



Opening the door on procurement panels

Public hearing 20 June 2012 in Canberra

Key government agencies will discuss the establishment and use of procurement panels at two upcoming public hearings of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit.

A recent Australian National Audit Office report (Report No.31) found significant failings in the set up and use of procurement panels. The agencies audited repeatedly failed to adequately document considerations of value for money, and often did not obtain appropriate approvals for expenditure under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

A procurement panel is an arrangement where specific suppliers may deliver property or services at set or indicative prices. Agencies are required to establish and use procurement panels subject to the FMA Act and the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, which were recently repositioned into a set of rules.

“One of the focuses of the JCPAA is ensuring appropriate levels of transparency and accountability in agency decision making,” Committee Chair, Rob Oakeshott MP said. “An inquiry into this area of procurement is timely, given the recent enhancements to the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines.”

The first hearing will be held on **Wednesday 20 June** from **12.15 to 1.00 pm** in **Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra**. At this hearing the Committee will hear from the Department of Finance and Deregulation and the Australian National Audit Office about the overall framework for procurement and the findings of the audit. The Australian Securities and Investments Commission will also be responding to the ANAO's findings.

Another hearing will be held on 27 June 2012, and will involve the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.

More information, including the public hearing program, can be found on the Committee's website at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jcpaa/auditgen5_12/index.htm

Live broadcast: http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

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

For information about the hearing: please contact the Committee Secretariat on telephone (02) 6277 4615, e-mail jcpaa@aph.gov.au, or visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa>