



Tax Office to explain its path to more efficient scrutiny

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and Treasury will give evidence tomorrow to the House Tax Committee on options for more efficient scrutiny of the ATO.

The ATO's scrutineers include the Auditor-General, the Inspector-General of Taxation, the Ombudsman, the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, and parliamentary committees. Complaints about tax administration were transferred from the Ombudsman to the Inspector-General on 1 May 2015.

The Commissioner of Taxation, Mr Chris Jordan AO, has publicly stated that the ATO may be subject to excessive scrutiny and that its scrutineers could be more "forward looking."

Mr Jordan has stated that, over the past five years, the ATO has undergone 51 reviews producing 6300 pages of reports and almost 350 recommendations.

At the hearing, the ATO is expected to outline its proposals for more efficient scrutiny that maintains confidence in the tax system.

Committee Chair Bert van Manen said, "The ATO is an important agency within government and needs to be scrutinised. However, innovation should be supported and agencies are under constant pressure to be more efficient. I look forward to discussing the ATO's proposals with them."

Public hearing program

4.10 pm to 5 pm

Wednesday, 16 March 2016

Committee Room 2R1

Parliament House, Canberra

Witnesses: ATO and Treasury

For media comment: please contact Jessica Reid on 0437 731 858.

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 www.aph.gov.au/taxrev.

To watch the hearing: go to www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament.