

Transcript:

Overview of RIA and evidence‑based decision making

# Mr Phil Gaetjens Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

The Government has enhanced its Regulatory Impact Analysis framework to ensure high quality analysis underpins the major decisions of Government.

The Office of Best Practice Regulation in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet can assist you in developing the evidence base for decision-making.

Cabinet decision makers can – and should – expect to have quality evidence and analysis from the Australian Public Service when they are being asked to make major decisions.

Where a policy change might impact Australians, their businesses and the community, Government needs to be confident that robust and high quality analysis has been done.

Impact analysis – or RIA – is the process of identifying the policy problem and analysing the costs and benefits of all options. These fundamental principles of impact analysis, as well as robust consultation and public transparency, are well accepted across OECD countries and are a strong part of Australia’s RIA system.

And we know that decisions informed by quality analysis are more likely to deliver the Government’s agenda effectively, by getting the policy settings right the first time round.

Impact analysis empowers all public servants, wherever you work and whatever your level, to break down complex policy issues to help Government make decisions on the challenges we face.

I encourage you to have the Government’s RIA requirements at the forefront of your mind when you commence policy development and don’t leave it to the end of the process.

RIA is not just a compliance exercise you need to tick off. We know from experience that RIA works best when addressed as early as possible in the policy development process. And officials in OBPR are ready, willing to help you.

I trust you’ll find the material on OBPR’s website informative, and reach out to them as you begin to construct your new policies and programs.