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Thursday, 21 June 2018

PGPA Act Review  
Review Secretariat  
Department of Finance  
One Canberra Avenue  
Forrest ACT 2609

Dear Review Secretariat

### **Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 and Rule Independent Review – draft report**

Thank you for your email seeking comments from the Australian Research Council (ARC) on the consultation draft of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 and Rule Independent Review.

The ARC has reviewed the draft report in consultation with its Audit Committee and provides the following comments:

#### Recommendation 15

The ARC does not support this recommendation. Internal committee members have an important role in contributing to the collective knowledge of a Committee by sharing their understanding and corporate knowledge of the entity with the other members. The ARC also recognises that members with experience at other Commonwealth entities bring to the Committee valuable insights into the operations of government and the public sector from outside the ARC. Finally, having internal and external members with public service experience on an entity's Audit Committee reflects the different accountabilities of a Commonwealth entity from that of an ASX-listed company.

#### Recommendation 29

While the ARC appreciates that some efficiencies will be found by moving to a fully digital reporting platform (as per Recommendation 30), the ARC believes that bringing forward the timing for the delivery of the Annual Report by four weeks will create additional burden on ARC resources and for stakeholders who are involved in the development of the Annual Report.

The ARC is supportive of the Independent Review and we welcome providing further feedback as required.

Yours sincerely



Professor Sue Thomas  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Research Council