

School of Government

MMPM 504

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR
(15 Points)

Trimester Two 2007

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

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Module Dates, Times and Locations

Module Four: Tuesday 21 August 2007 8.30am – 6.00pm

Module Five: Tuesday 16 October 2007 8.30am – 6.00pm

Module Six: Tuesday 20 November 2007 8.30am – 6.00pm

Location: Classes will normally be held on the Pipitea Campus of Victoria University and you will be advised of your classroom one week prior to each module by email.

Course Objectives

The objectives of this course are:

- ❖ To consider whether, and how, financial management in New Zealand answers the four questions that citizens want answers to regarding the operations of the Government:
 - Is it managing its financial affairs prudently? [*the money thing*]
 - Is it achieving what it set out to achieve? And is it doing so in a cost efficient and effective manner? [*efficiency Vs effectiveness*]
 - Is it looking after its assets (people, infrastructure, intellectual capital) so it can deliver results (outcomes, outputs) in the future? [*capability and risk management*]
 - Are its activities being carried out in accordance with the law and expected standards of conduct and probity? [*authority and probity*]

- ❖ To introduce you to the elements of the *integrated management cycle* – strategic planning, budgeting & resource allocation, operations & budget implementation, and monitoring and reporting (this involves integrating finance, human resources and organisational resources into the overall planning structure)

- ❖ To make you familiar with the nature, rationale, and historical development of the system of financial management in the New Zealand public sector (including Central Government, Crown Entities, State-owned Enterprises, and Local Government) as a means of assessing:
 - Is public expenditure better managed?
 - Are resources more effectively allocated?
 - Is there too much or too little accountability? And is the accountability to the right stakeholders?
 - How do we evaluate whether outcomes have been achieved and why?
 - Does accountability (reporting, monitoring, auditing, and the front page of the Dominion Post) bring about useful change?
 - Does Parliamentary scrutiny serve a useful purpose?

- ❖ To consider whether significant current developments (such as the current focus on outcomes and the preparation of Statements of Intent, and capability) answer the issues raised by recent critiques of the New Zealand financial management system.

- ❖ To consider the implications of recent legislation affecting public sector financial management:
 - The Public Finance Act 1989 (as amended in 2004)
 - The Crown Entities Act 2004
 - The Local Government Act 2002

This course will not make you an accountant! It is intended for managers who wish to understand more about financial management, but who do not have a need for in-depth knowledge about, for example, alternative financial reporting treatments of a specific type of transaction.

Readings

The topic readings for the course are a mixture of official publications, text material and academic articles. They are intended to introduce basic material; give an understanding of the New Zealand Government's financial management system, as well as that of local government; and to provide an academic perspective on some of the issues addressed.

Specific readings are set out under the Course Content section (below). *Where there is a website reference, a copy of the material has not been included in the Course Booklet.*

There are no textbooks for the course, but the following six publications will be referred to reasonably often:

- **Scott, Graham**, *Public Management in New Zealand*, Centre for Law and Economics Australian National University Canberra, Melbourne, Wellington, April 2001
- **Norman, Richard**, *Obedient Servants? Management Freedoms and Accountabilities in the New Zealand Public Sector*, Victoria University Press, 2003
- **Dalziel, Paul & Lattimore, Ralph** – *The NZ Macroeconomy: Striving for Sustainable growth with Equity*, Oxford University Press (5th edition 2004)
- **Boston, Jonathan et al**, *Public Management – The New Zealand Model*, Oxford University Press, 1996
- **The Treasury**, *Putting it Together - An Explanatory Guide to the New Zealand Public Sector Financial Management System*, can be downloaded from www.treasury.govt.nz/publicsector/pit/ [Please note that some of this book is out-of-date.]
- **The Treasury**, *A Guide to the Public Finance Act* (August 2005)
Can be downloaded from www.treasury.govt.nz/pfa/guide-pfa.pdf

In addition, throughout the course reference will be made to the following accountability documents for the **Department of Corrections**:

- *Estimates for Vote Corrections* in the **New Zealand Government's Estimates of Appropriations for the year ended 30 June 2006**. Available from the Treasury website at: www.treasury.govt.nz/budget2005/estimates/est05corr.pdf
- **Department of Corrections**, *Strategic Business Plan 2003 – 2008*. Available from the Corrections website at: www.corrections.govt.nz/public/pdf/publications/stratbusplan.pdf
- **Department of Corrections**, *Statement of Intent 2005/06*. Available from the Corrections website at: www.corrections.govt.nz/public/pdf/statementofintent/soi-2005.pdf
- **Department of Corrections**, *Annual Report 2005/06*. Available from the Corrections website at: www.corrections.govt.nz/public/pdf/annualreports/ar2006-complete.pdf

Course Method

The course comprises readings, discussion, small group work, an essay, and an assignment. Prior to each module you are expected to:

- ❖ complete the readings;
- ❖ give some thought to the discussion questions; and
- ❖ be prepared to report on (and evaluate) the content of the readings.

