



THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT  
PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
ASIO, ASIS AND DSD

Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600  
Telephone 02 6277 2360 ~ Facsimile 02 6277 2067 ~ E-mail [pjcaad@aph.gov.au](mailto:pjcaad@aph.gov.au)  
ABN: 185 262 877 40

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Inquiry into Intelligence on Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD): call for submissions**

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD is calling for submissions to its inquiry into Australia's intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The inquiry will examine the nature and accuracy of intelligence information received by Australia's intelligence services - and the nature, accuracy and independence of assessments made by Australia's intelligence agencies of that information - in relation to the existence of, the capacity and willingness of Iraq to use, and threat posed by, Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The inquiry will also examine whether the Commonwealth Government as a whole presented accurate and complete information to Parliament and the Australian public on these matters during (or since) the military action in Iraq, and whether Australia's pre-conflict assessments of Iraq's WMD capability were as accurate and comprehensive as should be expected of information relied on in decisions regarding the participation of the Australian Defence Forces in military conflict.

Organisations and individuals who have information that may be relevant are invited to make written submissions to the inquiry by **Friday, 8 August 2003**.

The inquiry will be advertised in *The Australian* and *Canberra Times* newspapers on Saturday 5 July.

The Chairman of the Committee, The Hon David Jull MP, said the Committee would seek to provide a balanced assessment of information provided to Australia's intelligence services on Iraq's WMD capability.

Mr Jull said the Committee would gather evidence in private and public, and hoped to commence hearings in late August.

The PJCAAD was established in March 2002 to provide oversight of the administration of Australia's three primary intelligence collection agencies, ASIO, ASIS and DSD, in accordance with the provisions of the *Intelligence Services Act 2001*. The PJCAAD consists of seven Members, drawn from both Houses, representing the Government parties and the major opposition party. Members of the PJCAAD are appointed by the Prime Minister.

The members of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD are:  
Hon David Jull, MP (Chair); Hon Kim Beazley, MP; Senator Alan Ferguson; Stewart McArthur, MP;  
Senator Sandy Macdonald; Hon Leo McLeay, MP; and Senator Robert Ray.

**For media inquiries**, please contact Mr Jull on telephone (07) 3299 1159

**For further information** on the inquiry, including the complete terms of reference, visit the inquiry website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pjcaad/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pjcaad/index.htm) or contact the Secretary of the PJCAAD, Ms Margaret Swieringa, on telephone (02) 6277 4348

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