

**Submission**

**No 5**

## **INQUIRY INTO FINANCIAL REPORTING**

**Organisation:** Attorney General of NSW

**Name:** Mr John Hatzistergos

**Position:** Attorney General

**Telephone:** 02-9228 4977

**Date Received:** 9/07/2010

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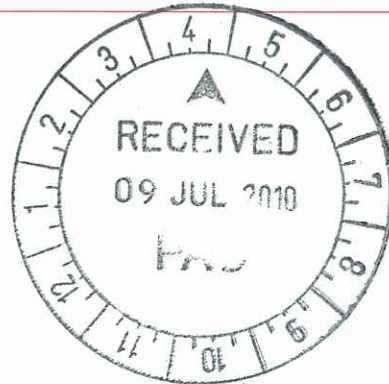
**Theme:**

**Summary**



## ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr Paul Gibson, MP  
Chair  
Public Accounts Committee  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Mr Gibson

I write in reply to your letter dated 2 June 2010 regarding the inquiry into the quality and timeliness of financial reporting and thank you for this opportunity to submit comments.

My Department is aware of the concerns raised by the Auditor-General regarding the quality of financial reporting and budget overruns in Volume Four of the 2009 Financial Audit.

To avoid any financial reporting issues for 2010, my Department has undertaken an Early Close as at 30 April 2010. This has allowed the Audit Office to commence its early audit substantiation and provides them with the opportunity to report back on any issues of concern that may require corrective action to improve the accuracy of the 2010 financial reports. My Department is also utilising for the first time in 2010 a proven financial reporting tool called Valuefinancials, which enables more accurate financial reporting and reduces the incidence of error.

To avoid any budget overruns, my Department has monthly monitoring of expenditure in place. This is managed by reporting by cost centre and analysing the expenditure, and ensures that any overruns are curtailed in a timely manner.

My Department is also currently reviewing its shared corporate services arrangements as part of the amalgamation process with the former Corrective Services NSW, involving systems and resources, which will further enhance its ability to provide more accurate financial formation.

I trust this letter is of assistance.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hatzistergos".

**John Hatzistergos**