

# 6



## Governance

Governance structure	52
Freedom of information	52
Corporate governance committees	53

## Governance structure

The Department of Corporate and Digital Development (DCDD) operates under a strong corporate governance framework that ensures clear accountability, effective leadership and alignment between strategy, planning, and service delivery. The model supports a culture of transparency, performance and self-governance, guided by DCDD values and OneNTG principles. It enables staff to manage risks, make informed decisions, and uphold public standards of integrity and compliance.

### Risk management

Risk management is embedded across DCDD’s planning and operations, reinforcing our governance culture and supporting informed decision-making. The Risk Management Framework, comprising the Risk Appetite Statement, policies and procedures, provides staff with practical tools to identify, assess and manage risks.

Internal controls such as delegations, conflict of interest declarations, and policies on gifts, data breaches, and procurement ensure compliance with legislative requirements and promote ethical conduct. Financial controls and governance procedures, including the Accounting and Property Manual, support responsible service delivery and safeguard public resources.

Additional controls which further strengthen risk oversight include employment screening, the Fraud and Corruption Control Policy, the Improper Conduct Investigations and Reporting Policy, the Whistleblower Policy and regular monitoring of risk assessments through governance committees.

### Audits

DCDD maintains an internal audit function to support the Accountable Officer in meeting obligations under the *Financial Management Act 1995*. Oversight is provided by the Audit and Risk Committee, which monitors audit activity and ensures findings are addressed. A summary of internal audits conducted during 2024–25 is presented in Appendix B.

DCDD is also subject to external audits under the Northern Territory Auditor-General’s audit program. All findings are monitored and reported through the Audit and Risk Committee to ensure transparency. A summary of the audits undertaken by the Auditor-General during 2024–25 is included in Appendix B.

## Freedom of information

The *Information Act 2002* allows for access to government and personal information.

A summary of freedom of information (FOI) applications processed in accordance with the Act during 2024–25 is presented in the table.

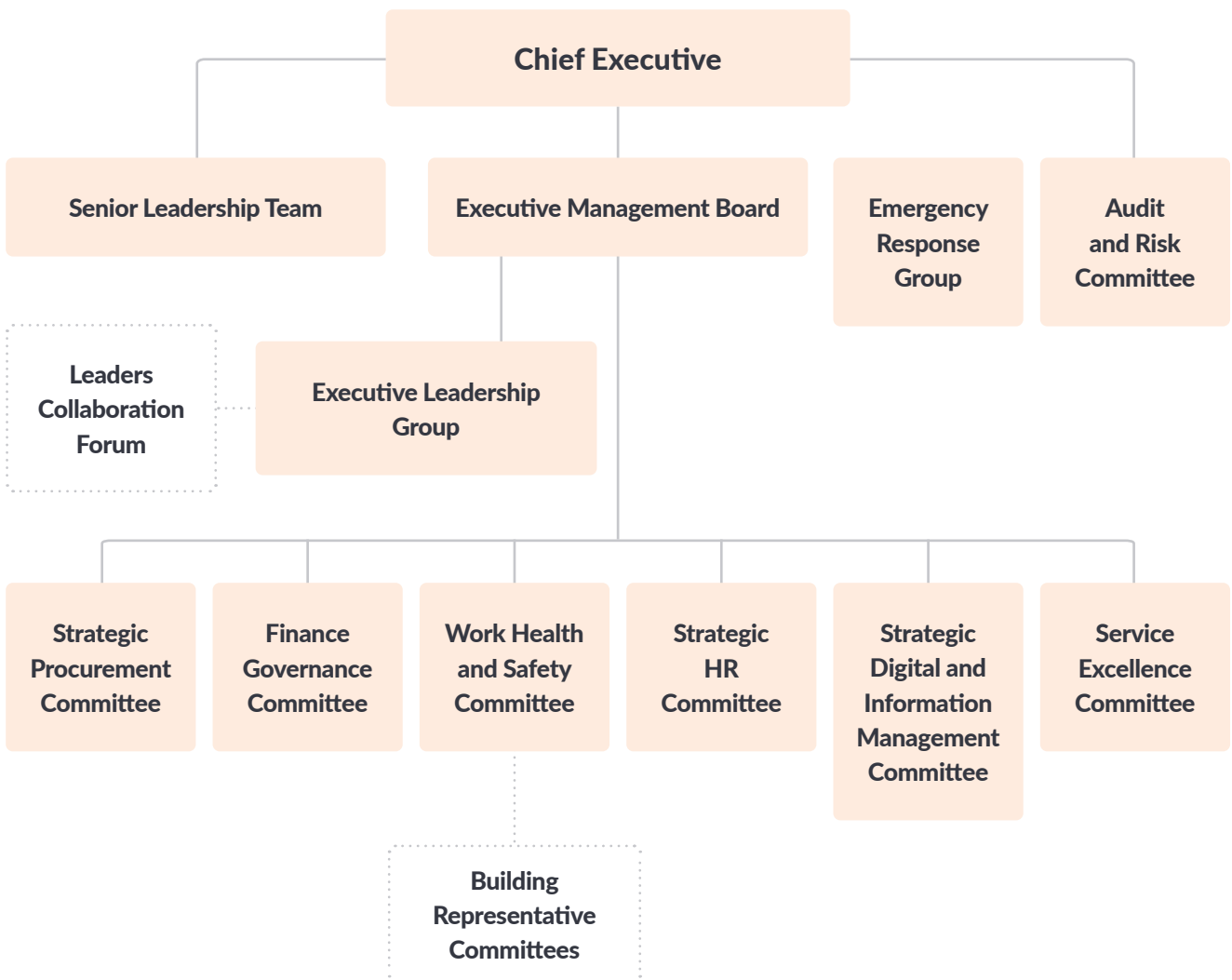
FOI application summary	Total
Applications carried forward from previous year	0
New applications received during reporting period	16
Applications finalised during reporting period	15
Applications carried forward to next reporting period	1

