



Session 2 — Balancing Independence and Cooperation

Session Aims:

This session aims to improve delegates' understanding of the range of PAC/OAG relationships that exist in ACPAC member jurisdictions. It also aims to provide further insight into what is working well in their jurisdictions, what aspects might be improved and how this might be achieved.

Context:

Auditors General and Public Accounts Committees work together to provide independent scrutiny of government operations. Together, the two are a key part of the accountability mechanisms intended to provide oversight of the effectiveness of government.

Most Public Accounts Committees have developed working relationships with their Auditors General, and these relationships support both the Committees' accountability function and that of the Auditors General.

ACPAC presents an excellent opportunity for jurisdictions to discuss their current approaches to their Committee's cooperation with their Auditor General.

During this session, Mr John Kobelke, PAC WA, Mr Brendan Smyth, PAC ACT, and Mr Craig Foss, EFC NZ, will outline their processes for following up on Auditor General reports and share their experiences of working with the Auditor General to improve the accountability of government.

Hearing from other jurisdictions will allow delegates to consider whether their relationship with the Auditor General is delivering the best outcomes for accountability.

The session should also assist jurisdictions develop a picture of a best-practice model of balancing independence and cooperation between PACs and Auditors General.