

Introduction

- 1.1 One of the statutory duties of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (the Committee) is to scrutinise all reports presented by the Auditor-General and to report the results of the Committee's findings to Parliament.
- 1.2 After considering the audit reports tabled in the first and second quarters, 1998–99, the Committee selected three reports for further examination at a public hearing in Canberra on 28 May 1999. The selected reports were:
 - *Audit Report No. 16, 1998–99, Aviation Security in Australia, Department of Transport and Regional Services;*
 - *Audit Report No. 19, 1998–99, The Planning of Aged Care, Department of Health and Aged Care; and*
 - *Audit Report No. 21, 1998–99, Costing of Services, various agencies.*

Structure of the report

- 1.3 This report discusses the main issues raised in the selected reports and at the public hearing. Where appropriate the Committee has commented on unresolved or contentious issues.
- 1.4 The three chapters that follow discuss, in order, the key issues in *Audit Report No. 16, 1998–99*, on aviation security in Australia; the issues raised in *Audit Report No. 19, 1998–99*, concerning the planning of aged care in

Australia; and matters raised in *Audit Report No. 21, 1998-99*, on the costing of services in Australia.

- 1.5 The report should be read in conjunction with the transcript of evidence taken at the public hearings on 28 May 1999. The transcript is reproduced at Appendix D.