Assessment Requirements

The purpose of assessment is three-fold:

- ❖ to ensure that you have met the standard of work required for the course;
- ❖ to give you feedback on your performance to assist you with your future study; and
- ❖ to provide the teaching staff with feedback on the progress of the class.

Formal assessment for the course will be as follows:

1. An *Essay*, to be submitted by **Monday 24 September 2007**, worth **50%**
2. An *Assignment*, to be submitted by **Monday 5 November 2007**, worth **50%**

Essay: Financial management and reporting in government departments

Due Date: Monday 24 September 2007 **Max length:** 3,000 words **Worth:** 50%

Over the last 16 years there have been significant changes to the systems of financial management and financial reporting of government departments in New Zealand. Some commentators argue that these 'new public management' changes are improvements, while other commentators identify problems and concerns.

Required: [please provide a word count]

Critically discuss the changes in financial management and financial reporting since 2000 and *evaluate* whether these changes address the issues that commentators have raised. Wherever possible you should utilize your own experience and that of the organisation you work for.

Assignment: Achieving reprioritisation in the budget process

Due Date: Monday 5 November 2007 **Max length:** 2,500 words **Worth:** 50%

Frequently government organisations face fiscal pressures that do not allow significant new spending. This creates pressure on the organisation to reprioritise their spending, and seek to achieve greater effectiveness through the reallocation of resources to outputs that better achieve the organisation's outcomes.

Required: [please provide a word count]

In the context of a public sector organisation that you know well:

- ❖ *outline* the budget process, including key deadlines;
- ❖ *give examples* of areas where reprioritisation is possible;
- ❖ *describe* the main barriers to reprioritisation (either aspects of the budget process or wider issues such as management culture, organisational context, etc); and
- ❖ *suggest* ways to improve the organisation's ability to reprioritise.

Note: If you do not work for a public sector organisation, you will need to talk to the Course Coordinator, David Macdonald, to arrange modified Essay and Assignment topics.

Please submit ALL assignments IN HARD COPY to:

Francine McGee,
School of Government,
Victoria University of Wellington,
Level 8 Reception,
Rutherford House,
23 Lambton Quay,
P.O. Box 600,
Wellington.

Students should keep a copy of all submitted work.

ANZSOG candidates taking this course as an elective should note that they take it for 24 points, and not 15 points. Accordingly, the learning outcomes to be achieved by ANZSOG candidates are wider and deeper than those expected for non-ANZSOG candidates. The content of those learning outcomes, and the means whereby they will be assessed, will be negotiated and confirmed with the Course Coordinator at the start of the course.

Penalties

The ability to plan for and meet deadlines is a core competency of both advanced study and public management. Failure to meet deadlines disrupts course planning and is unfair on students who do submit their work on time. It is expected therefore that you will complete and hand in assignments by the due date. Marks may be deducted where assignments are submitted after the due date. For out of town students, two calendar days' grace is given to allow for time in the post.

If ill-health, family bereavement or other personal emergencies prevent you from meeting the deadline for submitting a piece of written work or from attending class to make a presentation, you can apply for and may be granted an extension to the due date. Note that this applies only to extreme unforeseen circumstances and is not necessarily awarded. You should let your Course Coordinator know as soon as possible in advance of the deadline if you are seeking an extension.

Learning Commitment

The learning objectives set for each course are demanding and, to achieve them, candidates must make a significant commitment in time and effort to reading, studying, thinking, and completion of assessment items outside of contact time. Courses vary in design but all require preparation and learning before the first module. Regular learning is necessary between modules (students who leave everything to the last moment rarely achieve at a high level). Expressed in input terms, the time commitment required usually translates to 65-95 hours (excluding class contact time) per course.

Mandatory Course Requirements

To fulfil the mandatory course requirements for this course, you are required to:

1. Submit all assignments by the due date;
2. Attend all contact sessions of the course.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information may be provided in class, by post, by email or via Blackboard.

Withdrawal Dates

Students giving notice of withdrawal from the course after 4 September 2007 will not receive a refund of tuition fees.

Students giving notice of withdrawal from the course after 23 October 2007 are regarded as having failed the course, unless the Associate Dean subsequently gives approval to withdraw.

Course Structure

Module	Topic	Lecturer
Module 4 Tuesday 21 August 2007	<i>Setting the scene:</i> the NZ public sector financial management system Concepts and the reform process; The integrated management cycle.	David Macdonald
	<i>Are we on the right track:</i> public sector financial management in New Zealand Is it providing the 'right' answers? What could we do better?	David Macdonald
	Accounting concepts, including: Accountants – scorers, measurers & interpreters, or agents of social change? Cash Vs accrual accounting Operating Vs capital expenditure Is the public sector different?	Rose Anne MacLeod
	Budgeting – incremental or zero-based?	Rose Anne MacLeod

Module 5 Tuesday 16 October 2007	Financial management & analysis Crown Departmental Financial analysis	Rose Anne MacLeod
	Financial reporting Accountability to external parties Financial reporting standards	Rose Anne MacLeod
	Service performance reporting	David Macdonald
	Local government – what’s different?	David Macdonald
Module 6 Tuesday 20 November 2007	What’s the best governance model for public sector entities?	Rose Anne MacLeod
	Role of audit and the Auditor-General	David Macdonald
	A CFO’s view of relationships with, and information needs of, stakeholders	Rose Anne MacLeod
	12. Class discussion – key issues arising during the course	David Macdonald Rose Anne MacLeod

Course Content

1. *Setting the scene: the NZ public sector financial management system*

- concepts and the reform process;
- the integrated management cycle

Topic Description

This section will examine the ideas that underlie the financial management system operated by the New Zealand Government. The matters covered in this session include:

- The problems the system was seeking to address.
- The view taken of accountability relationships.
- The concepts of performance (including the output/outcome distinction, ownership and purchase, and the control distinction between the accountabilities of chief executives and of the Government as a whole).
- The Integrated Management Cycle (planning, budgeting, operating, reporting, audit and review) across the different reporting entities within government.

Readings

- PowerPoint presentation – *Concepts & Reforms, the Integrated Management Cycle*, **David Macdonald**
- PowerPoint presentation – *Processes, documents & terminology [jargon] used in the Integrated Management Cycle*, **David Macdonald**

- **The Treasury (1996)**, *Putting it Together - An Explanatory Guide to the New Zealand Public Sector Financial Management System* (Chapters 1 and 2) - available from the Treasury website: www.treasury.govt.nz/publicsector/pit/
- **The Treasury (2005)**, *A Guide to the Public Finance Act* available from the Treasury website: www.treasury.govt.nz/pfa/guide-pfa.pdf

Desired Learning Outcomes

The first PowerPoint presentation describes the economic theories behind, and the rationale for, the system of financial management that has evolved in New Zealand over the last 20 years. The second PowerPoint presentation details the documents, processes and accountability mechanisms that are used in the Integrated Management Cycle.

The system of financial management is set out in a great deal more detail in the two Treasury Publications – “Putting it Together” [which is accurate in principle but some of the documentation has changed] and “A Guide to the Public Finance Act”.

This material will not be discussed in detail – if you want further clarification you should ask questions in class.

Questions to consider when undertaking background reading

- What are the key concepts underlying the New Zealand Government’s financial management system?
- What evaluative framework(s) could be used to judge the success (or lack of success) of NZ’s public sector financial reforms?
- Managing public expenditure and democratic government – who is accountable to whom and for what?

2. Are we on the right track: public sector financial management in New Zealand – Is it providing the ‘right answers? What could we do better?’

Topic Description

Drawing on Session 1, this session will discuss the reform process and whether it is achieving what reformers set out to achieve. *This session, session 1, and session 7 on Service Performance Reporting are an important resource for your essay.*

Readings

- *Is there now a ‘New Zealand Model’?* **Jeff Chapman & Grant Duncan**, Public Management Review, Vol 9, issue 1, 2007 1-25 (ISSN 1471-9037)
- *A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing? Wider Consequences of the Financial Management System of the New Zealand Central Government*, **Susan Newberry & June Pallot** (Financial Accountability & Management, 21(3), August 2005, 0267-4424)
- *Modernising Government: The Synthesis*, **Alex Matheson** (2004)
- **State Services Commission**, *Working Paper # 18, Whither Accountability?* **Bruce Anderson & Lynne Dovey** (9/2003)
- *Managing for Outcomes: Accountability and Thrust*, **Karen Baehler** (Australian Journal of Public Administration, 2003)
- *Whither the New Zealand Experiment: Thermidorean Reaction or Rediscovering the importance of Capacity – Some views from New Zealand*, **the editors** (Australian Journal of Public Administration, 62(4):3-6, December 2003)
- **Treasury Working Paper 01/06**, *Review of Evidence on Broad Outcome of Public Sector Management Regime*, **Murray Petrie & David Webber**, 2001

- Lecture at the Treasury, *Reflections on the New Zealand Model*, **Professor Allen Schick**, August 2001
- *Report of the Advisory Group on the Review of the Centre – the Executive Summary*, November 2001

