



## Release of Consolidated Grant Reports

### ***Adhering to the mandate for transparent and accountable processes for grants***

A document relating to Ministerial reporting of grant approvals has been released by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit.

The document includes a list of 33 instances when a Minister approved a grant to their own electorate but failed to report it to the Finance Minister; and a second list of 11 instances when Ministers approved grants that had not been recommended by their department.

The Commonwealth Grants Guidelines state that “Agencies are responsible for advising Ministers on the requirements of the CGGs, and *must* take appropriate and timely steps to do so...”.

“These documents highlight the importance of correct reporting processes and of the need for Ministers to have strong support from their departments in fulfilling their many obligations” said Committee Chair Mr Robert Oakeshott MP.

“The Committee agreed to the public release of these documents in the interests of transparency and accountability, Mr Oakeshott stated.

In accordance with the Commonwealth Grants Guidelines, a Minister is entitled to approve a grant to a project in his or her own electorate and to make decisions that differ from departmental advice, but they must inform the Finance Minister. The Committee’s interest in this case is in seeing Ministers and their agencies report such instances correctly” Mr Oakeshott concluded.

The documents were provided at the request of the Committee in relation to its public hearing inquiring into ANAO Audit Report No. 21 2011-12 *Administration of Grant Reporting Obligations*.

The documents can be found on the Committee’s website at:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_Committees?url=jcpaa/auditgen2\\_12/subs.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jcpaa/auditgen2_12/subs.htm)

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

**For more information:** for information about the hearing, please contact the Committee Secretariat on telephone (02) 6277 4615, e-mail [jcpaa@aph.gov.au](mailto:jcpaa@aph.gov.au), or visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa>