



Good evening Chair and committee members

I am very pleased to be here on my first day as Auditor-General for Australia. It is an honour and a privilege to be afforded the opportunity to take on this role.

The office of Auditor-General was the first statutory integrity entity established by the Commonwealth Parliament following passage of the *Audit Act 1901*. The need for accountability was given high priority with the Audit Act being the fourth Act to be passed by the first Federal Parliament.

I am an officer of the Parliament and the ANAO assists me in performing my functions. As the external auditor of the Executive government the ANAO supports transparency and accountability in the Australian public sector through independent reporting to the Parliament. The relationship between the Australian National Audit Office and the Parliament is important and valued by my office. Together we reinforce the importance of public sector accountability with the ANAO and the Parliament and its committees all playing a role.

With over 120 years building public sector audit expertise the audit office has served the Parliament and sustained a reputation for integrity and independence, key factors in maintaining public confidence in the system of government. I hope to be a worthy steward of this legacy and steer the ANAO into the future well.

As you will appreciate, this being my first day, my ANAO colleagues will assist me to address the questions that you would like to ask my office. I look forward to working with you over the future years.