

Introduction

- 1.1 One of the statutory duties of the Joint Committee on Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) is to examine all reports of the Auditor-General in terms of the significance of the program or issues raised; the significance of the findings; the arguments advanced by the audited agencies; and the nature of public interest in the report. The Committee is then required to report the results of its deliberations to both Houses of Parliament as it sees fit.
- 1.2 Upon consideration of the twelve audit reports presented to the Parliament by the Auditor-General during the third quarter of 1999–2000, the JCPAA selected two reports for further scrutiny at a public hearing. It also selected a report from the batch presented during the fourth quarter of 1999–2000. The public hearings were conducted in Canberra on Friday, 6 October 2000.
- 1.3 The reports selected were:
 - **Audit Report No. 26, *Army Individual Readiness Notice***, Department of Defence;
 - **Audit Report No. 30, *Examination of the Federation Cultural and Heritage Projects Program***, Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, and Department of the Environment and Heritage; and

- **Audit Report No. 44, Management of Job Network Contracts**, Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business.

Structure of the Report

- 1.4 This report draws attention to the main issues raised at the public hearing. Where appropriate, the Committee has commented on unresolved or contentious issues.
- 1.5 Chapter 2 of the report discusses the evidence taken relating to Audit Report No. 26, 1999-2000, *Army Individual Readiness Notice*, on the management of Army readiness.
- 1.6 Chapter 3 of the report addresses issues raised in relation to Audit Report No. 30, 1999-2000, *Examination of the Federation Cultural and Heritage Projects Program*, on the selection of projects for Commonwealth funding under the Federation Cultural and Heritage Projects Program.
- 1.7 Chapter 4 of the report discusses the evidence taken relating to Audit Report No. 44, 1999-2000, *Management of Job Network Contracts*, on the effectiveness with which Job Network 1 contracts were managed.
- 1.8 In addition, the report provides an outline of the conduct of the Committee's review (Appendix A). The report should be read in conjunction with the transcript of evidence collected at the public hearing (Appendix C).

Report

- 1.9 A copy of this report is available on the JCPAA website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/reports.htm>.