



Committee examines “mixed” administration of literacy and numeracy partnership

Public hearing 12 September 2012 in Canberra

A public hearing of Federal parliament's Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit will focus on the “mixed” administration of the National Partnership Agreement on Literacy and Numeracy (LNNP).

The \$540 million LNNP — a funding agreement between the Commonwealth and state governments — commenced in 2009 and was one of the first national partnerships to include reward funding for states and territories which met or exceeded performance targets.

A recent Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) report (No.41) found that the administration of the partnership by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations had been “mixed”; resulting in wide variability between states in program coverage and performance targets.

The report also highlighted difficulties in measuring the agreement's impact within the short timeframes required for reward payments. The ANAO made two recommendations and identified some broader lessons for future partnerships.

The committee's scrutiny of this audit follows its previous inquiry into national funding agreements, tabled in November 2011 with 15 recommendations. It emphasised the need for reward payments to states to be based on genuine reward for effort.

“The implementation of national funding agreements is an issue of ongoing interest to the JCPAA,” Committee Chair, Rob Oakeshott MP said. “Our previous work highlighted a range of implementation issues which have also arisen in this report from the Auditor-General. Through the current inquiry, we hope to find out whether these issues are now being adequately addressed by government.”

Representatives from the ANAO and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations will appear before the committee in Canberra tomorrow. The hearing will be held on **Wednesday 12 September** from **12 noon to 1.00 pm** in **Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra**.

More information about the hearing can be found on the Committee's website at: www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa under ‘current inquiries - review of audit reports’

Live broadcast: http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Rob Oakeshott MP, on telephone (02) 6584 2911

For information about the hearing: please contact the Committee Secretariat on telephone (02) 6277 4615, e-mail jcpaa@aph.gov.au, or visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa>