



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

**House of Representatives Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue**  
Inquiry into the 2016 Annual Report of the Australian Taxation Office

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Issue date: 22 November 2016

## **REVIEW OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ATO**

### **Tax advisory bodies attending roundtable hearing**

The House Tax and Revenue Committee will hold a roundtable public hearing tomorrow with tax professionals. The hearing precedes the Committee's public hearing with the Commissioner of Taxation and the Inspector-General of Taxation later this month.

In the lead up to Tax Time 2016, the ATO focussed on feeding the results of industry consultation into the progressive project design and implementation of its new lodgement and advisory programs. With the old Electronic Lodgement systems being kept on until full digitalisation in 2017, there is work ahead to inform and support the community to adjust to digital lodgement.

At this hearing the Committee will meet with three key tax practitioner bodies—CPA Australia, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, and the Tax Institute—to discuss how the ATO's reinvention of its services is tracking since the former Committee met with these representatives in February of this year.

In addition to the ATO's progress on new technology projects, the hearing will also investigate how the ATO's transformation is working to increase willing participation (voluntary compliance) and build confidence in the ATO and the tax and superannuation systems.

The Committee Chair, Mr Kevin Hogan MP, said "The ATO appears to have made progress in establishing a consultative culture with tax professionals, with Tax Agent and BAS portals improved. At the same time, according to the ATO, while overall online lodgement has increased by nine per cent this year, lodgement by small business declined. The Committee is keen to investigate with tax professionals how they can grow their client base among small business and what the ATO can do to assist them."

**Public Hearing Program**  
Wednesday, 23 November 2016  
Committee Room 2R1, PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Time	Organisations
4.10 – 5.30 pm	CPA Australia, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, and the Tax Institute

The hearing will be broadcast live at: [www.aph.gov.au/News\\_and\\_Events/Watch\\_Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament)

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