

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: All
Output Group: All

DEST Question No. E315_05

Senator Murray provided in writing.

Question:

Do the Department's current procurement guidelines refer to all of the following accountability mechanisms:

- The Senate order for departmental and agency contracts;
- The Department of Finance and Administration's February 2003 *Guidance on Confidentiality of Contractors' Commercial Information*; and
- The Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines (CPGs)?

Answer:

Procurement guidelines - accountability

The Senate Order and the CPGs are referred to in the current procurement guidelines contained within BUYiT, the Department's electronic Procurement Management System. The current guidelines only refer to the ANAO's Report Number 38/2000 - 2001 (The Use of Confidentiality Provisions in Government Contracts) rather than the DoFA guidance.

However, the DoFA 2003 *Guidance on Confidentiality of Contractors' Commercial Information* is referenced in all guidance provided to DEST staff during data collection exercises for the Murray Senate Order and will be included in the new AUSFTA version of DEST's procurement guidelines due for release on 1 February 2004.