



17 JUL 2020
BY:

RACHEL SIEWERT

Australian Greens Whip
Senator for Western Australia

9 July 2020

Mr Grant Heir
Auditor-General for Australia
Australian National Audit Office
GPO Box 707
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Hehir

I write to request that the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) examine the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission (NCCC) as part of the audit program of the Government's Covid-19 response.

The NCCC is responsible for coordinating advice to the Government on actions to anticipate and mitigate the economic and social impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. As noted in its Terms of Reference, the NCCC is advising the Prime Minister on all non-health aspects of the pandemic response. APS Departmental Secretaries and Agency Heads are expected to support the NCCC's work and ensure necessary resources are committed to the delivery of outcomes.

The NCCC is a publicly funded body that is playing a key role in informing the Government's policy response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The NCCC is providing advice on critical non-health factors including transport and logistics, industry coordination, labour and workforce planning, delivery of essential services and support to vulnerable Australians – areas which are of key public concern.

In recent months, concerns have been raised about the NCCC's governance structures, transparency and accountability. For example, groups have raised questions about the adequacy of the NCCC's process for managing real or perceived conflict of interests of Commissioners. There are also concerns about the NCCC's lack of integrity and transparency safeguards compared to other commissions.

Australian Greens believe there are strong reasons to examine the NCCC as part of the ANAO's audit program of the Government's Covid-19 response given its critical role and level of influence.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Siewert
Senator for Western Australia