



## Commissioner of Taxation to front Public Accounts and Audit Committee

The Commissioner of Taxation, Michael D'Ascenzo, will appear before federal parliament's Public Accounts and Audit Committee to explain how the tax office is being administered in Canberra on Friday, 21 September.

**Date/Time:** Friday 21 September 2007, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

**Witnesses:** Australian Taxation Office

**Where:** Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

The Committee has commenced a program of holding public hearings twice a year with the Commissioner discussing developments in tax administration. The Committee held the first hearing on 20 April 2007.

Recent events involving the ATO include:

- the release of its compliance program for 2007-08, which focuses on the recent super changes, offshore tax havens, and wealthy individuals
- the first successful prosecution under Project Wickenby
- amnesties on tax havens and company loans to shareholders
- the Australian National Audit Office's performance audit on tax debt, showing compound growth of collectable tax debt of 19%
- the Inspector-General of Taxation's reports on how the Tax Office manages complex issues.

The Committee Chair, Phil Barresi MP, said, "The Tax Office is recognised internationally as a best practice agency in tax administration. The Committee sees these meetings as a way of maintaining the ATO's standards."

"It is central to principles of democracy and accountability that public officials with so much power explain their actions to the public."

***This hearing will be webcast live (video) on:***

<http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

***It will also be broadcast internally at federal parliament, Canberra, on: House Monitoring System channel 10.***

**For more information:** please contact the Committee chair, Phil Barresi MP, on telephone (02) 6277 4350 or the inquiry secretary on telephone (02) 6277 4574 or visit the Committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/)