



Tax administration report tabled

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit today tabled its report on the Australian Taxation Office's administration of the tax system.

The report arises out of the Committee's annual meeting with the Commissioner of Taxation, and bodies responsible for scrutiny of the ATO. This year the Committee also invited witnesses from small business and the taxation community of practice to the hearing.

Committee Chair Rob Oakeshott said the JCPAA's review scrutinises the ATO's actions during the previous year at all levels, and noted the findings of its report were broadly positive.

"The Committee was pleased to hear that the ATO had been given generally good marks by its external scrutineers and other professional bodies, and that the ATO had improved its service standards during the peak tax time."

However, Mr Oakeshott also noted that complaints to the Ombudsman about ATO administration were at a ten year high, and that the Ombudsman had found occasional faults in ATO complaint handling.

"The issues raised by the Ombudsman are of some concern to the Committee, and we will be watching closely for improvements in the future." Mr Oakeshott said.

Several other issues were also examined in the report, including:

- ATO interactions with small business;
- the ATO's approach to debt recovery;
- the lack of a 'tax gap' estimate; and
- the question of broader tax reform.

The report can be downloaded at the committee's website www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa by following the link '*Committee Activities - Annual Public Hearing with the Commissioner of Taxation*'

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

For other information: please contact the Secretariat on telephone (02) 6277 4615.