



Appendix A

Conduct of the Committee's review

Selection of audit reports

The Auditor-General presented twelve audit reports in the fourth quarter of 1997–98. These were:

- *Audit Report No. 39, 1997–98, Management of Selected Functions of the Child Support Agency;*
- *Audit Report No. 40, 1997–98, Purchase of Hospital Services from State Governments;*
- *Audit Report No. 41, 1997–98, Asset Management Financial Control and Administration;*
- *Audit Report No. 42, 1997–98, Preliminary Inquiries into the Natural Heritage Trust;*
- *Audit Report No. 43, 1997–98, Life Cycle Costing in the Department of Defence;*
- *Audit Report No. 44, 1997–98, The Australian Diplomatic Communications Network—Project Management;*
- *Audit Report No. 45, 1997–98, Planning for Rural Health;*

- *Audit Report No. 46, 1997–98, Internal Audit (Financial Control and Administration Audit);*
- *Audit Report No. 47, 1997–98, Management of Commonwealth Guarantees, Indemnities and Letters of Comfort;*
- *Audit Report No. 48, 1997–98, Data Management in the Australian Public Service;*
- *Audit Report No. 49, 1997–98, Evaluation Processes for the Selection of Hearing Devices; and*
- *Audit Report No. 50, 1997–98, Restructuring of Meat and Livestock Statutory Organisations.*

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit examined all of these audit reports and considered whether the issues and findings in the reports warranted further examination at a public hearing. In making this assessment the Committee considered, in relation to each audit report:

- the significance of the program or issues canvassed in the audit report;
- the significance of the audit findings;
- the response of the audited agencies, as detailed in each audit report; and
- the extent of any public interest in the audit report.

The result of this consideration was that the Committee decided to take evidence at public hearings on the following audit reports:

- *Audit Report No. 43, 1997–98, Life Cycle Costing in the Department of Defence;*
- *Audit Report No. 44, 1997–98, The Australian Diplomatic Communication Network—Project Management; and*
- *Audit Report No. 47, 1997–98, Management of Commonwealth Guarantees, Indemnities and Letters of Comfort.*

The evidence

The Committee's hearings were held in Canberra on 14 May 1999. The transcript of evidence taken at the hearings is reproduced at Appendix C.

In addition to taking oral evidence at the hearings, the Committee received some documentary evidence. A list of the written submissions accepted as evidence is at Appendix B.