Additional readings

- *Obedient Servants? Management Freedoms and Accountabilities in the New Zealand Public Sector*, **Richard Norman**, Victoria University Press, 2003
- *Departmental Uptake of the Managing for Outcomes Initiative (8/2003)*, **Economic & Strategy Group** (ISBN 0-478-24436-3)
www.ssc.govt.nz/upload/downloadable_files/Dept_Uptake_MFO_Initiative.pdf
- *The Challenge of Evaluating Systemic Change: The Case of Public Management Reform*, **Jonathan Boston** (December 2000)

Desired Learning Outcomes

The readings have been chosen to provide a broad range of views and perspectives on the success (or otherwise) of the financial reforms in New Zealand over the past 20 years.

These readings – together with the readings for Session 7, Service Performance Reporting - provide the background for your essay topic which asks you to evaluate whether changes in the system of financial management and reporting since 2000 address the issues that commentators have raised.

A great deal has been written about the reform process and your problem is to filter all this information and write an interesting and coherent essay which incorporates your own views and experiences. *You should appreciate that in order to carry out an effective evaluation process you need to have a set of criteria to evaluate against. You should also consider the Course Objectives set out above.*

Questions to consider when undertaking background reading

- What are the results of new public management as practiced in New Zealand:
 - Are public expenditures better managed?
 - Are resources more effectively managed?
 - Is there too little or too much accountability?
 - Does accountability [reporting and monitoring] bring about change?
 - Does parliamentary scrutiny [select committee reviews] serve a useful purpose?
- Is it possible to find a balance between freedom to manage, accountability, and the interests of stakeholders?
- Efficiency Vs effectiveness – trade-off, or fundamental difference in approach?
- The *Review of the Centre* identified fragmentation, problems with providing integrated service delivery, and lack of innovation, as areas where central government needed to improve.
 - To what extent does the financial management system contribute to these problems?
 - Has the system changed to help address these problems?
- Has the social impact of the reforms been adequately evaluated?

3. Accounting Concepts

Topic Description

One of the distinguishing features of NZ's public sector financial management system is the use of accrual accounting concepts for appropriations, budgeting, and financial reporting.

This session discusses the role of accountants and accounting – are accountants scorers, measurers and interpreters, or are they agents of maintaining the status quo or achieving social change?

It then covers accounting issues, such as cash accounting, accrual accounting, capital expenditure, and operating expenditure. And considers whether public sector accounting is different from private sector accounting – does it need a separate set of standards?

Readings

- **Deegan, Craig & Samkin, Grant** extracts from *NZ Financial Accounting* (2nd Edition) Chapter 2 – An overview of theories of accounting
- **Norman, Richard**, *Accounting for Government*, published by Victoria University of Wellington through Victoria Link Ltd, (1997)
- *Fooling the People*, **David Farrar** (March 2005)
- *ABCs of Finance*, **National Association for the Self-employed** (2005)
- *Words to live by*, **National Federation of International Business** (2003)
- *Introduction to accrual accounting & IFRSs in Australia* (2005)
- **Department of Corrections**, *Annual Report 2005/06*. Volume 3 of course book.

Desired Learning Outcomes

As stated in the Course Objectives, this course will not make you an accountant.

However, it is useful to understand that accounting is an “art” not a “science” and there is often more than one way of recording an economic event. In addition, to quote Deegan & Samkin, “At present there is no universal agreement on the objective, role and scope of accounting and, consistent with this, there is no single accounting theory that is universally accepted.”

Some of you may find Chapter 2 from *New Zealand Financial Accounting* quite fascinating, others will probably find it rather impenetrable and boring and be grateful that you did not graduate in accounting! You should skim enough of this chapter to understand the difference between ‘positive’ and ‘normative’ theories and the application of ‘critical theory’ to accounting.

A further concept that you need to understand is the difference between cash accounting and accrual accounting.

Questions to consider when undertaking background reading

- Do you agree that “accounting is an art not a science”?
If it's an art doesn't that lead to ‘creative accounting’?
- Are accounting standards too important to be designed by accountants?
- Is accrual accounting more useful than cash accounting?
 - Are there any drawbacks?
- How often does your organisation monitor its Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) against its budget?

4. The NZ Government's Budget Process

Topic Description

This session examines the rationale for, and behavioural aspects of, budgeting - and the nature of the budget process of the NZ Government. It also examines the documentation that is produced in the budget decision-making process.

