



Audit Committee Reviews Budgets of Small Government Agencies

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts & Audit will hold two days of public hearings in Canberra on 20 and 21 August as part of its inquiry into the effect of the efficiency dividend on smaller agencies.

Agencies scheduled to appear include the scrutineer agencies, the courts, the parliamentary departments and the Australian Electoral Commission.

“These agencies are vital to our democracy,” Committee Chair Sharon Grierson said.

“We will be asking them whether they have sufficient funds to do their job properly.”

The Committee will also hold a roundtable with cultural institutions based in Canberra.

“The submissions suggest that many of the cultural agencies have been impacted by the efficiency dividend. They have suggested that cuts they have made to their activities do not sit well with their mandate to grow and develop their collections.”

Wednesday 20 August – Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

- 9:15am Audit Office;
- 10:45am Ombudsman;
- 11:15am Commonwealth Public Sector Union;
- 12:00pm Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security;
- 1:15pm High Court of Australia and Family Court of Australia;
- 2:15pm Institute of Health and Welfare;
- 3:00pm Department of House of Representatives;
- 3:45pm Department of Parliamentary Services.

Thursday 21 August – Committee Room 1R1, Parliament House, Canberra

- 9:15am Roundtable meeting with the National Archives of Australia, the National Library, the National Gallery of Australia, the Australian War Memorial and the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies;
- 12:45pm Academy of Humanities, Dictionary Biography, Meredith Hinchliffe;
- 2:15pm Australian Electoral Commission.

Further public hearings are scheduled for September.

The hearings will be **webcast live** on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.
For more information: please contact the Committee chair, Sharon Grierson MP, on 0412 291 654, the inquiry secretary on (02) 6277 4574 or at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/efficdiv/index.htm>.