



JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

PO Box 6021, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 | Phone: (02) 6277 4615 | Fax: (02) 6277 2220 | Email: jcpaa@aph.gov.au
| www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa

Parliamentary Budget Office Review 2016-17

Terms of Reference

1. The review panel will examine, report and make recommendations on the scope for the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) to build on the foundations it has established and continue to strengthen its ability to achieve its aims of:
 - a. providing a more level playing field for all parliamentarians in their access to publicly funded policy costings and budget analyses
 - b. improving the accuracy of costings of election commitments
 - c. enhancing the transparency and public understanding of budget information and fiscal policy settings.
2. The review panel will have regard to:
 - a. the PBO's legislative mandate
 - b. the Memorandum of Understanding between the Parliamentary Budget Officer and the Heads of Commonwealth Bodies in relation to the provision of information and documents
 - c. the Australian Government protocols governing the engagement between Commonwealth Bodies and the Parliamentary Budget Officer
 - d. the impact of the PBO's outputs on achieving the above objectives, including the manner and extent of their use in public policy debates
 - e. the views of the PBO's primary stakeholders, including parliamentarians, parliamentary parties, parliamentary committees, other Commonwealth agencies and external think tanks
 - f. the experience of comparable international institutions
 - g. the PBO's resourcing.
3. The review panel will finalise its review by 10 April 2017 and present its report to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit.