



Committee to review government coordination of Indigenous programs

The Federal Government's coordination of some \$11.5 billion worth of Indigenous programs and services will be examined at a public hearing on Wednesday 6 February 2013.

The hearing will form part of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit's review of three Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) reports on Indigenous programs released over the past year.

The ANAO's audit of *Australian Government Coordination Arrangements for Indigenous Programs* called on the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) to take a more strategic lead agency role with a stronger performance orientation, being more active in order to "tangibly address some of the critical strategic issues in Indigenous Affairs".

"The Government's handling of Indigenous programs is a topic of long term interest to this Committee and to all Australians", Committee Chair, Rob Oakeshott MP, said.

"Given the complex nature of Indigenous issues and government commitments to Closing the Gap, it is extremely important that programs are coordinated and delivered in the most effective way possible".

The Committee will also examine at the hearing an audit of the *National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery*. The Federal-State agreement was initiated in 2009 in order to improve the standard and accessibility of government services in 29 remote Indigenous communities across Australia. The ANAO's audit found that while the initiative effectively established a government presence in each of the communities, more implementation work was needed and the overall impact on services needed to be assessed by FaHCSIA in a more structured way.

Representatives from FaHCSIA and the Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Services will appear at the hearing alongside the ANAO on **Wednesday, 6 February 2013** from **12 noon to 1 pm** in **Committee Room 2R1**, Parliament House, Canberra.

More information about the hearing can be found at the committee's website www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa under 'Review of Auditor-General's Reports'.

The hearing will be broadcast live at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/live>

For media comment: please contact Committee Chair, Rob Oakeshott MP, on (02) 6584 2911.

For information about the hearing: please contact the committee secretariat by telephone (02) 6277 4615, e-mail jcpaa@aph.gov.au, or visit the committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa>.