Readings

- PowerPoint presentation – *Budgets, Appropriations and the Public Finance Act*
- **Marti, Caridad**, *Accrual Budgeting: Accounting treatment of Key Public Sector Items and Implications for Fiscal Policy*, Public Budgeting & Finance, Summer 2006
- **Jensen, Gwenda**, 'Zen and the Art of Budget Management: The New Zealand Treasury', publication in *Controlling Public Expenditure The Changing Roles of Central Budget Agencies – Better Guardians?* (Edward Elgar Publications)
- **Treasury Working Paper 01/24**, *Budget Management That Counts: Recent Approaches to Budget and Fiscal Management in New Zealand*, **Angela Barnes & Steve Leith**
- **The Treasury**, *The New Zealand Fiscal Management Approach – An Explanation of Recent Changes (January 2003)*

On The Treasury Website

- **The Treasury**, *Budget Process Guide* www.treasury.govt.nz/budgetprocessguide/
- **The Treasury**, *A Guide to the Public Finance Act* (Appropriations, pages 11-28) www.treasury.govt.nz/pfa/guide-pfa.pdf
- **The New Zealand Government**, *2007 Budget Policy Statement*, which includes government goals for 2007 www.treasury.govt.nz/budgetpolicy/2007/

Desired Learning Outcomes

You should understand:

- Why governments budget;
- Appropriations; and
- The main features of the legislation that determine the Government's budgeting process.

In preparation for your Assignment you also need to understand the different methods of going about the budgeting process – especially the concepts of 'zero-based' budgeting, 'incremental' budgeting and 'reprioritisation'.

The PowerPoint presentation is a series of lectures to undergraduates - MPM students should find this a basic primer on the subject.

Questions to consider when undertaking background reading

- What constitutes a good budget process?
- How good is the New Zealand Government's budget process in allocating resources efficiently and effectively? And how good is the budget process within your own organisation?
- Does the budget system make cooperation between departments more difficult?
- Are Supplementary Estimates and Imprest Supply subject to adequate review by Parliament?

5. Crown financial management – fiscal responsibility **Departmental financial management – capital charge** **Financial analysis**

Topic Description

Introduces:

- The fiscal responsibility principles and requirements now embodied in the Public Finance Act.
- The rationale for and workings of the capital charge for Departments.

Introduces the basic techniques of financial analysis and its relevance to government organisations.

Readings

- PowerPoint presentation – *Crown Financial Management & Fiscal Responsibility*
- PowerPoint presentation – *Financial Analysis*
- *Freedom or Coercion? NPM Incentives in New Zealand Central Government Departments*, Susan Newberry & June Pallot, (Management Accounting Research 15, 2004, 247-266)
- Tutorial 3 – *Analysing the Crown's level of debt*
- **Tregilgas, Alan** – *Conveying Good performance: A Creditor Perspective on Public Sector Reporting Requirements* (1992 Public Sector Convention)
- **Scott, J** – *The impact of the capital charge on Government Departments*, Nelson Polytechnic (1997)
- **The Treasury** (1999):
 - *Monthly Financial Monitoring of Departments*
 - *Introduction to Financial Analysis*
 - *Example of Financial Ratio Analysis – Ministry of Justice*
- **Standard & Poor's** (1998) *Sovereign Credit Rating: A Primer* December 1998

Annual reports

- **Wellington City Council**, *Annual Report 2005/06*
www.wellington.govt.nz/plans/annualreport/0506/pdfs/0506annualreport.pdf
- **Department of Corrections**, *Annual report 2005/06*. Volume 3 of course book.

Desired Learning Outcomes

Part of the session concentrates on the role of the fiscal responsibility provisions (now included in the Public Finance Act) in financial management, and the impact of institutional incentives such as the capital charge.

In addition, you will discuss the similarities and differences between the financial analysis of public sector organisations and the analysis of private sector organisations. And you will consider what information is important when assessing the credit worthiness of a sovereign government.

Questions to consider when undertaking background reading

- How do you know whether your organisation is doing well or not?
- What aspects of your organisation's financial performance can you control? How and by whom is the financial performance of your organisation monitored?
- What does a vote analyst look at when analysing a department's finances?
- What are the main differences between the financial analysis of public sector entities and financial analysis of private sector for-profit entities?
- How is success measured in the Crown Financial Statements? Is Michael Cullen's OBERAC a valid/ useful measure?

- How well is the capital charge working in your organization in determining whether to lease or purchase equipment?

6. Financial Reporting – Accountability to External Parties and IFRSs

Topic Description

A key component of the financial management system is the use of accrual accounting. This session will address the process for establishing rules for external reporting, as well as some current issues in financial reporting that are relevant to the public sector.

