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Auditor-General for Australia



23 January 2023

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

s 34(3)

As you would be aware, subsection 8(1) of the *Auditor-General Act 1997* establishes the Auditor-General as an independent officer of the Parliament. The ANAO's budget is reported as part of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) Portfolio Budget Statements. In preparing the ANAO's budget, the ANAO prepares a budget submission for consideration by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) consistent with section 53 of the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. Amongst its duties, the JCPAA is required to consider the draft estimates of the ANAO (subsection 8(j) *Public Accounts and Audit Committee Act 1951*) and make recommendations (under subsection 8(1) of its Act) on the ANAO's draft estimates to both Houses of Parliament and to you as responsible Minister. The ANAO is in the course of preparing its draft estimates for consideration by the JCPAA in February 2023 consistent with the Committee's request.

Performance statements audit program

The program was established formally in your portfolio budget statement in the 2022-23 Budget. After the conduct of the performance statements audit pilot the government provided ongoing funding to implement the program in a staged way reaching 19 material entities (including all departments of state) by 2024-25. s 34(3)

In October 2021, the Minister for Finance wrote to me indicating that he considered a JCPAA inquiry "to review the audit methods and outcomes each year during the ramp-up of this new stream of work would inform incremental improvements in the program and practice".

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s 47C



s 34(3) , s 47C

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I look forward to your response. I am available to discuss the proposals with you at any time.

Yours sincerely

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Grant Hehir
Auditor-General