

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance
Outcome/Program: 2/2.1
Topic: ICT “Smaller Government” bodies

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: F97

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 10 April 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. Can the Department describe what were the functions and outputs of the following five bodies:
 - a) Authentication Governance Committee;
 - b) The Secretaries’ Information and Communication Technologies Governance Board;
 - c) The Cross Jurisdictional Chief Information Officers Committee;
 - d) The Chief Information Officer Committee Forum; and
 - e) The Chief Information Officer Forum.
2. Why were they established in the first place?
3. Can the Department able to provide information on membership of the Authentication Governance Committee, the Secretaries’ Information and Communication Technologies Governance Board and the Cross Jurisdictional Chief Information Officers Committee?
4. Can the Department provide information on membership of the Chief Information Officer Committee and the Chief Information Officer Forums?
5. Which members of those two forums are being retained in the new merged body?
6. How many times per year would the Authentication Governance Committee, the Secretaries’ Information and Communication Technologies Governance Board, the Cross Jurisdictional Chief Information Officers Committee, the Chief Information Officer Committee Forum and the Chief Information Officer Forum meet?
7. Did Finance provide any secretariat support for these bodies?
8. If so, can the Department provide details of how many staff members were involved in this? Is the Department able to provide an estimate of how many hours they would be dedicating to doing work for these bodies per week? Does the Department have an indication of what extra hours over and above the normal standard working week these staff members would have had to do in order to provide support for these bodies?

Answer:

1. The committees' functions and outputs were to determine and implement the priority areas for standardisation, consolidation and common approaches based on demonstrated business value to the community and Government.
2. They were established to oversee and monitor the implementation of whole-of-government ICT strategy, policy and identity management.
3. Authentication Governance Committee (AGC) membership consisted of senior officials from key agencies with interests in the identity management and authentication agenda.

The Secretaries' Information and Communication Technologies Governance Board (SIGB) membership consisted of the Secretaries of the departments of Communications, Defence, Social Services, Human Services, Immigration and Border Protection, Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Attorney-General, and the Director-General of the National Archives of Australia.

The Cross Jurisdictional Chief Information Officers Committee (CJCIOC) membership consisted of senior ICT representatives from state and territory jurisdictions and from New Zealand, with Federal representation from the Department of Finance and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

4. The Chief Information Officer Committee Forum (CIOCF) membership consisted of the Chief Information Officers of the larger agencies. The chair of the Chief Information Officer Forum (CIOF) was also a member. CIOF membership was all Chief Information Officers from agencies not represented on the CIOCF.
5. The CIOF and the CIOCF will be merged into a less formal 'community of practice' with Finance as the organiser, to ensure continued input into whole of government ICT policy.
6. AGC would meet at least six times per calendar year. SIGB would meet approximately five times per calendar year. CJCIOC would meet three times per calendar year. CIOCF would meet bi-monthly or as required. CIOF would meet three or four times per calendar year.
7. Yes.
8. The total support for these committees was provided by around 1 full-time equivalent staff member. These resources have been redeployed onto other priorities.