

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 12 March 2009

Chair: Sharon Grierson MP Deputy Chair: Petro Georgiou MP

Public Hearing on Auditor-General's Reports

Federal Parliament's Public Accounts Committee is holding a public hearing to review several recent reports of the Auditor-General:

- No. 12 of 2008-09 on Active After-school Communities Program
- No. 4 of 2008-09 on The Business Partnership Agreement between the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and Centrelink
- No. 7 of 2008-09 on Centrelink's Tip-off System

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit Chair, Sharon Grierson MP said

"The hearing is an important opportunity to scrutinise the administration of these government programs.

This is a diverse group of programs that each raises a number of important issues. These include: how we tackle childhood obesity; how we secure value in the expenditure of taxpayer funds, and how we can ensure a balance between Centrelink customer privacy and accountability.

Government transparency is essential to a healthy democracy. I encourage the public to take the opportunity of seeing this process of scrutiny in action by attending any Inquiries of interest to them."

The hearings will be held on **Monday 16 March**, from **9.45am to 11.45am** in **Committee Room 2S1**, Parliament House Canberra. Evidence will be given by the Australian National Audit Office (all audit reports), the Australian Sports Commission (report No. 12), DEEWR (report 4), and Centrelink (reports 4 and 7).

Further information is available on the Committee's website at <u>www.aph.gov.au/jpaa</u> or by contacting the secretariat at ph. 02 6277 4615 or e-mail jcpa@aph.gov.au.

Broadcast:

Live audio broadcasting through http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting