



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the President of the Senate

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Department of the Senate for the year ended 30 June 2012, which comprise: a Statement by the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer; Statement of Comprehensive Income; Balance sheet; Statement of changes in equity; Cash flow statement; Schedule of commitments; and Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements, including a Summary of significant accounting policies.

The Responsibility of the Clerk of the Senate for the Financial Statements

The Clerk of the Senate is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Department of the Senate's preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department of the Senate's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Clerk of the Senate, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

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Independence

In conducting my audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Department of the Senate:

- (a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders including the Department of the Senate's financial position as at 30 June 2012 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office

Ron Wah
Audit Principal

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
21 September 2012