

Introduction

- 1.1 The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue is authorised by Standing Order 215(c) to examine annual reports of agencies allocated to it by the Speaker.
- 1.2 The Speaker's schedule of 10 December 2013 allocates the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), as well as other agencies to the Committee. This mandate allows the Committee to act as a scrutineer of the ATO, a responsibility previously held by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA).
- 1.3 In February 2014, the Committee took carriage of the JCPAA's biannual hearings with the ATO, and has since conducted two hearings into the ATO's 2012-13 annual report. The Committee published two reports, in March and October 2014, which discussed the ATO's progress towards pre-filled tax returns, estimating the tax gap, dispute resolution and a number of other initiatives.
- 1.4 On Wednesday 18 March 2015 the Committee held its first hearing into the ATO's 2013-14 annual report. Witnesses included the:
 - Assistant Commissioner and senior staff of the ATO;
 - Inspector-General and Deputy Inspector-General of Taxation;
 - Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Small Business Australia; and
 - Tax Australia Leader of Chartered Accountants Australian and New Zealand.
- 1.5 This report focuses on the evidence provided at the hearing. It includes discussion of a range of topics, including: the ATO's relationship with compliant taxpayers; the administration of the ATO; and compliance strategies. The report concludes by commending the ATO for its progress establishing its strategic direction and the steps it has taken, and continues

to take, to 'reinvent' the client and staff experience and to change the culture of the ATO.

- 1.6 The inquiry received three submissions and two supplementary submissions, which can be found at Appendix A. The names of the witnesses who appeared at the public hearing can be found at Appendix B.
- 1.7 This report, a transcript of the public hearing and the submissions are available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/taxrev.