



Tax Committee report tabled today

The House Tax Committee tabled its first report into administration of the tax system this morning.

The report finds the ATO in a period of transition under changed leadership —working to become a more contemporary service agency and to simplify the taxpayer experience.

Within this context the Committee found that the ATO was generally well regarded by its scrutineers.

The Committee's report also investigates other issues, such as:

- better estimating the "tax gap" (i.e. the difference between what theoretically should be collected compared to what actually is collected);
- changes to the ATO's budget and staffing levels; and
- how taxpayer disputes are managed within the ATO.

The Committee's hearing unveiled new approaches to dispute management by the ATO – including a new internal 'independent review' function for large business and international taxpayers and the shifting of the formal objections function to the Law Design and Practice Group.

Committee Chair John Alexander said that "efforts to streamline the tax payer experience are crucial to transforming tax administration in Australia."

The Chair commented, "We have scheduled the next hearing for August and we look forward to working through these topics with the ATO in future meetings."

The report is available at: www.aph.gov.au/taxrev.

For media comment: please contact Committee Chair, Mr John Alexander OAM, MP, on (02) 6277 4804.

For information about the report: 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>.