



Outstanding Government response—Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—Annual Reports (No.1 of 2015)

The Australian Government response to recommendations made in the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—Annual Reports (No.1 of 2015).

The Committee Report made recommendations in relation to the National Gallery of Australia's 2013–14 annual report:

2.15 ... “The annual report only provides quantitative targets and results for 2013–14. The committee recommends including previous year results as a useful comparison on the gallery's success. Furthermore, in instances where a deliverable or KPI is not met, the committee recommends that the gallery include an explanation for the shortfall in its annual report.”

The introduction of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) has provided very clear guidance and has streamlined the requirements for annual reports. In particular, the introduction of annual performance statements requires both performance results and analysis. PGPA Rule 16F specifies the minimum matters to be addressed in the analysis of performance and these requirements appear to address the matters raised by the Committee.

The Committee's findings have been brought to the attention of the National Gallery of Australia.

The Committee Report also made a recommendation in relation to the Attorney-General's Department 2013–14 annual report:

“1.10 The committee would like to draw the department's attention again to the use of quantitative KPI targets. The use of quantitative KPI targets has been utilised in some programmes, such as programme 2.1, and in this instance it simplifies the performance monitoring process. The committee recommends the department applies this approach to the assessment of its other programs; however, it also acknowledges the difficulty in using quantitative KPI targets to assess the effectiveness of departmental programs that involve policy development.”

The Attorney-General's Department notes the recommendation made by the Committee, and will implement this as appropriate in future annual reports.