



Parliamentary review of Auditor-General reports

Today the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) tabled its review of Auditor-General's reports. The review includes five ANAO performance audits tabled in early 2005, covering topics such as customer service; regulatory functions; and contract management.

The review of an audit into the investment of public funds (Audit Report No. 22, 2004–05) led the Committee to suggest a central register of information about investments being undertaken by government agencies.

The review of ARPANSA's regulation of Commonwealth radiation and nuclear activities (Audit Report No. 30, 2004–05) makes recommendations aimed at improving the standards and procedures for regulatory functions; increasing transparency in formulating national policies, codes and standards; and greater sharing of information on uniform national standards for licensing and compliance monitoring of radiation sources and nuclear facilities.

The JCPAA also emphasises the importance of the Department of Health and Ageing providing an adequate level of monitoring and support to its portfolio agencies, after similar issues were raised in this audit as were previously examined for the regulation of non-prescription medicinal products by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Agencies such as ARPANSA and TGA have significant roles in terms of the health and safety of the Australian public.

Centrelink has again been a focus of the JCPAA, with two areas subject to review. Firstly, the *Edge* project, a software system to improve the accuracy of assessment of customer entitlements, was terminated before completion. The JCPAA believes Centrelink should maintain its momentum to improve the systems in place to reduce the rate of errors in its data.

The second Centrelink review examined a series of ANAO reports into Centrelink's major individual customer feedback systems. This report highlighted issues with sample selection processes; limitations of data; the lack of comprehensive costings; and the participation of Centrelink's more vulnerable customers.

For media comment: please contact **Mr Tony Smith MP**, on telephone **02 6277 4284 (Parliament House)**, **03 9724 9222 (electorate office)**.

All Auditor-General's reports can be found on the ANAO website at <http://www.anao.gov.au>

For more information, contact the inquiry secretary on telephone (02) 6277 4615 or for a copy of the latest report visit the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/reports.htm>