

Australian Experience – Government Reporting

There are two bases for Government Financial Reporting. The first is government financial statistics (GFS). GFS is a measurement system which is used as a basis for statistical economic analysis. It is developed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In December 2001, the IMF released its accrual GFS framework to be used by member countries. The other basis is Australian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (AGAAP). Following the introduction of AAS31 'Financial Reporting by Governments' and the implementation of accrual budgeting, generally government agencies report on an Australian Accounting Standards basis in budgets.

In summary, the Commonwealth Government prepares the following:

GFS based:

- Annual budget, mid year budget update and final budget outcome
- Budget requests and key activities (eg. fiscal balance)

AAS31:

- Audit and consolidated financial report

AGAAP:

- Departments, agencies, statutory bodies prepare on this basis
- Audit financial reports

There are moves to bring these reporting frameworks together and to simplify.

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