



Australian Taxation Office in the spotlight

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) will be closely scrutinised when Commissioner of Taxation, Michael D'Ascenzo AO fronts federal parliament's Public Accounts and Audit Committee (JCPAA) this Friday, 14 September.

The ATO will be joined by the Auditor General, the Inspector General of Taxation, the Commonwealth Ombudsman, and representatives from small business and tax professional organisations.

Committee Chair Rob Oakeshott said the JCPAA's annual hearing with the Commissioner allows for scrutiny of the ATO's actions of the previous year at all levels.

"The committee also intends to look more closely at the ATO's interactions with small business, and to examine emerging trends in tax administration" Mr Oakeshott said.

"The committee looks forward to drawing on the expertise of the bodies that scrutinise the ATO, and representatives of small business and the taxation community of practice."

Mr Oakeshott indicated that the ATO would also be questioned on a range of other issues including:

- increasing complaints made to the Commonwealth Ombudsman about the ATO;
- approaches to debt collection
- advice and services provided for small business; and
- the tax gap.

Further information about the hearing can be found at the committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa by following the link '*Current inquiries - Annual Public Hearing with the Commissioner of Taxation*'

Details for the hearing are:

Date: Friday, 14 September 2012

Venue: Parliament House, Committee Room 2 R1

Time: 9:15am – 1:00pm

The hearing will be broadcast live from Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra from approximately 9:15am via: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

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.