



Tax disputes inquiry moves to Sydney

Practitioners and individuals involved with tax disputes will appear before a parliamentary inquiry on Monday 18 August to discuss their experiences with the process.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue is conducting the inquiry and topics likely to be raised at the hearing include:

- whether there should be a stronger process around a finding of fraud or evasion, which allows the ATO to examine a taxpayer's affairs beyond the usual four-year limit
- progress in implementing alternative dispute resolution at the ATO
- whether ATO auditors should state why they are requesting information from taxpayers
- volume and timeframes of information requests by the ATO
- independence of internal review at the ATO, compared with proceedings in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Committee chair John Alexander said the hearing will provide the Committee with first hand information about what it is like to be involved in a dispute with the ATO.

"The Committee is fortunate to be receiving evidence from such a wide range of witnesses, from large accounting firms, small practices and individuals. This breadth of information will allow the Committee to make recommendations that support the fair treatment and respect of taxpayers, while ensuring that the ATO can collect the revenue legally due."

Program Denistone Room, Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club
117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde, NSW, 2114

9 am	BDO and HLB Mann Judd
9.45 am	Chartered Accountants Australia New Zealand
10.30 am	Mr Stephen Madz, tax agent
11 am	<i>Morning tea</i>
11.15 am	PricewaterhouseCoopers
12 pm	Mr Mark Fletcher
12.30 pm	Mr Vanda Gould
1 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1.45 pm	Mr John Hyde Page, barrister
2.15 pm	Accountants round table
4 pm	<i>Adjournment</i>

The hearing will be broadcast live at: www.aph.gov.au/live.

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

For further information: 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>.