



Committee reports on three ANAO reports

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) has completed its inquiry and released report number 443 into three Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) reports:

- Audit Report No.25 (2012–13), Defence's Implementation of Audit Recommendations, Department of Defence, and Defence Materiel Organisation;
- Audit Report No.53 (2012–13), Agencies' Implementation of Performance Audit Recommendations (various departments); and
- Audit Report No.6 (2013-14), Capability Development Reform, Department of Defence.

The cross cutting theme of the Committee's review of these three reports is the extent to which audited agencies have institutionalised agreed reforms arising from internal and external audit and reviews.

Audit Report No.53 provided tangible examples of good practice. Indeed, "the Committee commends DEEWR for the professionalism and diligence it has shown in establishing and maintaining a better practice model. The DEEWR system exhibits the features of a better practice model and all Commonwealth agencies are encouraged to review their own systems in light of DEEWR's example," Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP said.

With the two reports examining the Department of Defence's activities, the Committee made a number of specific recommendations. On Audit Report No.25, the Committee recommended that:

- the Department of Defence investigate options for an improved database system for the monitoring and reporting of internal and external audit recommendations; and
- adequate resources are allocated to an improved database system to ensure a higher level of assurance to senior levels of the department and the Minister.

"The Committee is very concerned that Audit Report No.6 found significant delays in keeping government advised on the progress and/or difficulties in projects. This is unacceptable and not consistent with good public administration," Dr Southcott said. The Committee made recommendations to the Department of Defence to:

- improve the staffing model of the Capability Development Group;
- include whole-of-life costing in initial project approval at the project requirement phase of the capability development process; and
- institute a gate review before a project is entered onto the Defence Capability Plan.

Copies of the report can be found on the Committee's website at: www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa

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

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