

From: Frost, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, 12 July 2023 2:08 PM
To: IPEA - All Staff
Subject: Message from A/g CEO [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: A message from the Secretary: Release of the Robodebt Royal Commission report [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Dear IPEA Colleagues

Most would have read or had access to the message from the Department of Finance Secretary, Ms Jenny Wilkinson on Monday 7th July about the Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme.

If you did not receive it or have not read it please take the time to get across it – it is an important message for IPEA as part of the Finance portfolio and APS staff generally. I have attached it for your perusal.

The Secretary states: “the Royal Commission's report underscores our fundamental responsibilities as public servants, our significant influence, and the far-reaching impacts our actions can have on our fellow Australians. It is important that we learn from its findings and incorporate them into the way we work and how we meet our obligations as public servants.”

I reiterate these comments and would add that even for a very small agency like IPEA, we can make a profound difference to the general public perception of the APS and our own personal integrity in how we go about our everyday business. This is both our purpose and our goal.

IPEA staff should feel comfortable to discuss or report any concerns through multiple avenues within IPEA and externally. If you do need further assistance, please reach out to your Branch Manager or IPEAHR. Be curious and ask questions!

Lastly, and in unison with the Secretary, the Royal Commission hearings and report have impacted many staff across the APS. It is important that you be aware of the potential impact on our colleagues, family members and friends over the coming days and weeks. There are a range of supports available to you and your family if you need them such as our EAP program.

Regards

Michael

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The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to Land, Waters and Community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures, and the elders past, present and emerging.



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Classified by: michael.frost@ipea.gov.au on: 12/07/2023 1:52:29 PM

From: Executive Connect
Sent: Monday, 10 July 2023 5:23 PM
To: Finance - All Staff
Cc: Executive Connect
Subject: A message from the Secretary: Release of the Robodebt Royal Commission report [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Jenny Wilkinson

A message from the Secretary

Colleagues

On Friday, the report of the [Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme](#) was released. The Royal Commission was established in August 2022 to investigate the harm caused to members of the Australian community by the Robodebt Scheme. The Government has indicated it will consider the recommendations carefully before providing a full response.

PM&C Secretary Glyn Davis and APS Commissioner Gordon de Brouwer have recently written to every APS officer to outline how the APS will take the findings forward in an open and constructive way.

The Royal Commission has made 57 recommendations, including a number that propose reforms to the Budget process for which we have responsibility. There are also recommendations about strengthening the public service and the way it operates. We are carefully considering the recommendations of the Royal Commission and will support the development of the Government response.

The Royal Commission's report underscores our fundamental responsibilities as public servants, our significant influence, and the far-reaching impacts our actions can have on our fellow Australians. It is important that we learn from its findings and incorporate them into the way we work and how we meet our obligations as public servants.

As I noted in [my message last week about the National Anti-Corruption Commission](#), at Finance we are all aware how important it is to operate with the highest integrity. I want all of you to feel supported to raise any issues or concerns you might have about the way we carry out our work. There are a range of mechanisms available to you to raise any concerns you have, including through our [Integrity Advisers](#).

The Royal Commission hearings and report have impacted many staff across the APS. I'd like to remind you to be aware of the potential impact on our colleagues, family members and friends over the coming days and weeks. There are a range of supports available to you if you need them such as our [Employee Assistance Program](#) and [Mental Health Advisers](#).

Jenny Wilkinson

Secretary

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