



## **Public Accounts Committee to review *Auditor-General Act 1997***

The Chair of the Public Accounts and Audit Committee, Sharon Grierson MP, announced today a new inquiry into whether the provisions of the *Auditor-General Act 1997* remain adequate in the modern public sector environment.

The *Auditor-General Act 1997* was enacted in October 1997, replacing the *Audit Act 1901*. The legislation strengthened the Australian National Audit Office's (ANAO's) audit independence and its mandate. The Auditor-General also became an "Independent Officer of the Parliament". The Act reflected many of the recommendations made by the Committee in its October 1996 report *Guarding the Independence of the Auditor-General*.

In 2001 the Committee reviewed the Act and several recommendations were made to enhance the Act and ensure the ANAO can continue to perform efficiently and effectively.

"The legislation underpinning the Auditor-General needs to be current and provide the ANAO with sufficient powers to scrutinise the administration of Government agencies," Ms Grierson said.

"The Act has been in place for over 10 years and now that the Auditor-General has also been assigned new roles along with recent amendments being made to the Act, it seems an appropriate time to review the adequacy of the provisions of the Act."

**For more information:** please contact the Committee chair, Sharon Grierson MP, on 0412 291 654 or the inquiry secretary on (02) 6277 2336 or visit the website at:  
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/agact/index.htm>