Annual Report 2015-16

Productivity Commission.

Commonwealth of Australia 2016

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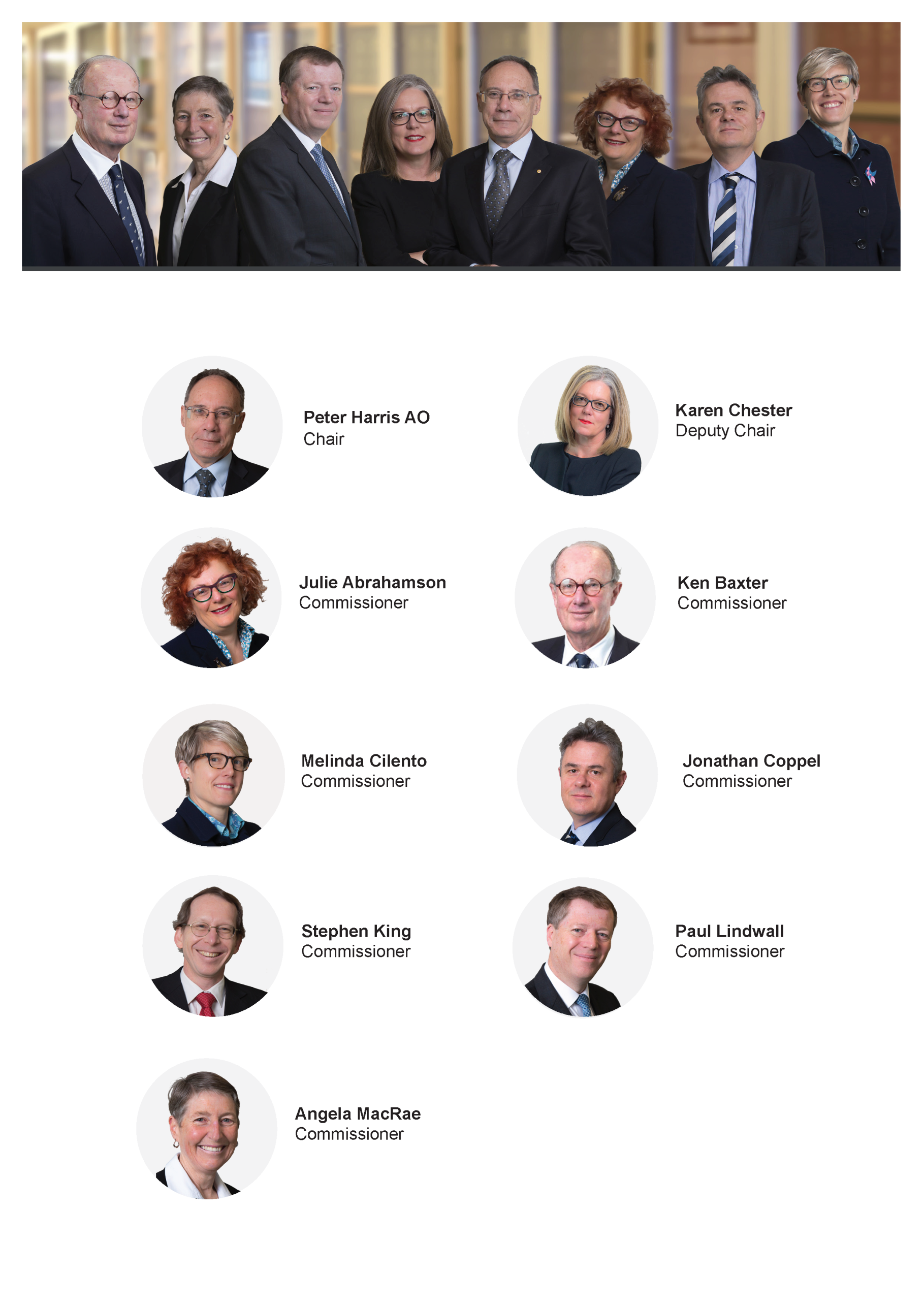
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| The Productivity Commission |
| The Productivity Commission is the Australian Government’s independent research and advisory body on a range of economic, social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of Australians. Its role, expressed most simply, is to help governments make better policies, in the long term interest of the Australian community.  The Commission’s independence is underpinned by an Act of Parliament. Its processes and outputs are open to public scrutiny and are driven by concern for the wellbeing of the community as a whole.  Further information on the Productivity Commission can be obtained from the Commission’s website (www.pc.gov.au). |
|  |

8 September 2016
The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Treasurer
Parliament House 
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Treasurer
We submit to you the Productivity Commission's annual report for 2015-16. The report is prepared in accordance with section 10 of the Productivity Commission Act 1998. The Commission's Act requires that a copy of this report be tabled within 15 sitting days of each House of Parliament after the day of receipt of the report.
Yours sincerely
Peter Harris, Chair
Karen Chester, Deputy Chair 
Julie Abramson, Commissioner
Ken Baxter, Commissioner
Melinda Cilento, Commissioner
Jonathan Coppel, Commissioner
Stephen King, Commissioner
Paul Lindwall, Commissioner
Angela MacRae, Commissioner

# Acknowledgments

In memory of former long-term senior Commission official Garth Pitkethly (1946-2015).

The Commission wishes to thank its staff for their continued efforts, commitment and support during the past year.

# Foreword

In 2015-16, the Productivity Commission completed six inquiries or commissioned studies for the Government; and produced the third in a series of Flagship research projects on matters of medium‑term policy interest, addressing Housing Decisions of Older Australians.

In addition, work commenced on ten other inquiries or commissioned studies, historically high for new inquiry work.

And the twenty-first edition of the Review of Government Services, with more than 10 000 data points covering 16 service areas, was produced.

In a time of reduced resources, the Commission’s staff and Commissioners have done an exceptional job this year to maintain quality of work and on-time delivery.

In recent years, Government responses to our reports have been provided in some cases only after substantial delay. While it takes time for Commission reports to be absorbed, and it is not always the case that matters are given to the Commission with the expectation of immediate action, it would be preferable for public policy development to take place in a relatively timely fashion. It should not become the practice that an inquiry, having been commissioned, is allowed to languish for many years.

With the arrival of a high workload for the coming twelve months, 2015-16’s relatively high volume of own-motion research — on Anti-Dumping, Digital Disruption, Housing Decisions, Tax and Transfer Incidence and Indigenous Primary School Achievement — will not be repeated.

These reports have, however, been useful in highlighting particular aspects of public policy that may otherwise have remained unrecognised. Like our inquiry work, they too are designed to be drawn on in future debates, if not today.

Peter Harris

Chair

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# Abbreviations

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics

ACCC Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

AGCNCO Australian Government Competitive Neutrality Complaints Office

AIHW Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

ANAO Australian National Audit Office

APEC Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

APS Australian Public Service

COAG Council of Australian Governments

IMF International Monetary Fund

NCP National Competition Policy

OECD Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

OHS Occupation health and safety

PGPA Act Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013

ROGS Report on Government Services

SES Senior Executive Service

VECCI Victorian Employers’ Chamber of Commerce and Industry

WHS Work Health and Safety