

Government of Papua New Guinea

Office of the Auditor General

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION
INTO THE OFFICE OF
THE PUBLIC CURATOR

September 2005

This would provide for total payments to Jaco of K1,221,000 including GST. The AGO can find records of K1,467,387 in payments that can be directly related to payments for these accounts, not including amounts related to work on a small number of deceased estates. Of this only K154,180 is in relation to the 2001-2004 accounts. As these payments only relate to 2001 to 2003 financial statements, this represents an **overpayment of K4,180**. Therefore the total payments for the preparation of the 1992 to 2000 financial statements were K1,313,207 against contractual obligations of K1,001,000, an **overpayment of K312,207**.

The AGO notes that part of this overpayment can be accounted for by the Public Curator paying for ten years of statements rather than the nine that were produced (1992 to 2000) and payment of some K161,605 for Jaco to process Auditor-General's queries despite this being provided for in the *Agents* agreement as part of the service to be delivered for the annual K90,000 fee.

Anvil Project Services

On 23 May 2000, Anvil Project Services (Anvil), an Australian based company now known as CCS Anvil (PNG) Ltd, was engaged by the Secretary of the Department for Justice and Attorney General to visit PNG and *produce a succinct focused report of work completed to date and a project plan for the process of preparing the office for corporatisation. The plan shall cover timeline, activities and other related issues and be incorporated into proper Tender Documentation for the Public Curator's Office to tender the implementation of the project.*¹² Anvil invoiced the Public Curator's Office on 30 May 2000 AUS\$20,000 for the cost of the visit. According to the Public Curator, Mr G Fridriksson and Mr Ivan Demetrius, resigned from RAM Business Consultants shortly before May 2000 and along with several other expatriates formed Anvil Project Services in both Australia and PNG¹³.

Anvil provided a project plan to the Public Curator that involved a two stage process to address the financial and operational management problems of the Public Curator's Office. Rather than call tenders on 12 June 2000 the Department for Justice and Attorney General's Corporate Executive Team (CET) approved the engagement of Anvil. The proposed fee for the initial three months was AUS\$480,000 plus estimated disbursements of AUS\$110,000. The engagement was to audit the work undertaken by previous consultants, review the current situation of the Public Curator's Office, develop a project plan for the future and implement the plan.

¹² Extract from a letter from the Secretary for Justice and Attorney General to Mr Byron Patching, Managing Director Anvil Project Services *RE. SITUATION REVIEW – PUBLIC CURATOR'S OFFICE 23 May 2000*.

¹³ *Source* Letter from the Public Curator to the Chairman of the Parliamentary Accounts Committee, *Background information on CCS Anvil 27 January 2004*.

