

IMPROVING GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING



Andrew Podger
Public Service Commissioner



IMPROVING GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING



- CONTEXT
- PRINCIPLES OF GOOD DECISION-MAKING
- VALUES FRAMEWORK
- CHALLENGES



- Technological
- 2. Economic
- 3. Social
- 4. Political

PRINCIPLES OF GOOD DECISION-MAKING



- **Compliance with the law**
 - Public Service Act
 - Financial Management and Accountability Act
 - Administrative Law
 - Program and Agency legislation
- **Good administrative practice**
 - systematic information support and proper record-keeping
 - risk management
 - evaluation – including evaluation of policy advising

EVALUATION OF POLICY ADVISING



Inputs

- management culture
- skills and motivation of staff
- information systems

Processes

- consultation and cross-agency consultation
- working relationship with Minister and Office
(eg timeliness, succinctness and relevance of advice)

Outcomes

- practical usefulness of advice

KEY VALUES FOR DECISION-MAKING



- (a) the APS is apolitical, performing its functions in an impartial and professional manner
- (d) the APS has the highest ethical standards
- (e) the APS is openly accountable for its actions, within the framework of Ministerial responsibility to the Government, the Parliament and the Australian public
- (f) the APS delivers services fairly, effectively, impartially and courteously to the Australian public ...
- (k) the APS focuses on achieving results and managing performance

APS CODE OF CONDUCT PROVISIONS



- (1) An APS employee must behave honestly and with integrity ...
- (2) An APS employee must act with care and diligence ...
- (3) An APS employee ... must treat everyone with respect and courtesy
- (4) An APS employee ... must comply with all applicable Australian laws ..

KEYWORDS HERE ARE:



- Impartial
- Professional
- Ethical
- Accountable
- Fair
- Effective
- Courteous
- Honesty
- Integrity
- Compliance with the law

CHALLENGES



- Involvement by stakeholders
- Management of communications
- Evaluation and decision-making capability
- Record-keeping
- Whole-of-government decision-making