

## **Submission**

### **Good draft documentation, but outdated emphasis in the proposed wording of the vision/aspiration**

A handful of words in the Role and Aspiration sections risk giving the whole paper the wrong flavour - in particular "be the best public service in the world" and "putting Australia and Australians at the centre of everything we do".

#### **What's wrong with these words?**

They suggest a culture of competition against other countries. It is an unhelpful and outdated perspective and is out of touch with the more modern global perspective which is permeating such a lot of our policy thinking.

A culture of global thinking is becoming increasingly important now. Examples where nations are increasingly working together include: climate change, GFC, war against terror, internet crime, taxation, global economics.

Many Australian citizens are looking for 'corporate social responsibility' (CSR). Employees too are looking for 'corporate social responsibility'. This perceived 'social responsibility' extends beyond Australian society. 'Global interest/concern' as a world view is accelerating in spread and emphasis. If Australian citizens and corporations are raising their view to include consideration of global citizens, then the APS certainly needs to do so too.

The APS has adopted a whole-of-government focus in recent years but there is a valid argument for us to apply a whole of world approach for significant issues.

#### **What's a better wording?**

Instead of "be the best public service in the world" I suggest "be the world's leader in public service". This implies being best but also bringing the others along too.

Instead of the wording "putting Australia and Australians at the centre of everything we do", I suggest wording along the lines of "putting citizens at the centre of everything we do" which does not diminish APS attention to Australia and Australian citizen interests, but puts those interests in a global context, which is increasingly relevant and more inspiring.

#### **Does this proposed alternate wording mix up the roles of Government and the APS?**

A counter-argument for this wording may be that it's largely the role of government rather than public servants to drive co-operation between nations. But the government and the public service must be aligned regarding intent, values and culture. It's not only *'government direction/decision-making'* in Australia that needs to become more global in focus, it's also the *administration of government policy* that needs to reflect global interest/concern.