



THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT
PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON
ASIO, ASIS AND DSD

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MEDIA RELEASE

Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD to Inquire into Accuracy of Intelligence on Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD (PJCAAD) will conduct an inquiry into the accuracy of intelligence information received by Australia's intelligence services in relation to Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD). This follows the adoption of a motion by the Senate on 18 June 2003, which referred the matter to the PJCAAD for inquiry and report by 2 December, 2003.

The PJCAAD's terms of reference are: to address the accuracy of intelligence information received by Australia's Intelligence Services in relation to weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The Chairman of the PJCAAD, The Hon David Jull MP, said the Committee would seek to provide a balanced assessment of information provided to Australia's intelligence services on Iraq's WMD capability. Mr Jull said the Committee would gather evidence in private and public, and hoped to commence hearings in late August. The Committee will advertise the inquiry on Saturday, 5 July 2003.

The PJCAAD was established in March 2002 to provide oversight of the administration of Australia's three primary intelligence collection agencies, ASIO, ASIS and DSD, in accordance with the provisions of the *Intelligence Services Act 2001*. The PJCAAD consists of seven Members, drawn from both Houses, representing the Government parties and the major opposition party. Members of the PJCAAD are appointed by the Prime Minister.

The members of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD are: Hon David Jull, MP (Chair); Hon Kim Beazley, MP; Senator Alan Ferguson; Mr Stewart MacArthur MP; Senator Sandy Macdonald; Hon Leo McLeay, MP; and Senator Robert Ray.

For media inquiries, please contact Mr Jull on telephone (02) 6277 2182.

For further information on the conduct of the inquiry, please contact the Secretary of the PJCAAD, Ms Margaret Swieringa, on telephone (02) 6277 4348.

19 June 2003
Canberra