



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Inquiry into Commonwealth grants administration

Issue date: Thursday, 23 March 2017

Commonwealth grants administration

Parliament's [Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit](#) will hold a public hearing tomorrow for its inquiry into Commonwealth grants administration, and inquire into the following grants programmes: ANAO Report 35 (2016-17) Indigenous Advancement Strategy, *ANAO Report 4 (2016-17)* 20 Million Trees Programme and ANAO Report 12 (2016-17) the Living Safe Together Programme.

Committee Chair, [Senator Dean Smith](#), noted that grants programmes, by providing funding to external organisations, are an important way for governments to achieve policy goals.

"It is vital that grants programmes are administered effectively, making sure that the Commonwealth Government itself and the Australian public can be assured that applications for funds are assessed appropriately and that there is suitable monitoring and evaluation," Senator Smith said.

Grants programmes are governed by the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines, and the Committee will use its public hearing to explore the ways in which those are applied to programmes and how departments can improve the administration of their programmes. The Committee will also examine how departments learn from previous scrutiny to improve programmes in the future.

The JCPAA is the Parliament's joint public administration committee. The Committee scrutinises the governance, performance and accountability of Commonwealth agencies, and has the power to inquire into all expenditure of Commonwealth money.

The Committee's hearing is based on three recent Auditor-General's reports relating to audits of the administration of grants programmes. The programmes were administered by the following departments: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Environment and Energy and the Attorney-General's Department.

Further information about the inquiry can be accessed via the Committee's [website](#).

**Public hearing: Friday 24 March 2017, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra
10.00am to 12.15pm** [ANAO Report 35 \(2016-17\)](#) Indigenous Advancement Strategy

Australian National Audit Office

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

[ANAO Report 4 \(2016-17\)](#) *Award of Funding under the 20 Million Trees Program*

Australian National Audit Office

Department of Environment and Energy



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[ANAO Report 12 \(2016-17\)](#) The Design of, and Award of Funding
Under, the Living Safe Together Grants Program
Australian National Audit Office
Attorney-General's Department

The hearing will be broadcast live at aph.gov.au/live. The hearing program is available from the Committee [website](#).

Media inquiries:

Chair, Senator Dean Smith, Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, on (02) 6277 3707
(Parliament House)

For background:

Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4615 or email jcpaa@aph.gov.au

Interested members of the public may wish to track the Committee via the [website](#).