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Mr Michael Willcock
Secretary
Commonwealth Grants Commission
Second Floor, Phoenix House
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Michael

Dear Mr Willcock

CGC STAFF DISCUSSION PAPER – NEW ISSUES FOR 2020 REVIEW

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Discussion Paper on new issues for the 2020 Review.

Victoria agrees with the Commission's proposal to treat the National Disability Specific Purpose payment on an EPC basis, since most states will have largely transitioned to the National Disability Insurance Scheme in 2020-21.

Victoria considers that the Terms of Reference (ToR) should outline payments to be quarantined from the Commission's assessment process. For instance, should the Northern Territory's remote housing payment be explicitly quarantined by the ToR for the 2020 Review, Victoria supports its exclusion from assessment.

In relation to new payments identified in the Discussion Paper to commence in 2019-20 or 2020-21, Victoria agrees with the Commission's approach to not backcast these payments and consider their treatment in the relevant updates, as they do not represent a major change in federal financial arrangements.

Should you or your officers wish to discuss this matter further, they should contact Ms Helen Ratcliffe, Director, Intergovernmental Relations on 03 7005 8979.

Yours sincerely

J. S. Martine

David Martine
Secretary

29 / 10 / 2019