



## **Bob Baldwin elected Chair of Parliament's Public Accounts and Audit Committee**

Federal Parliament's financial watchdog, the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) has reconvened following the 2004 federal election. Bob Baldwin, member for Paterson, has been elected as the Committee's Chair and Sharon Grierson, member for Newcastle, as Deputy Chair. The Committee's full membership is attached.

The JCPAA is the Parliament's watchdog, helping to ensure that Commonwealth agencies are held to account for their use of public money. The JCPAA is empowered to:

- examine and report on anything affecting the income and expenditure of an Australian Government agency;
- review all reports of the Commonwealth Auditor-General on behalf of the Parliament;
- inquire into any matter referred to it by a Minister or either house of Parliament;
- approve nominations for the positions of Commonwealth Auditor-General and independent Auditor;
- review the annual budget allocation of the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO);
- advise the ANAO of the annual audit priorities of the Parliament; and
- approve the annual reporting requirements of Commonwealth agencies.

Mr Baldwin said the JCPAA is unique amongst parliamentary committees in being able to establish its own inquiries.

"This gives us significant independence from executive government, which will be particularly important when the government takes control of the Senate in July – effective governance will always benefit from the oversight of independent bodies such as the JCPAA," Mr Baldwin said.

"The Committee has already resolved to resume its inquiry, started before the federal election, into the provision of legal aid services to Indigenous Australians.

"We will also hold public hearings early next year for Auditor-General's reports on intellectual property in Commonwealth agencies, the Australian Greenhouse Office, and the Dairy Industry Adjustment Authority.

"The JCPAA has a long history of producing unanimous reports which add value to government administration and provide fair comment on government policy, and I look forward to continuing this tradition. I would also like to thank the JCPAA's previous Chair, Bob Charles MP, and former Deputy Chair Tanya Plibersek MP for their contribution to the Committee's work."

**For media comment:** contact chair Bob Baldwin on **0419 694 620**.

**For more information:** contact the Committee secretary on telephone (02) 6277 2316 or visit the Committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa)

## **Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit – members**

### ***Chair***

- Mr Bob Baldwin MP, Member for Paterson NSW (LP)

### ***Deputy Chair***

- Ms Sharon Grierson MP, Member for Newcastle NSW (ALP)

### ***Other members***

- Mr Russell Broadbent MP, Member for McMillan VIC (LP)
- Ms Anna Burke MP, Member for Chisholm VIC (ALP)
- Senator John Hogg, Senator for Queensland (ALP)
- Senator Gary Humphries, Senator for the ACT (LP)
- The Hon Jackie Kelly MP, Member for Lindsay NSW (LP)
- Ms Catherine King MP, Member for Ballarat VIC (ALP)
- Mr Andrew Laming MP, Member for Bowman QLD (LP)
- Senator Claire Moore, Senator for Queensland (ALP)
- Senator Andrew Murray, Senator for Western Australia (Dem)
- Senator Nigel Scullion, Senator for the Northern Territory (CLP)
- The Hon Alex Somlyay MP, Member for Fairfax QLD (LP)
- Mr Lindsay Tanner MP, Member for Melbourne VIC (ALP)
- Mr Ken Ticehurst MP, Member for Dobell NSW (LP)
- Senator John Watson, Senator for Tasmania (LP)