



Public Hearing to examine the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement

Parliament's Joint Public Accounts Committee will be conducting a Roundtable Public Hearing into the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) Report No. 25 (2014-15), *Administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement*.

Since 1990, the Australian Government and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have entered into successive five-year agreements, known as Community Pharmacy Agreements, to help maintain a national network of retail pharmacies as the primary means of dispensing Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines to the public. To support community access to pharmaceutical services, the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (5CPA) provided that the Australian Government would deliver some \$15.4 billion in funding from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2015.

Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, said that the purpose of the ANAO audit was to assess the effectiveness of the development and administration of 5CPA by the Department of Health. The audit also examined aspects of 5CPA that were implemented by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"The ANAO found that, overall, the Department of Health's administration of 5CPA had been 'mixed' and there was a 'limited basis' for assessing the extent to which 5CPA had met its key objectives, including the achievement of \$1 billion in expected savings".

"This is a significant area of health administration where the public and the Parliament want to see improved outcomes, and there are a number of issues arising out of the ANAO report that merit further public scrutiny", Dr Southcott said.

Details of the hearing are as follows:

Thursday, 13 August 2015 – 11.00am to 12.30pm (approx.)

Committee Room 1R1, Parliament House, Canberra

Organisations attending are:

Australian National Audit Office
Department of Human Services
Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Department of Health
Department of Veterans' Affairs
Consumer Health Forum

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, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, on 0402579674 (Matthew Hee).

For information about the inquiry: 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>.