



Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

Australian Public Service Commissioner

EXECUTIVE MINUTE

on
JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT
REPORT No. 455
Parliamentary Delegation to New Zealand and Fiji by Members of the JCPAA

Response to the recommendation

Recommendation No. 1 paragraph 2.66

The Committee recommends that the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Australian Public Service Commission examine the New Zealand Better Public Services Initiative and the Performance Improvement Framework and report back to the JCPAA on whether these reforms could be adopted by the Australian Public Service.

In consultation with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Finance, the Australian Public Service Commission has considered the transparency initiatives introduced by the New Zealand Government.

We thank the Committee for bringing the New Zealand initiatives to our attention, while noting the important differences that exist between our two systems of government. The New Zealand performance framework has great merit for the New Zealand system of government, which in addition to its national responsibilities provides a broad range of direct services to the New Zealand public. A similar approach is not easily adapted to our federal system of government.

As in the case in New Zealand, the Australian government's performance framework has been designed to provide high quality and useful information about the activities and achievements of the Commonwealth sector, including the Australian Public Service. This includes in key policy areas like health and welfare, education, border security, and infrastructure development.

The *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) sets out the general duties for the accountable authorities of all Commonwealth entities and companies. This includes identifying the purposes and the key priorities in corporate plans, annual performance statements and annual reports. The accountable authorities provide high quality performance information about their activities and the achievement of their purposes to responsible ministers, the Parliament and the people of Australia.

Australia's performance framework is subject to constant improvement and review. We are constantly looking at better practice examples from around the world, just as other countries look to our performance framework and our evolving practices to improve their own systems. The PGPA Act reforms, which were only introduced in 2013, will undergo a statutory review in 2017. Its

recommendations will be carefully considered by the government, and appropriate refinements will be made as necessary to the existing system.

Recently, as part of the commitment between Prime Ministers Turnbull and Key, the Australian Public Service has been hosting colleagues from the New Zealand public service to broaden and deepen Trans-Tasman strategic engagement and cooperation. We will continue to work with the New Zealand public service and share perspectives on how we can better align our priorities and approaches to challenges in our region and globally.

I thank the Committee for their work and interest in this matter.



John Lloyd PSM
11 November 2016