

What are financial controls?

Financial controls are processes, policies and procedures that are implemented to manage finances. Financial controls aim to:

- safeguard assets
- ensure reliability and integrity of financial information
- ensure compliance
- promote efficient and effective operations
- facilitate accomplishment of goals and objectives.

Who is responsible?

The Finance branch and the Governance, Capability and Reform division are responsible for maintaining an adequate financial control system.

Chief Finance Office Nilushka Wijayadasa explains the importance of staff efforts.

“Staff can uphold these controls by continuing to ensure appropriate authorisation is obtained and proper paperwork is done before spending money, and carefully checking invoices for accuracy – these checks are critical. Every dollar is precious, and finances are extremely tight in the Department and across Government, and CLT has recently agreed that all non-essential expenditure must cease.”

Financial controls and COVID-19

The Department is spending significant time and effort supporting the COVID-19 public health response for vulnerable communities. It is important that we all prevent key financial control breakdown during this period.

Times of disruption like these present a heightened risk environment where an exaggerated sense of urgency may persuade or create a sense of permission for staff to override important financial controls. It's important that this does not occur.

All purchases and expenditure associated with COVID-19 must be made in line with departmental and whole of Government procurement policies and guidance produced within COVID-19 Related Expenditure Requests. The [COVID-19 Related Expenditure Requests document](#) provides guidance as to expenditure that is considered related to COVID-19.

Senior management will continue to monitor and review spending against the budget and gain a genuine understanding of the reasons for variances.