



Committee reviews administration of Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement

Parliament's Joint Public Accounts Committee will examine Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) Report No. 25 (2014-15), *Administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement*.

Since 1990, the Australian Government and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have entered into successive five-year agreements, known as Community Pharmacy Agreements, to help maintain a national network of retail pharmacies as the primary means of dispensing Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines to the public.

To support community access to pharmaceutical services, the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (5CPA) provided that the Australian Government would deliver some \$15.4 billion in funding from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2015.

Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, said that the purpose of the ANAO audit was to assess the effectiveness of the development and administration of 5CPA by the Department of Health. The audit also examined aspects of 5CPA that were implemented by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"The ANAO found that, overall, the Department of Health's administration of 5CPA had been 'mixed' and there was a 'limited basis' for assessing the extent to which 5CPA had met its key objectives, including the achievement of \$1 billion in expected savings".

"This is a significant area of health administration where the public and the Parliament want to see improved outcomes, and there are a number of issues arising out of the ANAO report that merit further public scrutiny", Dr Southcott said.

Interested persons and organisations are invited to make submissions to the Committee's inquiry, addressing the terms of reference, by 24 July 2015. Further information about the Committee's inquiry, including details on how to lodge a submission, are available on the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa.

The Committee's inquiry will not include a review of pharmacy location rules or pharmacy remuneration.

For media comment: please contact Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, on 0402579674 (Matthew Hee).

For information about the inquiry: please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4615, email jcpaa@aph.gov.au, or visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa>.