

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2006

Question: F43

Outcome 4, Output 4.1.1

Topic: Common IT Standards

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Senator Lundy asked:

Could you take on notice providing me some more information about that, particularly any material you can reference that looks at the issue of problems associated with material in proprietary formats.

Answer:

AGIMO develops, maintains and facilitates the implementation of whole-of-government ICT standards that relate to government agencies. For example, agencies have endorsed the Australian Government Interoperability Framework which prefers the deployment of open standards where feasible.

The Governments 2006 e-Government Strategy *Responsive Government - A New Service Agenda* affirms that cross-agency integrations should be based on open standards that have been developed by international bodies such as:

- International Organization for Standardization;
- United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT);
- Organisation for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards; and
- World Wide Web Consortium.

In relation to Archiving standards, AGIMO is currently working with the National Archives of Australia and the UN/CEFACT e-Government Committee on the development of an international standard for government archiving.

The National Archives of Australia has developed, and is implementing, a digital preservation strategy, which relies upon converting digital Commonwealth records that have been created in proprietary formats into fully documented open file formats that do not possess any proprietary dependencies. The conversion from proprietary to non-proprietary long-term file formats is undertaken using the NAA in-house developed software application, Xena (XML Electronic Normalising of Archives).