
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Report 459

Annual Report 2015–16

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

October 2016
Canberra

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Chair's Foreword

It is with pleasure that I present the 2015-16 annual report of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (the Committee), pursuant to Section 8B of the *Public Accounts and Audit Committee Act 1951*.

This Committee is one the Parliament's oldest and most significant institutions, with a long history of enhancing accountability and improving efficiency in public administration.

As this report makes clear, 2015-16 was a period of noticeably increased activity for the Committee, with a considerable increase in the number of reports tabled, recommendations made and submissions received by the Committee during the course of the year.

Some of the key activities included:

- undertaking 12 separate inquiries into matters contained in ANAO reports, and considering 35 performance audit reports tabled by the Auditor-General in 2015-16;
- reviewing the annual budget and work plan of the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO), as well as re-appointing Mr. Phil Bowen as Parliamentary Budget Officer for a further 12 months;
- reviewing the annual budget for the Australian National Audit Office;
- continuing its ongoing inquiry into the development of the Commonwealth Performance Framework (CPF), tabling two reports in Parliament;
- overseeing the Defence Major Projects Report (MPR), and endorsing the guidelines for the 2015-16 MPR; and

- approving the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Amendment (Corporate and Commonwealth Entity Annual Reporting) Rule 2016, which will now apply to the annual reporting requirements for all Commonwealth entities.

The Committee's work, naturally, was affected by the dissolution of the 44th Parliament on 9 May 2016. I would like to extend my thanks to the former Chairs, Dr Andrew Southcott MP and Hon. Ian Macfarlane MP, the former Deputy Chair Mr Pat Conroy MP and all members of the Committee for their diligent efforts in maintaining its strong tradition of proper scrutiny.

I look forward to working with the members of the Committee in the 45th Parliament to maintain those standards of excellence, and ensuring the proper and efficient use of public resources by the Executive and all Commonwealth agencies.

Senator Dean Smith

Chair

Committee membership and secretariat

45th Parliament

Chair	Senator Dean Smith
Deputy Chair	Mr Julian Hill MP
Members	Ms Gai Brodtmann MP Ms Nicolle Flint MP Mr Andrew Gee MP Mr Ross Hart MP Mr Kevin Hogan MP Mr Steve Irons MP Ms Madeline King MP Mr Andrew Laming MP Dr John McVeigh MP Senator Jonathon Duniam Senator Chris Ketter Senator Jenny McAllister Senator Bridget McKenzie

44th Parliament

Chair	Hon Ian Macfarlane MP Dr Andrew Southcott MP
Deputy Chair	Mr Pat Conroy MP
Members	Hon Anthony Albanese MP Ms Gai Brodtmann MP Mr Andrew Giles MP Dr David Gillespie Dr Peter Hendy MP Mr Craig Laundry MP Mrs Jane Prentice MP Mr Angus Taylor MP Mr Ken Wyatt MP Senator Cory Bernardi Senator Katy Gallagher Senator Chris Ketter Senator Jenny McAllister Senator Bridget McKenzie Senator Dean Smith

Committee secretariat

Secretary	Mr David Brunoro
Research Officers	Ms Laura Johnson Dr Kate Sullivan Mr Shane Armstrong Mr Andrew Gaczol
Administrative Officer	Ms Tamara Palmer