



Australian Government
Digital Transformation Agency

dta

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Committee Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

The Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the enquiry. I am pleased to advise that all five of the recommendations applicable to the DTA following from the Australian National Audit Office performance audit, *Mitigating Insider Threats through Personnel Security*, have been addressed.

We take the security of the DTA seriously, especially the safety and wellbeing of our employees. As part of ensuring the success of our security framework, a dedicated Agency Security Adviser has been appointed to manage the security of the agency and to ensure that the DTA is meeting its governance requirements under the Protective Security Policy Framework.

We are working hard to further strengthen the security culture through awareness and training programs and ensure that we are appropriately protecting and managing sensitive government information.

The DTA's submission to the Committee is at Attachment A.

Yours sincerely


Randall Brugeaud
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment A: DTA submission to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, New inquiry into Australian Government Security Arrangements: Audit Report No. 38 (2017-18) *Mitigating Insider Threats through Personnel Security*

The Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Committee. The DTA takes security seriously and is continually working to ensure the safety of staff and the integrity of assets and information.

The DTA agreed with, and has now implemented in line with the timing it committed to, all five of the recommendations stemming from ANAO's performance audit - *Mitigating Insider Threats through Personnel Security*. The recommendations, outlined in more detail below, focused on improvements to the DTA's current security posture through:

1. *The DTA conduct a personnel security risk assessment that considers whether changes are needed to their protective security practices* – The DTA has assessed personnel security risks that identified improvements to protective security practices. These have been captured in the DTA Security Risk Assessment that has identified personnel risks and mitigations, which has been endorsed by the CEO.
2. *The DTA complies with the Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF)* – The DTA has now developed a security plan inclusive of protective and personal security policies and the CEO has endorsed these policies. These policies mean the DTA is now compliant with the nine requirements for Personnel security mandated in the PSPF that were the basis of the ANAO Audit. Of the remaining 27 requirements, the DTA is compliant with 24 and three are partially compliant at the end of July 2018. The DTA is working to become fully compliant with these requirements in the 2018-19 financial year.
3. *The DTA implement quality assurance mechanisms to reconcile their personnel records with AGSVA's clearance holder records, and commence clearance processes for any personnel who do not hold a required clearance* – The DTA has implemented quality assurance mechanisms to reconcile personnel security clearances. Where we have identified staff who should have clearances, and currently don't, we have started the security clearance process. In future, the DTA will implement IT systems to track the compliance for this recommendation and ensure regular (up to six-monthly) audits of the Australian Government Security Vetting Agency (AGSVA) clearances held in the DTA's records.
4. *The DTA review their policies and procedures for eligibility waivers to ensure that they are compliant with PSPF mandatory controls* – The DTA security plan and the protective and personal security policies have incorporated the procedures for eligibility waivers to ensure that they comply with mandatory controls in the PSPF.
5. *The DTA implement the PSPF requirement to undertake an annual health check for clearance holders and their managers* – The DTA has established an annual health check for all clearance holders and their managers. The first health check will commence on 31 July 2018 and repeat each year thereafter.

The DTA will continue to develop and refine its security policies and procedures to ensure that they, at a minimum, meet the requirements of the PSPF. Further, the DTA is preparing for the updates to the PSPF that are due to be implemented on 1 October 2018, and we will remain compliant under the updated requirements.