



The Hon Clare O'Neil MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Minister for Cyber Security

Ref No: GR23-000016

Mr Julian Hill MP
Chair
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair

Julian

Attached for the information of your committee members is a copy of the Department of Home Affairs' response to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit Report No. 497 Inquiry into the Commonwealth Financial Statements 2021–22 – Recommendation 5.

Responsibility for protective security policy transferred to the Department of Home Affairs from the Attorney-General's Department on 3 August 2023 and the Department has assumed ownership for implementation of recommendation 5.

The necessary arrangements have been made to table the response.

Yours sincerely


CLARE O'NEIL

15/12/2024



OFFICIAL

EXECUTIVE MINUTE

on

**JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT
REPORT [No. 497]**

Inquiry into the Commonwealth Financial Statements 2021-22

General comments

The Department of Home Affairs welcomes the opportunity to respond to Report No. 497 of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit 'Inquiry into the Commonwealth Financial Statements 2021-22' (the Report).

Response to the recommendation

Recommendation No. 5 paragraph 2.118

The Committee recommends that in light of the constant optimism biases which disguise the true situation in relation to public sector cyber-security the Government consider implementing an assurance regime on agencies' self-reporting to government on the cybersecurity aspects of the Protective Security Policy Framework, at least on a risk basis if not across all entities, and adopt appropriate assurance measures as recommended by the Australian National Audit Office.

Recommendation is supported.

The Department will implement an assurance mechanism to assess the self-reported cyber and protective security maturity of non-corporate Commonwealth entities to acquit recommendation 5, in consultation with the Government Security Committee.

The Department will commence this function following the 2024-25 Protective Security Policy Framework reporting period. Delivery will be subject to recruitment of appropriate skilled staff and consultation with all non-corporate Commonwealth entities.

Signed by

Hamish Hansford

Acting National Cyber Security Coordinator
Deputy Secretary—Cyber and Infrastructure Security

The Department of Home Affairs