



## DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

Consultation Paper, December 2012

Submission

Organisation: VERTO Ltd

Contact Person: Bernadette O'Connor, CEO

Email: [boconnor@verto.org.au](mailto:boconnor@verto.org.au)

VERTO is a Company Limited by Guarantee governed by a Board of seven Directors. The organisation has been operating for thirty years and provides education, training and employment services in twenty-six locations across NSW. The Board has followed the progress of the review of the not-for-profit sector with interest and has discussed, in particular, the draft Governance Standards as detailed in the Consultation Paper.

The Directors of VERTO are very aware of their responsibilities under corporation law and have ensured that the organisation is supported by a comprehensive policy framework and strong governance practices.

The draft Governance Standards appear to the VERTO Board to be reasonable and to reflect the contemporary governance practice expectations.

The VERTO Board suggests a simple method for the process of demonstrating and reporting compliance within the proposed Governance Standards.

VERTO, like many organisations in receipt of government funding, undergoes a range of external financial and service audits every year. These include the Annual Financial Audit, ASQA Audits, Disability Service Standards Audit and Employment Services Standards Audits. One possibility for reporting on compliance with the Governance Standards is that they be included in these external audits and that a passing audit of any one of the above would be accepted as sufficient to demonstrate compliance. Since each of these audits cost organisations a significant amount of money embedding the Governance Standards would mean that additional costs are not imposed on organisations to externally validate their compliance.

Alternatively, or in addition, each organisation could report against the Standards in their Annual Report.

VERTO understands the importance of good governance to the longevity of the organisation and is keen to develop a systematic approach to reviewing its processes in line with a transparent reporting process.

We are more than happy to discuss reporting possibilities further with you.