

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Inquiry into Audit Report No. 26 *Administration of Climate Change Programs*
Answers to questions on notice

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Question No: 6 The ANAO noted that a centralised Grants Policy Unit was being set up by DEWHA and that this would facilitate improvement in the grants management process across both DEWHA and DCCEE.

Can you update the Committee on the progress of this Grants Policy Unit? Is it in operation? Can you identify any improvements in the grants management cycle to date?

Answer:

As noted, a dedicated central grants unit has been established within the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. From 1 July 2010, this unit has been incorporated into the Governance Branch, Business Improvement Division.

Improvements in the grants management cycle to date include the establishment of the Grants Reference Group with representatives from Grant Programs across the Department. Progress has also been made on a Grants Management Manual, standard templates and toolkits to provide guidance to line areas on grants management. A grants helpdesk has also been established to provide guidance across the Department on compliance with the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines requirements.