

7 March 2018

The Treasurer
Parliament House
11th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005
Attention: [REDACTED]
By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Treasurer

Auditor General – remaining on the national board of CPA Australia

I am honoured to be recommended for appointment by the Governor as Auditor General. If appointed by the Governor, I will undertake the role diligently and faithfully and to the very best of my ability in service to the Parliament and people of Western Australia.

As you are aware, I come to role as a public practitioner specialising in public sector audit and governance. I also hold a number of predominantly public sector board and audit committee appointments.

The purpose of this letter is to formally advise you, as responsible Minister under the *Auditor General Act 2006 (the Act)*, of the steps I will take to relinquish my existing roles, with the exception of one discussed below, prior to commencement of my term as Auditor General. This is to ensure there are no conflicts of interest during my term serving in the role, and to ensure I am not in paid employment from any other source, as required by Schedule 1 clause 3 of the Act.

Prior to planned commencement on 28 May 2018, I confirm that I will relinquish the following roles:

- Partner (including directorship and company secretary) of Vista Advisory Pty Limited and cease all appointments and advisory roles with clients of the firm
- Independent member, ACT Public Trustee and Guardian Investment Board
- Independent member, Portfolio Audit Committee, Department of the Environment and Energy (Cth), and
- Independent member, Business Assurance Committee, Australian Electoral Commission.

There is one role however, my directorship of CPA Australia Limited, that I will retain. As the preeminent professional association for public sector finance and assurance professionals, there is precedent for me remaining in the role. In recent decades, Auditors-General in various jurisdictions including Western Australia, Victoria and the Commonwealth, have held the role of director of the national board concurrently with their Auditor-General appointment. In addition, many other Auditors-General have served on CPA divisional councils and the boards of other professional and standard-setting bodies during their term.

I consider that remaining on the board of CPA Australia provides benefits to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) and the state more broadly. In particular, my role on the CPA national board affords an opportunity to remain abreast of emerging professional issues and to bring public sector perspectives to deliberations that will shape the future of the accounting

profession, including improving financial management capability in state and local government sectors. Director fees for the role will be paid to the OAG.

I note there has been some media scrutiny of CPA Australia in recent times related to governance issues at the former board and CEO level. As a member, I was profoundly disappointed with events and sought to join the board to be part of the rebuilding of governance mechanisms in my professional association. Along with eight other new directors, I was appointed to the new board of CPA Australia as a non-executive member director effective 1 October 2017 for a two-year term. Under the chairmanship of Peter Wilson AM, I am proud of the significant progress we have made as a new board in strengthening governance and rebuilding trust and confidence amongst our members, including the more than 10,000 CPAs who work across various sectors in Western Australia.

I would be pleased to discuss this matter at your convenience if you would like further information on any aspect.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Spencer', written in a cursive style.

Caroline Spencer