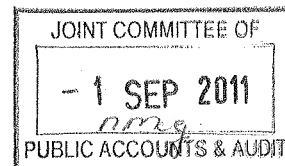


Submission No. 17
Inquiry into National Funding Agreements



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
11th Assembly

Public Accounts Committee

Mr Rob Oakeshott MP
Chair
Joint Committee on Public Accounts and Audit
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Oakeshott *Rob*

Re: Inquiry into National Funding Agreements

The Northern Territory Public Accounts Committee thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the above inquiry.

The Committee supports the intent of the reform of Commonwealth-State Financial Relations that was undertaken from 2008 with the creation of National Agreements and the reduction in the number of Specific Purpose Payments from over 90 to 5, broadbanding of payments, focus on outcomes and the creation of a new suite of outcome-focused National Partnerships.

While supportive of the intent of the reform, the Committee is concerned that some non-productive elements of the old system remain, namely, input controls, proliferation of agreements, and onerous and in some cases irrelevant reporting mechanisms.

These deficiencies have been noted by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and a process has been put in place to review National Agreements and National Partnerships. The Committee considers that the underlying framework remains sound and that the COAG process represents the best mechanism to address the deficiencies outlined above.

Yours sincerely

Michael Gunner MLA
Chair
21 June 2011

cc: Chief Minister

Refer to David B.