

The Allen Consulting Group

25 March 2008

Ms Jane Thomson
Senior Research Officer
Senate Select Committee
on State Government Finances
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Thomson

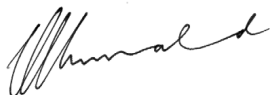
Submission of Material to the Committee

I have forwarded to you electronically, as a submission to the Committee, three relevant documents of which I have been the author or a joint author, two prepared for the Victorian Government and one prepared for three of the State Governments. They are:

- *Governments Working Together: A Better Future for All Australians*. This report analyses how well current Commonwealth/State arrangements serve the public, particularly in the major areas of education and training and health and aged care; and canvasses reforms to the overall structure of federal relations and to arrangements in those two areas.
- *Governments Working Together? Assessing Specific Purpose Payments*. This report critiques the framework under which specific purpose payments have been provided to the States in recent years (with case examples), and canvasses principles for reform – towards a partnership approach with a small number of broad agreements based on outcomes.
- *Review of Commonwealth-State Funding: Final Report* (jointly co-authored with Professor Ross Garnaut). This report analyses and canvasses reforms to both the arrangements for distributing among the States the proceeds of the GST (the major part of the report) and the framework for specific purpose payments.

I would be happy to attend a hearing of the Committee in Melbourne to discuss and to respond to questions.

Yours sincerely



Vince FitzGerald (Dr)
Chairman