



Australian Government

Commonwealth Grants Commission

4 March 2004

MEDIA STATEMENT

REPORT ON STATE REVENUE SHARING RELATIVITIES 2004 REVIEW

I would like to correct the public record regarding comments attributed to me by Mr Hildebrand. At no stage did I contradict the Australian Treasurer's statement that the Commonwealth Grants Commission is completely independent and I confirm that the Australian Government has no control over the Commission's processes. In fact, I specifically told Mr Hildebrand that the Commission jealously guards its independence.

The Commission's recommendations currently being discussed in the media are solely attributable to the Commission and the Australian Government has had no influence over those recommendations.

Malcolm Nicholas

Acting Secretary
Commonwealth Grants Commission