

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 19-23 October 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Responsibility for Policy

Senator: Ms Katy Gallagher

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Question:

Please provide details of the delineation of policy responsibilities relating to digital and IT policy between the DTO, the Department of Finance, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of Communications and the Arts and the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

Answer:

The Department of Finance continues to be responsible for whole of government information and communications technology, other than that related to government service delivery which is the responsibility of the Digital Transformation Office (DTO).

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) continues to be responsible for cyber policy co-ordination and now has responsibility for whole of government service delivery policy and public data policy and related matters. A Public Data Branch has been established within PM&C, merging staff and functions from the Departments of Finance and Communications. PM&C will provide ongoing policy advice and support to the Prime Minister and the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Digital Government on the activities of the DTO, and the implementation of the Digital Transformation Agenda.

The DTO was established to provide leadership on government service delivery. Its functions include the development and implementation of user-centred whole-of-government service delivery policies and standards, design and governance of the implementation and enhancement of whole-of-government service delivery platforms, co-ordination of the funding of whole-of-government service delivery platforms, and advice to the Government on service delivery proposals.

- One of the DTO's first initiatives has been the development of the Digital Service Standard (the Standard). The Standard establishes the criteria that Australian Government digital services must meet to ensure our services are simpler, faster and

easier to use. The Standard applies to all existing and new Australian Government services that are high volume transaction services or digital information services. A digital service must meet the Standard before it can go live if it is the responsibility of, or partly owned and/or operated or funded by, a government department or agency; completely new and/or being redesigned; processing or likely to process more than 50,000 transactions every year. The Standard is currently in beta stage and will continue to be iterated based on feedback to ensure that it continues to deliver high quality outcomes.

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science continues to be responsible for information and communications technology industry development and is also responsible for national policy issues relating to the digital economy.

The Department of Communications and the Arts continues to be responsible for content policy relating to the information economy.