



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Deputy Secretary
Malisa Golightly

Mr Russell Chafer
Committee Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

8
Submission No:

Rec'd 29/5/09

Dear Mr Chafer

Thank you for your letter of 24 March 2009 regarding the consideration by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit of Audit Report No. 04 2008-09 *The Business Partnership Agreement between the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and Centrelink*.

The Committee has asked:

In this Audit Report and Audit Report No. 51 2004-05 DEWR's oversight of Job Network services to job seekers the ANAO recommended that the BPA be kept up-to-date and accurate. To both recommendations DEEWR (or DEWR) replied that the BPA is kept up-to-date. In DEEWR's response to the draft report it is stated that resource constraints have impacted capacity to ensure finalisation of materials; and regardless of any requirement for the update of the BPA...all Government programs...are successfully delivered (Audit Report No. 04 2008-09, p.151.)

Is the BPA kept up-to-date and accurate?

If not, what steps will be taken in future to ensure that the BPA is kept up-to-date and accurate?

The Department can report that the DEEWR - Centrelink Interim Business Partnership Agreement (BPA) 2008-09 was signed off on 31 December 2008. The BPAs of the former Departments of Education, Science and Training (DEST) and Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) as well as elements of the BPA of the former Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) were reviewed in developing the Interim agreement.

To ensure the Interim BPA remains up-to-date and accurate, the Core Agreement and its supporting documentation, such as Policy Guides, Service Schedules and Service Level Agreements, continue to be reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis.

Yours sincerely

Malisa Golightly

26 May 2009