



Submissions released for the inquiry into the effect of the efficiency dividend on small agencies

The Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, Sharon Grierson MP, today announced that the Committee has authorised the release of 60 submissions to the inquiry into the effect of the efficiency dividend on small agencies.

Submitting agencies include the Audit Office, the High Court, the Parliamentary Departments, the Ombudsman, the National Gallery, the National Library, and the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

“Receiving this number of submissions shows that small agencies are keen to have their say on how they are responding to the application of the efficiency dividend,” the Chair said.

Some of the issues raised in the submissions include:

- current processes make it difficult for small agencies to obtain extra funding for new policy proposals
- some agencies have increased the use of receipts from the sale of goods and services to supplement their budget
- some agencies reduce their training and development budget to meet the dividend
- the cultural institutions are reducing their travelling exhibitions
- the library network in Australia has concerns about the flow-on effect of cuts in the National Library's budget
- while agencies have implemented innovative approaches to maintaining services while meeting the dividend, they have started to cut programs and services or may need to do so in the near future.

Ms Grierson said, “The large number of informative submissions has given the Committee a valuable start to the inquiry. The Committee looks forward to holding hearings over the coming months.”

The submissions are available for download at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/efficdiv/subs.htm>.

Hearings are scheduled to commence in late August.

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>.