Readings

- Mindmap, *Financial Reporting to Stakeholders*, **David Macdonald**
- PowerPoint presentation – *Financial reporting: New Zealand Government*
- **Deegan, Craig & Samkin, Grant** – extracts from *NZ Financial Accounting (2nd Edition)* Chapter 8 – Accounting for Heritage Assets
- *NZ Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards [IFRSs]*
- **Jensen, Gwenda** (2002), *Financial Reporting Developments and Their Impact on Central Government Entities*, IIR Master Course

Further Reading

- Chapter 7 in **The Treasury**, *Putting it Together - An Explanatory Guide to the New Zealand Public Sector Financial Management System*. Available on the Treasury website: www.treasury.govt.nz/publicsector/pit/
- **The Treasury (2005)**, *A Guide to the Public Finance Act* available from the Treasury website: www.treasury.govt.nz/pfa/guide-pfa.pdf
- **Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand (ICANZ)**, *Framework for Differential Reporting (1997)*

Annual Reports

- **Wellington City Council**, *2005/06 financial statements*. Available on the WCC website: www.wellington.govt.nz/plans/annualreport/0506/pdfs/0506annualreport.pdf
- **Department of Corrections**, *Annual report 2005/06*. Volume 3 of course book

Desired Learning Outcomes

This session is designed to emphasise the wide scope of stakeholders who have differing interests in the financial reports of public sector entities (refer the mindmap), and consider whether financial reporting standards can meet all their information needs.

In addition you will:

- Learn how accounting standards are determined; and
- Consider a number of financial reporting issues that are unique to the public sector – a good example being accounting for heritage assets.

Questions to consider when undertaking background reading

- Public sector entities are generally involved in reporting performance.
 - Do financial indicators have any relevance?
 - What's the significance of a government department making a surplus – is this 'good' news or 'bad' news?
- What government-specific activities or powers present challenges for government financial reporting?

- Describe two current financial reporting issues for government entities and the GAAP applicable to those issues.
- Does financial reporting give adequate emphasis to inter-generational equity issues?
- Why have accounting standards in the public sector? Who should set them – Treasury, an independent standard setter in NZ, or a world body [the IASC]?
- What are the arguments for and against applying exactly the same accounting and financial reporting rules (so called, sector neutral standards) to public sector entities as those applied to private sector entities?

7. Service Performance Reporting

Topic Description

This session discusses service performance reporting, focusing on a number of documents that address this issue.

Readings

- PowerPoint presentation – *Service Performance Reporting in NZ Public Sector*, **David Macdonald**
- PowerPoint presentation – *Current Issues in Service Performance Reporting*, **David Macdonald**
- **The Treasury & State Services Commission (in consultation with the Auditor-General)**, *Performance Information Measures and Standards in the SOI and Annual Report*
- *Public Service Management by Numbers: Why does it Vary? Where has it Come From? What are the Gaps and the Puzzles?* **Christopher Hood** (Public Money & Management, April 2007)
- **NZ Herald leader** [3/7/06] – “Unhealthy obsession with paper”
- **Scott, Graham (2001)** - ‘Chapter 7 Setting and Monitoring Performance Specifications: Outputs and Outcomes’, *Public Management in New Zealand* pp 169-204
- *Reporting Public Sector Performance* [Summary Report], **Controller and Auditor-General**, 2001
- **Neale, Ann & Pallot, June (2001)**, ‘Frontiers of Non-financial Performance Reporting in New Zealand’, *Australian Accounting Review* Vol. 11 No. 3 2001
- **Neale, Ann & Anderson, Bruce (March 2000)**, ‘Performance Reporting for Accountability Purposes – Lessons, Issues, Future’, *International Public Management Workshop*
- **Olson, Jim**, ‘Reporting Public Sector Financial Performance’, 7th Annual Public Sector Finance Forum
- Worksheet entitled, ‘Constraints on the current reporting of non-financial performance’
- Worksheet entitled, ‘Where should the public sector go with the reporting of non-financial performance?’

Additional readings

- **Review of the Centre Advisory Group (2001)**, *Executive Summary, Report of the Advisory Group on the Review of the Centre*, November 2001
- **Steering Group Managing for Outcomes Roll-out 2003/04 (2002)**, *Managing for Outcomes Output Plans Guidance for Departments*, December 2002
- *Key Government Goals to guide the public sector in achieving sustainable development*, **DPMC**
- **State Services Commission in conjunction with the Treasury, September 2003. ISBN 0-478-24438-X. Doing the Right Things and Doing Them Right - Improving Evaluative Activity in the New Zealand State Sector** www.ssc.govt.nz/display/document.asp?docid=3507

Desired Learning Outcomes

Service performance reporting is a critical part of the accountability process in the public sector, but is there too much emphasis on accountability and not enough emphasis on developing performance indicators that help managers manage their organizations more effectively and efficiently?

