



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit Report
No. 452

*Natural Disaster Recovery; Centrelink Telephone Services;
and Safer Streets Program*

Review of Auditor-General Reports Nos 24-50 (2014-15)

NOVEMBER 2016

Response to the recommendation

Recommendation No. 10

Recognising that the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines do not explicitly refer to election commitments, the Committee recommends that the Department of Finance should amend the guidelines to deal explicitly with Commonwealth Funding Rounds that deliver on election commitments. Specifically, that only projects publicly committed to as part of the program should be included.

Noted

The CGRGs are largely principles based with a limited number of mandatory requirements. The objective of grants administration is to promote proper use and management of public resources through collaboration with the non-government sector to achieve government policy outcomes. The framework provides flexibility to develop and implement grant administration processes that are best suited and proportional to specific granting activities whilst maintaining accountability, probity and transparency.

The Department of Finance will revise guidance, that support the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines* (CGRGs), to better assist entities with implementing the Commonwealth grants policy framework and clarify how the CGRGs apply to election commitments.