



Australian Government

AusAID

EXECUTIVE MINUTE

on

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

REPORT No. 418:

REVIEW OF AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS NOS. 04 TO 38 (2009-10)

General comments

None.

Response to the recommendation(s)

Recommendation No. 2 paragraph 5.23

The Committee recommends that the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) report back to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit within twelve months of the tabling of this report on the effectiveness of the draft workforce plan in alleviating staff churn, quantifying any changes.

The Australian Agency for International Development supports this recommendation.

AusAID has adopted a range of measures under the agency's Workforce Plan (Phase One 2011) to reduce staff turnover. These measures include:

- implementing a new policy on lateral transfers which extend the standard length of AusAID's overseas postings and provide for internal placements of a minimum period of two years; and
- committing to productivity payments to eligible employees under the AusAID Enterprise Agreement 2011-14 if the internal movement rate is reduced below prescribed targets.

These measures have resulted in a 25 per cent reduction in internal movements from 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2011.

Recommendation No. 3 paragraph 5.39

The Committee recommends that the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) report back to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit within twelve months of the tabling of this report on the development and implementation of guidelines on the classification of administered and departmental expenses.

The Australian Agency for International Development supports this recommendation.

A revised framework for the classification of administered and departmental expenses was agreed with the Department of Finance and Deregulation and implemented effective from 1 July 2010.

As a result of the revised framework, a net amount of \$84,838,000 was transferred from the administered appropriation to the departmental appropriation through Appropriation Acts 1 and 3.

The effect of the reclassification was disclosed in AusAID's annual financial statements for the 2010-11 financial year.

Peter Baxter
Director General
Australian Agency for International Development