



EXECUTIVE MINUTE

on JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Report 417 - Review of Auditor General's Reports tabled between February 2009 and September 2009

General comments

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is in the process of integrating ICT Infrastructure across its portfolio agencies including Medicare Australia. As part of this program of work, where ICT procurement activities had been done on an agency by agency basis, they will now be done centrally for the portfolio.

Response to the recommendation(s)

Recommendation No. 2

That Medicare Australia enter into stewardship agreements with its information and communication technology suppliers when its contracts are next scheduled for renewal.

The recommendation is supported with qualification. Medicare's current ICT contract which includes provision of desktops is due to expire in March 2011 with a 24 month disengagement period. The new arrangements for Medicare will adopt the DHS portfolio wide approach which will be consistent with whole of government directions including use of the whole of government desktop panel.

More broadly, it is the intention to develop a standard approach to the inclusion of stewardship clauses for future DHS procurement activities in line with whole of government directions.

Finn Pratt
Secretary, Department of Human Services

20 January 2011