



Report calls for improved grants administration

Parliament's Public Accounts Committee today presented its report on three Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) reports.

Committee Chair, the Hon Ian Macfarlane MP, said that key themes emerging from the Committee's review were encouraging better practice grants administration and improving performance monitoring and reporting.

The reports were:

- Audit Report No. 34, *Administration of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements by Emergency Management Australia*
- Audit Report No. 37, *Management of Smart Centres' Centrelink Telephone Services*
- Audit Report No. 41, *Award of Funding under the Safer Streets Program*

"For both the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements and the Safer Streets Program, administered by the Attorney-General's Department, a key message from the ANAO is that grant administration basics need to be followed".

"The grants administration framework, through the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines, provides Commonwealth departments with clear direction on promoting transparent, accountable and cost-effective grants administration".

"The Committee also found that the Department of Human Services needs to improve its performance monitoring and reporting for Centrelink telephone services", Mr Macfarlane said.

The Committee's report includes recommendations directed at:

- the Attorney-General's Department, to report back to the Committee on its progress towards implementing the audit recommendations concerning the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
- the ANAO, to consider a follow-up audit of grants programs administered by the Attorney-General's Department, and an audit of the department's implementation of audit recommendations
- the Department of Finance, to amend the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines to deal specifically with Commonwealth funding rounds involving election commitments
- the Department of Human Services, to report back to the Committee on its progress towards implementing KPIs that are fit for purpose in the Smart Centre environment and improve its staff training and performance reporting on this area

Copies of JCPAA Report 452: Review of Auditor-General Reports Nos 24-50 (2014-15) can be accessed via the Committee's website at: www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa.

For media comment: please contact Committee Chair, Hon Ian Macfarlane MP, on 6277 4988.

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>.