



Public Accounts Committee reviews *Auditor-General Act 1997*

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit will hold a second public hearing in Canberra on Wednesday 16 September 2009 as part of its inquiry into the *Auditor-General Act 1997*.

“The role of the Auditor-General is an important one. It is therefore critical that we ensure that the legislation underpinning that role is as current and as clear as possible,” Sharon Grierson, Chair of the Committee said.

“The Auditor-General has recently undertaken a number of additional responsibilities which contribute to maintaining transparency and accountability across the public sector. These include reviewing the annual Major Projects Report on Defence acquisitions and reviewing compliance of government advertising with the relevant guidelines,” Ms Grierson said.

“We need to not only ensure that the provisions in the Act are sufficient for those newer tasks but that the Act, which has not been reviewed for eight years, provides the officers of the Australian National Audit Office with adequate power to scrutinise the administration of Government agencies in the modern public sector environment,” Ms Grierson said.

The Commonwealth Auditor-General, Mr Ian McPhee PSM, will appear at the hearing on Wednesday 16 September 2009.

For more information: please contact the Committee chair, Sharon Grierson MP, on 0412 291 654 or the inquiry secretary on (02) 6277 2336 or visit the website at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/agact/index.htm>