



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

Australian Government Contract Reporting

Issue date: Thursday, 15 February 2018

Australian Government contracting inquiry

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit will hear from the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), Department of Finance (DoF) and Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) tomorrow at the Committee's first public hearing for its inquiry into Australian Government Contract Reporting.

The Committee's inquiry is based on Auditor-General's Information Report—[Australian Government Procurement Contract Reporting](#) (Audit Report No. 19, 2017–18).

During the hearing the Committee will consider matters raised by the Auditor-General's reporting of AusTender contract data over a five-year period (2012–13 to 2016–17). Particular areas include:

- the volume and value of Government procurement contracts;
- entities' procurement contract behaviour as it relates to the timing of procurements during each financial year; and
- reporting on the number and value of contracts undertaken with Small to Medium Enterprises.

The Committee will also explore participating entities' views on the five areas of focus highlighted in the Committee's [Complementary Submission Guidance](#), including contracting trends across the Australian Public Service, transparency of contract reporting and Australian Public Service capability and capacity.

Committee Chair [Senator Dean Smith](#) said the inquiry offers an opportunity to establish a broad evidence base about the effective use of external consultants and contractors as well as review existing reporting structures.

"Transparent, accurate reporting and precise record-keeping are imperative for the Government to set and maintain a high standard of delivery but importantly to assure the Australian public that Government activities are being delivered in an efficient and cost-effective manner," Senator Smith said.

"The work of the JCPAA is widely respected across the public service and I have every confidence the inquiry will enjoy the full support and cooperation of Departments and Agencies."

Public hearing: Friday, 16 February 2018, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

9.45am to 11.30am *Australian Government Contract Reporting - Inquiry based on ANAO Report No. 19 (2017–18)*
Department of Finance
Australian National Audit Office
Australian Public Service Commission



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The hearing will be broadcast live at aph.gov.au/live. The hearing program is available from the Committee [website](#).

As Parliament's joint public administration committee, the JCPAA scrutinises the governance, performance and accountability of Commonwealth agencies and has the power to initiate its own inquiries on the Commonwealth public sector.

The Committee examines all reports of the Auditor-General tabled in the Parliament and can inquire into any items, matters or circumstances connected with these reports.

Media enquiries:

Kenny Ang, Office of Senator Dean Smith, Chair, Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, on (02) 6277 3707 (Parliament House).

For background information:

Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4615 or email jcpaa@aph.gov.au

Interested members of the public may wish to track the committee via the [website](#). Click on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right hand corner and use the forms to login to My Parliament or to register for a My Parliament account.

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