Information Sheet

Shared Learning Building Public Sector Capability

**Audience**

This Information Sheet is intended to assist Australian Public Service Senior Executive Officers seeking information on becoming a Gateway reviewer.

**At a glance**

The related materials listed below may be found at http://www.finance.gov.au/assurancereviews

Guidance


Guidance on the Assurance Reviews Process RMG No.106 (the Guidance)

For more information, including how to register as an assurance reviewer visit:


Email: assurancereviews@finance.gov.au

**Building Public Sector Capability**

The Australian Government’s Assurance Reviews Unit in Finance is seeking Senior Executive Service officers to register as Gateway reviewers.

As part of a team, of private and public sector independent individuals, APS reviewers have a unique and strategic learning opportunity to work across government and contribute their experience to provide assurance to an important programme/project in the public sector.

Traditional approaches to help build understanding and improve operational performance (e.g. training), are often not enough. Firsthand experience through participation in Gateway reviews contributes to the broader development of programme/project capability in the public service.

We believe that public sector involvement in the Gateway reviews provides greater opportunities for:

- individual skill development and shared learning; and
- building networks with peers across government.
The benefits of participating are:

As part of a team of four reviewers, sourced from the public and private sectors, you will have an opportunity to contribute to:

- some of the complex, long term challenges we face in the areas of policy and service delivery- disaggregating issues to facilitate problem solving, prioritisation and planning;
- work across government, including State and Territory levels, towards achieving broader public policy outcomes - using evidence and analysis to underpin decision making; and
- the development of lessons learned and better practice techniques throughout the lifecycle of government programmes/projects – helping to shape your perspective by what is happening in practice.

What have public sector reviewers said about Gateway review participation?

“As a first timer I was a bit unsure of how I would go, but the team worked very well together and in the end it was a great experience. The value of the process was demonstrated by confirming for the new SRO some issues he was wondering about but didn’t really have evidence about. I was very impressed by the knowledge and skill of the whole team. I believe it is very important for public service leaders to be involved as you learn a lot from reviewing other projects and programmes."

SES Band 2

“I have been an SRO on a reviewed project. That experience convinced me of the value of the Gateway process. By participating as a member on this review I was able to observe the integrity and sincerity of the approach taken by the reviewers, and the genuine desire to add value to the SRO’s success. This has strongly reinforced that positive impression of the Gateway review process.”

SES Band 1

“I find the process to be very helpful for the sponsoring entity as it gives them confidence that the project is on track while identifying any issues that they may have overlooked. As a public servant the Gateway process has also significantly improved my project management capability and enabled me to bring the lessons of Gateway back to my own department. I refer to Gateway as the best training course I have ever done” SES Band 1

“A very good process, which gave insight into the manner in which another department addresses challenges. I look forward to participating in another one” SES Band 2

“Very positive process for not only project/programme assurance, but for learnings across the Commonwealth” SES Band 1

“I found it rewarding to see how previous (Gateway review) recommendations had been implemented and the value that the entity had received from the process” SES Band 1

What is Gateway?

Gateway is an assurance methodology that examines programmes/projects at critical stages in the design, development and implementation stages. Conducted over five days by a team of reviewers, not associated with the project/programme, the process provides independent, timely guidance and assurance to the Senior Responsible Official (SRO), and indirectly to project/programme teams, on how best to ensure that their programmes/projects are successful.

Gateway reviews demonstrably assist the SRO’s oversight and governance of major programmes/projects and assist with the delivery of programmes/projects in accordance with the agreed stated objectives.

More than 95% of entities have found Gateway beneficial and state that it will impact positively on the outcome of their programme/project.