

Introduction

Background to the review

1.1 The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) has a statutory duty to examine all reports of the Auditor-General that are presented to the Presiding Officers of the Australian Parliament, and report the results of its deliberations to both Houses of Parliament. In selecting audit reports for review, the Committee considers:

- The significance of the program or issues raised in the audit reports;
- The significance of the audit findings;
- The arguments advanced by the audited agencies; and
- The public interest of the report.

1.2 Upon consideration of 24 audit reports presented to the Parliament by the Auditor-General between 1 July 2003 and 31 January 2004, the Committee selected six reports for further scrutiny at public hearings. The public hearings for the respective reports were held in Canberra on:

- Monday 16 February 2004 (ANAO Audit Report No. 1);
- Monday 8 March 2004 (ANAO Audit Report No. 4);
- Monday 29 March 2004 (ANAO Audit Report No. 6);
- Monday 24 May 2004 (ANAO Audit Report No. 11);
- Monday 31 May 2004 (ANAO Audit Report No. 21); and
- Monday 21 June 2004 (ANAO Audit Report No. 24).

The Committee's Report

- 1.3 This report of the Committee's examination draws attention to the main issues raised at the respective public hearings. Where appropriate, the Committee has commented on unresolved or contentious issues, and has made recommendations.
- 1.4 The Committee's report is structured as follows:
- Chapter 2 – ANAO Audit Report No. 1 of 2003-2004, *Administration of Three Key Components of the Agriculture – Advancing Australia (AAA) Package* (public hearing held on 16 February 2004);
 - Chapter 3 – ANAO Audit Report No. 4 of 2003-2004, *Management of the Extension Option Review – Plasma Fractionation Agreement* (8 March 2004);
 - Chapter 4 – ANAO Audit Report No. 6 of 2003-2004, *APRA's Prudential Supervision of Superannuation Entities* (29 March 2004);
 - Chapter 5 – ANAO Audit Report No. 11 of 2003-2004, *Annual Performance Reporting* (24 May 2004);
 - Chapter 6 – ANAO Audit Report No. 21 of 2003-2004, *Special Employee Entitlements Scheme for Ansett Group Employees (SEESA)* (31 May 2004);
 - Chapter 7 – ANAO Audit Report No. 24 of 2003-2004, *Agency Management of Special Accounts* (21 June 2004);
 - Appendix A – Conduct of the Committee's review;
 - Appendix B – List of submissions authorised;
 - Appendix C – List of exhibits received;
 - Appendix D – List of witnesses who appeared at the public hearings; and
 - Appendix E – The National Blood Authority.
- 1.5 A copy of this report is available on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jcpaa/reports.htm>.