

Submission to the National Commission of Audit	
Organisation (if applicable)	
Title	Mr
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<p>Key areas of interest regarding the Commission's Review:</p> <p>The NCOA must look at the growth in total receipts over a 40yr window, and the share retained by the Australian Government for distribution to the States by way of tied grants (SPGs). This represents the further intrusion on the Constitutional responsibility of the States. Duplication and overlap.</p> <p>Or else the expenditure is managed directly from Canberra ignoring the local knowledge of the States and the Northern Territory. The school libraries and pink bats debacle should be a warning against repeats of this approach. How could public servants in Canberra identify the shonky operators around the country.</p> <p>Both approaches must be predicated on an assumption that Federal politicians and public servants know best. How extraordinary.</p> <p>We had a National Commission of Audit in 1996/97. I understand the States proposed that the Howard Government take a 20% slice of the total of the SPG outlays and apply it straight to the inherited deficit. The remaining 80% would be left with the States as untied grants who committed to maintaining existing services undiminished because of the efficiencies gained.</p> <p>You have a fresh chance to eliminate Constitutional encroachment, duplication, overlap and increase efficiencies. Please take it.</p>	