



17 August 2017

Transparency International Australia (TI Australia) welcomes the opportunity to submit comments on the [Review of Commonwealth Contracting \(the Review\)](#) against the [Open Contracting Data Standard](#) (OCDS) which focusses on a review of AusTender Data against the Standard.

TI Australia apologises for the delay in submitting our comments and trusts this brief submission will be considered in the process of preparing advice to Government. The substantial recommendation in this submission is to support the submission from the [Open Contracting Partnership](#) (OCP).

TI Australia is a member of both the Open Government Partnership Network and Publish What You Pay. We endorse the submissions to the Review made by each organisation.

TI Australia shares the concern expressed by the limited engagement with Civil Society in the process of fulfilment of the Commitment in Australia's first OGP National Action Plan to review the Australian Government's compliance with the OCDS ([Commitment 4.3](#)). TI Australia believes that a closer engagement with Civil Society would have strengthened the review and advance Australia's commitment to Open Contracting.

TI Australia notes that this commitment in the OCP National Action Plan is a fulfilment of a [support for the OCDS expressed by the Australian Government](#) at [the UK Anti-Corruption Summit](#) in May 2016.

While noting our concern at the limited opportunity for engagement by Civil Society with the Department on this Commitment, TI Australia nonetheless, is committed to working with the Australian Federal, State and Local Governments, within our limited capacity, to strengthen the integrity of public procurement including through ensuring Australian compliance with the OCDS and prospectively as a full partner with the OCP.

As an accredited Chapter of the [Transparency International](#) movement, TI Australia has an active engagement with the OCP and works in partnership with the OCP on a number of matters of common interest. (OCP's Executive Director, Gavin Hayman is a key adviser to TI Australia's [Mining for Sustainable Development Programme](#)). Further, TI Australia's [policies on Transparency in Public Procurement](#) are informed by the work of the OCP and of the [Construction Sector Transparency Initiative](#).

As noted in the Review, the OCP developed the [OCDS](#) and continues to [work with partners globally to facilitate implementation of the OCDS](#) in the strengthening of the transparency and accountability of public contracting.

It is a disappointment that to this point in fulfilment of the OGP NAP commitment 4.3, that the Department of Finance has had limited engagement with the OCP. TI Australia urges the Department to accept the offer from the OCP to provide support as steps are taken to strengthen the integrity of public procurement at a Federal level, as it is doing with other Governments globally. TI Australia is aware of the OCP's support to the NSW Government which has [aligned it's E Tender site with the OCDS](#).

TI Australia fully endorses and commends the [Submission by the OCP to this Review](#) and trusts that the OCP submission will inform the Department's advice to Government in the light of the Review.

END

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