

Auditor-General for Australia

Supplementary Submission No. 3.7



4 November 2009

Ms Sharon Grierson  
Chair  
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Grierson

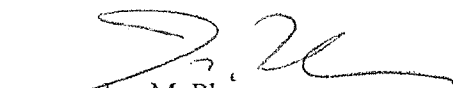
I am writing to inform the Committee of the Government's recent decision to transfer the responsibilities of the Office of Evaluation and Audit (Indigenous Programs) (OEA) from the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) to the Australian National Audit Office. The OEA was transferred to Finance at the time the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission was abolished in 2004.

While the timing of the transfer is dependent on changes being made to the Administrative Arrangements Order, and the formal transfer of appropriations and staff, at this stage we are planning on a transfer date of mid-December 2009. I understand there are some 20 staff in OEA and an annual budget of approximately \$4 million to be transferred.

I propose to establish organisational arrangements that will ensure the continuation of a viable program of audits of Indigenous Programs under the umbrella of our Performance Audit Services Group. The transfer of the function provides an opportunity to broaden our audit coverage of Indigenous Programs.

We are currently working with Finance on the most appropriate arrangements to give effect to this transfer, including legislative implications. I will keep the Committee informed of developments.

Yours sincerely

  
Ian McPhee