



ALGA MAIL

ITEM No:

DATE RECEIVED: 26.10.12

SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG

Minister for Finance and Deregulation

REF: C12/2709

Mayor Genia McCaffery
Chair, National General Assembly
President, Australian Local Government Association
8 Geils Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600

25 OCT 2012

Dear Mayor McCaffery

I am writing in response to your letter received on 7 September 2012, regarding Resolution Number 15, which was passed at the National General Assembly of Local Government in June 2012. The resolution proposes that the Federal Government introduce a "One Stop Shop" for local government grants processes.

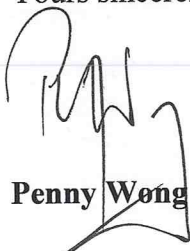
As you may be aware, the *Commonwealth Financial Accountability Review* (CFAR), announced on 8 December 2011, is examining the Australian Government's current financial framework. It is exploring issues, such as funding arrangements, governance, performance, and accountability to identify options for reform. This should result in reduced complexity both within government and for those joining-up with or working with government. The Government is currently developing a range of initiatives in response to feedback from stakeholders on the CFAR discussion paper. As noted in the discussion paper, the Secretaries ICT Governance Board is also reviewing the potential for a whole-of-government grants management system.

In addition, the Government has committed to simplifying and improving grants processes for both government agencies and grant recipients. My department is currently leading a project aimed at simplifying arrangements between government agencies and grant recipients, by developing grant agreement templates and guidance for both agencies and grants recipients. In the first stage of the project, we are developing and piloting a low risk grant agreement template with the aim of making the template and guidance available by the middle of next year.

I encourage you to check the Department's website at www.cfar.finance.gov.au for developments in the CFAR review and other initiatives.

I have copied in the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Simon Crean MP, given his responsibility for local government.

Yours sincerely



Penny Wong