

22 Wichmann Road
Attadale
PERTH WA 6156

18 November 2009

The Secretary
Advisory Group on Reform of Australian Government Administration
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

**INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSION
EFFICIENCY IN ALL ASPECTS OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS: ELECTRONIC TABLING OF
AGENCY ANNUAL REPORTS**

I work in the Perth-based head office of the National Native Title Tribunal (part of the Attorney-General's portfolio). The following is made in my individual capacity, i.e. not on behalf of the Tribunal.

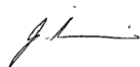
My submission is regarding the tabling requirements for agency annual reports. I seek to make a suggestion that annual reports be tabled electronically.

I understand it is a statutory requirement under the Public Service Act 1999 and the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 that annual reports be tabled in the Parliament. I also understand the rules for the private sector regarding online financial reporting changed with the Corporate Law Economic Reform Program (Audit Reform and Corporate Disclosure) Act 2004, effective for financial reporting periods commencing on or after 1 July 2005. This Act amended the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to access to financial reports.

Documents that are required to be tabled must be in hardcopy and the official record of the Parliament is in paper format. I understand the Joint Committee on Publications examined this issue in 2006 in its inquiry into the distribution of the Parliamentary Papers Series and concluded that digital versions of documents should augment, but not replace, hardcopies.

The printed production of annual reports can be a costly exercise for agencies. Could the tabling requirements for agency annual reports be amended to allow for electronic tabling?

Regards



Janet Pinheiro