

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Inquiry into Commonwealth Grants Administration
10 February 2023

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES

TOPIC: SGGA Program

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Written)

QUESTION No.: 5

In April 2015, the government agreed to proceed with the SGGA program based on advice in a funding proposal developed by the eGovernment Steering Committee, which included representatives from PM&C, Department of Communications, Finance, Industry and DSS. The ANAO found that advice provided to government when establishing the SGGA Program was not evidence-based, and that ‘In the absence of reliable baseline information, benefits were presented to government without a reasonable basis for establishing how they would be realised’ (ANAO report, p. 24).

- a. What role did DISR play in the design of the program?
- b. Was the department aware of potential flaws in the evidence base presented to government?

ANSWER

- a. The interim Digital Transformation Office (DTO) had original design responsibility for the SGGA program funding proposal. The department was a member of the eGovernment Steering Committee.

Following the announcement of the SGGA program as part of the 2015-16 Budget, the department has been actively involved in the program. In particular, the department participated on a number of working groups to inform the design and establishment of the Business Grants Hub (BGH). This includes:

- Secretaries Committee on Transformation
 - Deputy Secretaries Efficiency Working Group
 - Grants Framework Working Group (all agencies)
 - Reference Group Process Sub-Committee (BGH and Community Grants Hub)
- b. The interim DTO as the leader of the policy design of the SGGA program collated the evidence base presented to government.