

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 undertaken by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA).
- 1.3 Since February 2014, when the Committee took carriage of the JCPAA's biannual hearings with the ATO, the Committee conducted two hearings and published two reports on the ATO's 2012-13 annual report.
- 1.4 In March 2015 the Committee held its first hearing into the ATO's 2013-14 annual report and in May 2015 the Committee published its first report.
- 1.5 On 16 September 2015, the Committee held a second hearing into the ATO's 2013-14 annual report to assess the ATO's progress since March. Witnesses at the second hearing included:
 - Commissioner of Taxation and senior staff of the ATO;
 - Inspector-General and Deputy Inspector-General of Taxation;
 - Tax Australia Leader of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand;
 - President of The Tax Institute;
 - General Manager of the Institute of Public Accountants;
 - Head of Policy of CPA Australia; and
 - Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia.

- 1.6 This report focuses on the evidence provided by written submission and at the hearing. It includes discussion on the ATO's relationship with tax practitioners through the Tax Agent Portal and Single Touch Payroll, the ATO's progress with no-touch tax returns, Tax Gap estimates, client service improvements and correspondence, the transfer of complaints functions to the Inspector-General of Taxation, the implementation of strategies to address the cash economy and sharing economy, the ATO's pursuit of wind-ups and bankruptcies as a recovery practice, and transparency and performance reporting.
- 1.7 The inquiry received two submissions, four supplementary submissions and one exhibit for the September hearing.
- 1.8 The following appendices provide further information:
- Appendix A - Submissions
 - Appendix B - Public Hearings
 - Appendix C - Exhibits
 - Appendix D - ATO performance against its 12 strategic key performance indicators.
- 1.9 This report, a transcript of the public hearing and the submissions are available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/taxrev.