 2006**

I am writing to clarify evidence provided to the Committee at its hearing on Friday 2 June 2006.

In response to questions about the implementation of recommendations from the ANAO Report on the Management of the Tender Process for the Detention Services Contract, DIMA advised the Committee that an overarching tender project plan had been prepared to address all the findings from the audit report. DIMA also gave evidence that it 'had discussions with ANAO in the preparation of that document and our forward approach to the next tender to ensure that we have missed nothing in terms of those preparations.'

For the benefit of the members of the Committee and its report, I wish to advise that following the tabling of ANAO audit No. 32 of 2005-06, DIMA informally engaged with the ANAO to gain a better understanding of the findings and recommendations. While a copy of DIMA's tender project plan was provided to the Auditor-General for comment after it had been approved by DIMA's Secretary and Executive Board of Management, the ANAO was not involved in the preparation of DIMA's plan. We have since held discussion with DIMA

officers regarding their proposed governance arrangements for the forthcoming detention services tender and have provided advice consistent with recent audit findings and recommendations.

Should you or the Committee require any further information please contact me on 6203 7360 or Mr Steven Lack on 6203 7577.

Yours sincerely



J Meert  
Group Executive Director  
Performance Audit Services Group