



Public hearing on Early Years Quality Fund

The administration of the Early Years Quality Fund (EYQF) will be the focus of a public hearing tomorrow by Parliament's Public Accounts Committee, as part of its review of Australian National Audit Office reports. The Committee will hear from representatives of the Audit Office.

The EYQF was established in July 2013 to provide grants to long day care providers in order to supplement wage increases for childcare workers for a period of two years. The EYQF was ceased in late 2013 and replaced with an alternative program.

Committee Chair, the Hon Ian Macfarlane MP, said that a number of issues raised in the ANAO report on the EYQF merited further public scrutiny, including probity arrangements for the EYQF Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board was established to provide advice on the operation and implementation of the EYQF and included representatives from large service providers that were also potential recipients of the EYQF.

"The ANAO report noted that it was agreed a probity adviser should attend all of the Advisory Board meetings due to actual and perceived conflicts of interest associated with the board membership".

"The Committee will be interested to hear more from the ANAO about its probity findings in this area", Mr Macfarlane said.

The ANAO's findings and recommendations are set out in Report No. 23 (2014-15), *Administration of the Early Years Quality Fund*.

Public hearing date: Thursday, 12 November 2015

Venue: Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

Program: 11.45am-12.30pm—Australian National Audit Office

Further information about the Committee's inquiry, including the program for the hearing, can be accessed from the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa. The hearing will also be streamed live at http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament.

For media comment: please contact Committee Chair, Hon Ian Macfarlane MP, on 6277 4988.

For information about the inquiry and public hearing: please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4615, email jcpaa@aph.gov.au, or visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa>.