# Corporate governance committees

DCDD’s governance committee structure has been reviewed to support the strengthened Corporate Governance Framework, as depicted below. These groups will oversee agency governance and ensure our work aligns with DCDD’s strategic direction. The white dotted boxes represent advisory and/or collaborative groups that provide input into governance committees, but do not have decision-making authority.

During the year, while the Corporate Governance Framework was being reviewed, the Executive Management Board (EMB) was revised to focus on strategic priorities aligned with DCDD’s strategic plan, enabling government priorities, engaging customers and evolving our business. A revised agenda was implemented to strengthen focus on strategy, performance, and delivery of the government’s priorities, while streamlining operational reporting.

EMB decisions and actions are communicated to the Executive Leadership Group, with a departmental communiqué shared to keep staff informed. The board meets monthly and convened on 12 occasions during 2024–25.



### Digital governance frameworks

As part of its strategic ICT responsibilities, DCDD supports NTG agencies in meeting digital governance and accountability requirements, with a series of frameworks to ensure digital initiatives are secure, well-governed and aligned with government priorities.

**ICT Governance Framework** – ensures ICT investments are strategically planned and governed. It includes assurance processes for major ICT programs and projects and is supported by policies, guidelines and reporting tools. It helps agencies align digital initiatives with whole of government priorities.

**ICT Governance Board (IGB)** – underpins the ICT Governance Framework by providing whole of government oversight to major ICT investments and projects. It monitors digital risks, considers emerging issues and reports to the Minister for Corporate and Digital Development. Membership includes senior NTG representatives.

**Data Governance Framework** – supports secure, ethical, and culturally respectful data management and sharing across government. It ensures compliance with legislation and promotes innovation through responsible data use. DCDD contributes to national initiatives to improve data access.

**Cyber Security Governance Framework** – embeds cyber security into the management of government ICT systems and service delivery. DCDD's Cyber Security Committee oversees implementation and provides strategic advice to the ICT Governance Board.

