



The power of oversight – achievements in 2010-11

JCPAA Annual Report released on 12 October

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit has released its Annual Report for 2010-11 to federal parliament today.

The report showcases the activities undertaken by the Committee since the commencement of the 43rd Parliament. As a result of these activities, the Committee tabled five reports and put forward 27 recommendations to drive change and shape continuous improvements in the administration of government programs and funds.

Two significant reports were released by the Committee on the powers and role of the Auditor-General – *Role of the Auditor-General in Scrutinising Government Advertising*, and *Inquiry into the Auditor-General Act 1997*.

In carrying out its oversight and scrutiny responsibilities, the Committee continued its ongoing examination of the Auditor-General's reports, biannual hearings with the Commissioner of Taxation; and conducted a number of major policy inquiries.

"The ability of the Committee to enhance the scrutiny of agencies' expenditure of public monies is illustrated by the outcomes of the Committee's inquiry into the Auditor-General Act," Committee Chair Rob Oakeshott said.

The proposed changes put forth by the Committee are now being turned into legislation. If passed, the new amendments will allow the Auditor-General's powers to better fit within the current public sector environment, enabling the Auditor-General to "follow the dollar" and put in place an audit trail for billions of dollars currently being spent by the Commonwealth.

"The Committee has continued to drive improvements across the public sector and most importantly this has been achieved by the newly formed Committee in a bi-partisan manner, with unanimous opinions and recommendations presented in the work of the Committee," Mr Oakeshott said.

A copy of the report is available from the Committee's website
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jcpaa/reports.htm>

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