The readings are designed to provide you with a wide range of views on reporting public sector performance, including the current emphasis on reporting outcomes and the linkages between outcomes and inputs. *These readings will also be useful for your Essay.*

Much of the session will be in the form of group discussion so that you can network with other students and learn how other public sector organizations are coping with the current major emphasis on performance measures and performance reporting. The discussion questions below are framed to provide a range of topics for you to discuss.

Questions to consider when undertaking background reading

- Why does your organisation capture information and report in the way that it does?
 - Who is the information useful to?
 - Is it appropriate? [i.e. Does it provide a good basis for judging the ‘success’ of your organization?]
 - Does this information help you to manage your organization?
- Has the increased focus on outcomes caused any problems for your organisation?
 - Are you happy to be judged on your achievement of outcomes rather than outputs?
 - Are you able to find a satisfactory link between outputs and outcomes?
 - Are the Government’s ‘Key Goals’ useful in providing a strategic direction for your organisation?
- Is your organisation reporting on risk management and capability? Is this useful information for stakeholders?
- How is your organisation going to measure, and get audited, the ‘triple bottom line’?

8. Financial Management in Local Government

Topic Description

This session will provide an introduction to local government financial management - it highlights the similarities and differences with central government financial management.

Readings

- PowerPoint presentation, *Financial Management in Local Government [Governance & Accountability]*, **David Macdonald**
- *The Local Government Act 2002: An Overview*, **Local Government New Zealand**
- Mindmap, ‘*Local Government Act 2002 - What’s different?*’, **David Macdonald**
- Mindmap, ‘*What’s different about local government?*’, **David Macdonald**
- *Local Government – Looking Back and Looking Forward*, **Auditor-General**, May 2002.
www.oag.govt.nz/2002/looking-back/docs/looking-back.pdf
- *Local government – stakeholder “wicked issues”*, **David Macdonald**
- **Dominion Post Leader** [10/7/06] – “*Lessening the rates weight*”
- **Pallot, June** (2001), ‘*Transparency in local government: antipodean initiatives*’, *The European Accounting Review* 2001 10:3. pp 645-660

Desired Learning Outcomes

Local government is a very important area of economic activity in New Zealand, although not always recognized as such in Wellington circles. This is a good opportunity to learn more about how they operate.

The PowerPoint presentation and mind maps show how local government accounting and accountability issues have often foreshadowed changes in central government. The Local Government Act 2002 has put a huge emphasis on long term strategic planning and reporting on a 'quadruple bottom line' basis (economic, social, environmental, and cultural outcomes). The Act also provides the opportunity for local communities to make 'local choices' even when these choices might be out of sync with central government initiatives.

Questions to consider when undertaking background reading

- Describe the main ways in which the local government reforms resemble the central government reforms.
- Should/ could central government adopt the "power of general competence"?
- Compared to central government organisations, how free are local authorities to borrow, tax, spend and invest?
- What factors act to ensure that local authorities manage their finances well?
- Local Government Act 2002
 - Has the Act moved too far on outcomes?
 - Much of the effectiveness of the Act depends on consultation – what are the pitfalls?
 - How are TLAs going to prepare, and how is the Auditor-General going to audit, a "quadruple bottom line" SSP?

9. What is the best governance model for public sector entities?

Topic Description

This session will focus on what governance model (the processes by which organisations are directed, controlled and held to account) works best for New Zealand public sector entities. Comparisons will be made with governance models in overseas public sector entities, and with private sector governance models.

Readings

- **State Services Commission, Working Paper # 17, "Post-NPM Themes in Public Sector Governance, Gambhir Bhatta (9/2003)**
- *Continuous Improvement charts (2)*
- *Governance models elsewhere*, paper prepared for **NSW Government (1998)**
- *Overview of governance models, Institute on Governance (2005)*

▪ Operational	▪ Policy governance
▪ Collective	▪ Results-oriented board
▪ Management	▪ Advisory
▪ Traditional	▪ Representational

- *Governance models: what's right for your board, Nathan Garber & Associates (1997)*
- *The Business Risk Radar, Marsh (insurance brokers)*
- **Barrados, Maria & Mayne, John** – *Can Public Sector Organisations Learn?* (OECD Journal on Budgeting – Volume 3, No. 3)

Desired Learning Objectives

Public sector organisations are looking for “continuous improvement” in their processes and financial management techniques. In addition, a great deal of emphasis has been placed recently on ‘capability’ and risk management - and private sector governance techniques and benchmarking practices are frequently cited as exemplars for the public sector.

This session explores possible governance models in the public sector and gives you the opportunity to discuss with other students practices and models that have worked for your organisation.

