



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Report 466: Annual Report 2016–17

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Issue date: Wednesday, 13 September 2017

## Public Accounts Committee's 2016–17 achievements

The [Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit](#) has tabled its [Annual Report for 2016–17](#).

Committee Chair Senator Dean Smith said the Annual Report outlined the Committee's key achievements for 2016–17 and shows the JCPAA's sustained commitment to high-quality scrutiny of Commonwealth expenditure and public administration matters.

Through 10 active inquiries, the Committee examined matters contained in 18 Auditor-General reports, a 50 per cent increase in the number of reports reviewed, compared to the previous year.

Themed inquiries into core aspects of public administration were a feature of the Committee's activities, including Commonwealth procurement, infrastructure spending and grants administration.

The Committee continued its strong contribution to enhancing accountability and improving efficiency in public administration, making 17 recommendations to Government and over 90 per cent of all Government responses were submitted to the Committee on time.

This reporting period included the commissioning of an independent review of the Parliamentary Budget Office which detailed 16 recommendations for the evolution of the work of the PBO, as well as the appointment of a new Parliamentary Budget Officer, Ms Jenny Wilkinson, following the retirement of the first PBO Mr Phil Bowen.

Other key activities performed throughout the year included: inquiries into Defence Sustainment and Expenditure; the Defence Major Projects Report; and considering the audit priorities of the Parliament.

For more information about the work of the Committee—including details about new and past inquiries, and a historic look at one of the Parliament's oldest ongoing committees—please visit the Committee's [website](#).

#### Media inquiries:

Kenny Ang, Office of Senator Dean Smith, Chair, Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, on (02) 6277 3707 (Parliament House).

#### For background information:

Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4615 or email [jcpaa@aph.gov.au](mailto:jcpaa@aph.gov.au)

Interested members of the public may wish to track the committee via the [website](#). Click on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right hand corner and use the forms to login to My Parliament or to register for a My Parliament account.

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