COMMONWEALTH GRANTS COMMISSION

Teleconference held at the Commonwealth Grants Commission offices, Canberra

12.00 on 19 January 2016

AGENDA

MINUTES

1. Minutes of the State Finances meeting held 18 November2015.

Actions arising

- The staff presentation on HFE and tax reform was sent to members.
- As agreed at the November meeting, the Commission considered outstanding new issues out of session. It made the following decisions.
  - 25% of the (National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH) funding will be excluded from State investment spending and from the NPP treated as impacting on the GST distribution to recognise that part of NPARIH funding is being used to overcome differences among the States in the levels of remote Indigenous housing stock provided by the Commonwealth.
  - The Roads assessments will be updated using the trend AGM data and the urban-rural split of vehicle use data provided by the National Transport Commission for 2014.
  - The assessment of family and child services in the Welfare assessment will be updated using 2014-15 data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on substantiations for seven States. The use weights derived from the data will be used in all three years as they are more representative of national average use rates than the data for previous years.
  - The Tasmanian Wilderness and World Heritage Area Payment will have no impact on the GST distribution because it assists Tasmania to fulfil Commonwealth responsibilities as a party to the World Heritage Convention. Needs are not been assessed for this activity.
  - The Water Reform — Constraint measures payment will have no impact on the GST distribution because it relates to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray−Darling Basin and is for protection of the environment. Needs are not been assessed for this activity.

- COPEs paid to the State general government sector for Indigenous purposes, except those for the Jobs, Land and Economy and Cultural and Capability programs, and the part of the Remote Australia Strategy program targeted at municipal and essential services, for the three assessment years, based on data provided by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet will impact on the GST distribution, including payments for Indigenous education only for 2014-15.
- COPEs paid to State non-government organisations for Indigenous purposes will have no impact on the GST distribution because there is not enough information available to decide on the treatment of these payments.
- The Commission provided editorial comments and agreed out of session that the information papers contained in Agenda Paper 2015-49 – Material for the Website (Commonwealth-State Financial Relations, Update Processes and 2015 Review Distribution Model) should be placed on the web at the same time the 2016 Update report is made public.

2016 UPDATE

2. AP 2016-01 Western Australian submission on land value data

3. AP 2016-03 Wage costs assessment draft chapter

FUTURE MEETINGS

4. The next Commission meeting will be held on 9 February 2016