Questions to consider when undertaking background reading

- Has the introduction of private sector governance institutions – e.g. internal audit, audit committees, advisory boards, etc – been useful, or has it just provided another level of compliance costs?
- What use can be made of private sector financial management techniques?
 - Risk management
 - Asset management
 - Public finance initiatives
 - Benchmarking
- What aspects of public sector governance would not be appropriate in the private sector?
- Does your organisation have policies for:
 - Controlling sensitive expenditure?
 - Minimizing the likelihood of fraud?
- Do you contract with NGOs on the same basis as with other organisations

10. The Role of Audit and the Auditor-General

Topic Description

This section of the course will examine the role of the Auditor-General, both as an integral part of the integrated financial management cycle and as a reporter to parliament on *accountability* and *improvement* issues.

Readings

- PowerPoint presentation, *The Role of Audit & the Auditor-General*, **David Macdonald**
- Mindmap, *What’s different about a public sector audit?* **David Macdonald**
- *Service Delivery: The Audit Dimension*, **Pallot, June** (Australian Journal of Public Administration, 58(3): 43-49, September 1999)
- **Jacobs, Kerry**, *Value for Money Auditing in New Zealand: Competing for Control in the Public Sector* (British Accounting Review, 1998)
- **Buchanan, Robert and Simpkins, Kevin** (2001), *A New Age for Public Auditing*, (Chartered Accountants Journal of New Zealand, July 2001, pp 8-11)

Auditor-General’s website

- *Frequently Asked Questions* www.oag.govt.nz/about-us/answers#why
- *Auditing Standards* (May 2005) – pages 6-23
www.oag.govt.nz/auditing-standards/docs/audit-standards.pdf
- *Annual Plan 2006-07* www.oag.govt.nz/annual-plan/2006-07/docs/annual-plan.pdf
- *Annual Report 2005-06* www.oag.govt.nz/annual-report/2005-06/docs/annual-report.pdf
- *Central Government: Results of the 2005-06 Audits*
www.oag.govt.nz/central-govt/2005-06/docs/central-govt.pdf

- *Public Audit Act 2001* and a number of accompanying policy papers
www.oag.govt.nz/about-us/governing-legislation

Desired Learning Outcomes

The Auditor-General plays an important role in public sector accountability and in improving public sector management.

This session explains the role of the Auditor-General and gives an insight into some of the ‘vigorous’ debate leading up to the passing of the Public Audit Act 2002.

It also explores how a public sector audit differs from a private sector audit, with particular reference to performance auditing. And, it answers the often asked question “who audits the auditor?”

Questions to consider when undertaking background reading

- What gives an audit value?
- How does the Auditor-General’s ‘legislative audit model’ vary from a private sector audit?
- How does a performance audit vary from a financial audit?
- Given that the Auditor-General performs a mini performance audit (i.e. the audit of SSPs) on most public sector entities, is there any value in him carrying out discretionary performance audits?
- Critically discuss the following statement –
“The new legislation [the Public Audit Act 2002] has increased the Auditor-General’s independence, but his accountability to Parliament has remained weak!”

12. Class discussion of Key Issues that have emerged during the course

This discussion session will be a “wrap-up”, identifying and discussing issues that have emerged during the course, and trying to reach some conclusions about the New Zealand public sector management system and, in particular, the financial management arrangements.

We intend to:

- consolidate the material covered during the course; and
- consider any other “wicked issues” currently facing public sector managers.

If there is any subject you would like discussed in this time slot, please let David or Rose Anne know before the day!

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student and Academic Services Office

The Faculty’s Student and Academic Services Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications. To check for opening hours, call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Education/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, Education and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building - it includes the ground floor reception desk (EA 005) and offices 125a to 131 (Level 1). The office is available for the following:

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.
- Forms for FCA Student and Academic Services (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).
- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

To check for opening hours, call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Notice of Turnitin Use

Student work provided for assessment in this course **may be** checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine www.turnitin.com. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. **At the discretion of the School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin.** You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website at www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied. See the Victoria University Calendar available in hardcopy or under "About Victoria" on the VUW homepage at www.vuw.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically at www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/downloads/course_outlines_general_information.pdf

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

Manaaki Pihipihinga is an academic mentoring programme for undergraduate Māori and Pacific students in the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Sessions are held at the Kelburn and Pipitea Campuses in the Mentoring Rooms, 14 Kelburn Parade (back courtyard), Room 109D, and Room 210, Level 2, Railway West Wing. There is also a Pacific Support Coordinator who assists Pacific students by linking them to the services and support they need while studying at Victoria. Another feature of the programme is a support network for Postgraduate students with links to Postgraduate workshops and activities around Campus.

For further information, or to register with the programme, email manaaki-pihipihinga-programme@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5233 ext. 8977. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5842.