

Chief Executive Certification for Government Advertising Campaigns

Certification Statement – 2014 Higher Education Reforms Communication Campaign

I certify that the 2014 Higher Education Reforms Communication Campaign complies with the *Short-term Interim Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (Guidelines)*.

My certification has been informed by advice and evidence of compliance with the Guidelines provided by officers within the Department of Education and the Department of Finance with responsibility for the design, development and implementation of the 2014 Higher Education Reforms Communication Campaign.



Lisa Paul AO PSM
Secretary

Department of Education

25 November 2014

Note: CEO to check boxes below as appropriate.

Principle 1: Campaigns should be relevant to government responsibilities.

The campaign directly relates to policies or programs underpinned by:

- legislative authority; or
- appropriation of the Parliament; or
- a Cabinet Decision which is intended to be implemented during the current Parliament.

Suitable uses for government campaigns include:

- To inform the public of new, existing or proposed government policies, or policy revisions;
- To provide information on government programs or services or revisions to programs or services to which the public are entitled;
- To disseminate scientific, medical or health and safety information;
- To inform consideration of issues; and
- To provide information on the performance of government to facilitate accountability to the public.

Principle 2: Campaign materials should be presented in an objective, fair and accessible manner and be designed to meet the objectives of the campaign.

- Campaign materials enable the recipients of the information to distinguish between facts, comment, opinion and analysis.
- Where information is presented as fact, the information is accurate and verifiable. Where factual comparisons are made, the material does not attempt to mislead the recipient about the situation with which the comparison is made, and the basis for the comparison is explicit.
- Pre-existing policies, products, services and activities are not presented as new.
- Special attention has been paid to communicating with any disadvantaged individuals identified as being within the target audience. Particular attention has been paid to the communications needs of young people, the rural community, and those for whom English is not a convenient language in which to receive information.
- Imagery used in campaign materials reflects the diverse range of Australians. The interests, lifestyles and contributions of women, Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse communities are realistically portrayed and their participation and contribution to Australian society is recognised.
- Campaign materials have been tested with target audiences to indicate they are engaging and perform well against the objectives of the campaign.

Principle 3: Campaign materials should be objective and not directed at promoting party political interests.

- Campaign materials are presented in objective language and are free of political argument.
- Campaign materials do not try to foster a positive impression of a particular political party or promote party political interests.
- Campaign materials:
 - do not mention the party in Government by name;
 - do not directly attack or scorn the views, policies or actions of others such as the policies and opinions of opposition parties or groups;
 - do not include party-political slogans or images;
 - have not been designed to influence public support for a political party, a candidate for election, a Minister or a Member of Parliament; and
 - do not refer or link to the websites of politicians or political parties.

Principle 4: Campaigns should be justified and undertaken in an efficient, effective and relevant manner.

- The campaign was instigated on the basis of a demonstrated need, target recipients are clearly identified and the campaign has been informed by appropriate research and/or evidence.
- Campaign information clearly and directly affects the interests of recipients.
- The medium and volume of the advertising activities is cost effective and justifiable within the budget allocated to the campaign.
- Distribution of unsolicited materials will be carefully controlled.
- The campaign will be evaluated to determine effectiveness.

Principle 5: Campaigns must comply with legal requirements and procurement policies and procedures.

- The manner of presentation and the delivery of the campaign complies with all relevant laws including:
 - laws with respect to broadcasting and media;
 - privacy laws;
 - intellectual property laws;
 - electoral laws;
 - trade practices and consumer protection laws; and
 - workplace relations laws.
- Procurement policies and procedures for the tendering and commissioning of services and the employment of consultants were followed and there is a clear audit trail regarding decision making.