



New inquiry into scrutiny of the Tax Office

The Chair of the House Tax Committee, Bert van Manen MP, today announced an inquiry into scrutiny arrangements for the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

The ATO is currently scrutinised in a number of ways, including the Australian National Audit Office, the Inspector-General of Taxation, Senate Estimates, and other parliamentary committees including the House Tax Committee. The complaints function was transferred from the Ombudsman to the Inspector-General of Taxation in May 2015.

Mr van Manen said, "The ATO is an important organisation within government. It collects almost all the revenue, implements various policies, and has strong enforcement powers. This has meant it receives a lot of scrutiny, so it's critical this scrutiny is as efficient and effective as possible."

The terms of reference for the inquiry are:

The Committee will inquire into the scrutiny arrangements that apply to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), with particular regard to:

- *removing inefficiency and duplication*
- *reducing cost to government*
- *the 'earned autonomy principle' set out in Stage 2 of the Public Management Reform Agenda.*

The review should not include the Australian National Audit Office role in the auditing of the ATO's financial statements.

The Committee considers that the terms of reference also apply to its role and functions.

The Committee invites interested persons and organisations to make submissions addressing the terms of reference by Friday, 11 March 2016.

For media comment: please contact Jessica Reid on 0437 731 858.

For information about the inquiry: please contact the committee secretariat by telephone (02) 6277 4821, e-mail taxrev.reps@aph.gov.au, or visit the committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/taxrev>.