



ATO reinvention gathers momentum

Streamlined tax returns, a Tax Gap estimate and new online services for tax practitioners are all outlined in a report being tabled in Parliament today.

The report is the second in a series published by the House Tax Committee and presents the findings of its Inquiry into the 2013 Annual Report of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

It describes the ATO's efforts to become a more contemporary, service-oriented agency and details the agency's move towards electronic interactions with taxpayers and practitioners.

The report also discusses the ATO's commitment to estimate the Tax Gap, which is the difference between the amount of tax legally payable (assuming full compliance by all taxpayers) and the amount of tax actually collected.

Committee Chair John Alexander said the ATO has made good progress addressing the issues raised in the Committee's first report.

"The ATO has clarified its vision for the future and is steadily working to achieve its goals," Mr Alexander said.

"The ATO has confirmed its commitment to formally assess the Tax Gap and has established timeframes for the completion of this work. It has introduced innovative services which better align the ATO with international best practice and make it easier for Australians to engage with the taxation system.

"The ATO's push to reinvent itself has clear momentum and I look forward to being updated on this work when the Committee begins its Inquiry into the 2014 Annual Report of the ATO early next year."

The report is available at: www.aph.gov.au/taxrev.

For media comment: please contact Committee Chair, Mr John Alexander OAM MP, on (02) 6277 4804.

For information about the inquiry: please contact the committee secretariat by telephone (02) 6277 4821, e-mail taxrev.reps@aph.gov.au, or visit the committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/taxrev>.