



Australian Government
Department of Finance and Administration

Joint Committee On Publications

Inquiry into the distribution of the Parliamentary Paper Series

**Submission by the Department of Finance and Administration,
Australian Government Information Management Office**

The Department of Finance and Administration (Finance), through its business group the Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO), is responsible for providing access to government publications.

AGIMO welcomes the opportunity to submit a response to the *Inquiry into the distribution of the Parliamentary Paper Series*.

As a first step, AGIMO in consultation with the Department of the House of Representatives, Table Office has published the yearly indexes to the Parliamentary Paper Series (PPS) on *Publications.gov.au*.

AGIMO will continue to work with the Table Office to ensure that the PPS is discoverable via *Publications.gov.au* and to encourage government publishers to promote *Publications.gov.au*.

Online Information Service Obligations

AGIMO is responsible for the Online Information Service Obligations (OISOs), which form part of the Government Online Strategy released in April 2000.

The OISOs specifically deal with Reports Submitted to Parliament by government agencies and state that:

There is no formal list of documents that should be submitted to Parliament. However, once tabled they become a part of the public record. Agencies are required to publish these online. The “Guidelines for Presentation of Government Documents, Ministerial Statements, and Government Responses to Parliament¹” provides appropriate advice to agencies.

Publications Discovery Initiatives

AGIMO maintains a number of initiatives to enable citizens to discover and access government online publications including the PPS.

¹ Guidelines for Presentation of Government Documents, Ministerial Statements, and Government Responses to Parliament, available from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, http://www.dpmc.gov.au/guidelines/docs/guidelines_govt_docs.rtf.

Two major publication discovery initiatives include:

- The website *Publications.gov.au* provides a comprehensive single point of access to Australian Government publications.
- The Australian Government online entry point, *Australia.gov.au*.

Publications.gov.au

The Australian Government publications website, *Publications.gov.au*, features advanced indexing and new search technology allowing users to search for government publications, including the PPS, in a variety of intuitive ways.

Publications.gov.au provides comprehensive and integrated access to publications by providing a searchable portal to material placed on the Internet by all Australian Government agencies.

Searches from the publications website leverage off the powerful whole-of-government search facility on *Australia.gov.au*, which indexes five million government resources.

Australia.gov.au

The *Australia.gov.au* website is the citizen's connection with government in Australia. It links to information and services on over 700 Australian Government websites as well as selected state and territory resources. *Australia.gov.au* provides a search of over five million government web pages.

Australia.gov.au links prominently to *Publications.gov.au* from its home page and, as the central Australian Government website, provides powerful search and browse of Australian Government resources online.