

Submission No: 2

1 April 2009

The Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
PO Box 6021
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

Inquiry into the Auditor-General Act 1997

I respond to the invitation to provide a submission to the Inquiry and offer the following comments in relation to the Terms of Reference.

c) whether there should be changes to the categories of agencies that the Auditor-General audits, in particular section 16 of the Act which limits the Auditor-General's capacity to audit Government Business Enterprises

- There should be an amendment to the Act to permit the Auditor-General to have oversight of, and audit, the finances of all Government Business Enterprises, with the intention of greater openness and clarity.

d) any proposed amendments to the Act which would strengthen the audit independence of the ANAO and the Auditor-General's capacity to fulfil his role as an Independent Officer of the Parliament

- Amendments that would fortify the Auditor-General's role as an Independent Officer of the Parliament supporting its scrutiny function are to be commended and supported.
- The traditional auditing oversight role of keeping honest and accurate accounts should be boosted by an emphasis on efficiency and effectiveness. It is one thing to meet auditing standards; it is quite

another to ensure that the taxpayer and the government are getting maximum value for each and every dollar.

e) the Auditor-General's capacity to examine the financial and performance outcomes from Commonwealth investments in the private sector and Commonwealth grants made to State and local governments

- The Act should be amended to permit the Auditor-General, at his or her discretion, to investigate and report on schools and other organisations or bodies that receive government funding with a view to greater accountability and transparency.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B Such". The letters are cursive and connected.

Bob Such MP JP
Member for Fisher