



## **APS Fit for Service** **2012 Australian Public Service Annual Update**

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit has presented its inaugural report on the Australian Public Service Annual Update to Parliament.

Previously held as a private briefing, to improve transparency, the committee opened up this year's Annual Public Service Update to the public. Representatives from the Australian Public Service Commission, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Finance and Deregulation, and the Australian National Audit Office updated the committee on topical APS issues and the status of implementation of recommendations stemming from the *Blueprint for the Reform of Australian Government Administration*.

Two significant improvements as a result of this year's meeting are:

- a reduction in the duplication of reporting, with the change to annual report requirements to allow agencies to refer to the Australian Government procurement information website, *AusTender*, rather than reproducing static lists of contracts; and
- in support of small business, agreement to enhance the *Australian Government Payments to Small Business Performance Report* with the inclusion of information on the performance of individual agencies.

Committee Chair, Mr Robert Oakeshott, commented that there had been a number of broader improvements across the public service stemming from the APS Blueprint for Reform.

"In light of a few of our recent findings questioning the capacity of some agencies to efficiently and effectively implement policy, the committee was pleased to hear about work to improve APS policy implementation capacity and to undertake agency capacity reviews," Mr Oakeshott said.

"We will now be looking to the Auditor-General's performance reports to measure the success of these initiatives. We will also continue to monitor progress in the Australian Public Service Commission's annual State of the Service reports, particularly across areas such as leadership and diversity."

An electronic copy of the report can be found at: [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jcpaa](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jcpaa)

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