



It's a wrap – State government and TAFE perspectives on national funding arrangements

The Victorian Government, Commonwealth agencies and TAFE Directors Australia will appear before the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit in Canberra on Friday 16 September.

This is the final hearing in a series held for the Committee's inquiry into National Funding Agreements. The Committee is investigating the implementation of national agreements and specific purpose payments which see \$45 billion paid to states and territories.

The appearance of the Victorian Government should build upon what other state representatives have told the Committee at earlier hearings. In its submission, the Victorian Government urges the Committee to reconsider the concept of "Commonwealth money". The Victorian Government calls for greater reliance on state and territory Auditors-General to 'follow the money' and ensure value for money for the Australian taxpayer. The submission recommends that among other things, the Committee: *"focus its efforts on exploring the legal and operational barriers to greater cooperation and collaboration by independent Auditors-General."*

The Committee will also hear from TAFE Directors Australia, the peak national body representing Australia's public TAFE Institutes and university TAFE divisions. As an end-user of national funding arrangements, TAFE Directors Australia's submission raises a number of key issues impacting the sector. In light of the Commonwealth's announcement for a dedicated National Partnership Agreement in Vocational Education and Training, TAFE Directors Australia have proposed and advocated some innovative ideas.

Representatives from Commonwealth agencies such as the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Commonwealth Grants Commission, will also appear before the Committee.

"National agreements and specific purpose payments form a key mechanism through which funding is transferred from the Commonwealth to the States and Territories," Committee Chair Rob Oakeshott said.

"The Committee is eager to gather further state perspectives and is interested to gain TAFE Directors Australia's insights as an end-user, particularly its views on national funding arrangements within the Vocational Education and Training sector".

The hearing will commence at **9:00 am in Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra:**

9:00 am – 9:45 am	Australian Bureau of Statistics
9:45 am – 10:30 am	Commonwealth Grants Commission
10:50 am – 11:35 am	Victorian Government
11:35 am – 12:20 pm	TAFE Directors Australia
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and The Treasury

Live broadcasting through <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting>

An electronic copy of the program can be found at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jcpaa/natagree/hearings.htm>

The inquiry's website can be found at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jcpaa/natagree/index.htm>

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Rob Oakeshott MP, on telephone (02) 6584 2911

For more information: for information about the hearing, please contact the Committee Secretariat on telephone (02) 6277 4615.