



Review of Aviation Security in Australia

Federal Parliament's Public Accounts and Audit Committee is to conduct an inquiry reviewing aviation security in Australia. This inquiry is to provide an update on progress since the Committee's *Report 400: Review of Aviation Security in Australia* which was tabled in Parliament in June 2004.

Members of the Committee will hold a media conference at 10.00am today (26 May) in committee room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra.

Committee Chair, Bob Baldwin, said "we are greatly concerned by recent reports of security breaches at Australian airports".

"The Committee will review incidents since our last report in June 2004, to ensure that the Australian public is not being placed in harm's way," he said.

Some of the publicly reported security incidents that have occurred since the tabling of *Report 400* include:

- **May 2005** – allegations that baggage handlers are involved in a syndicate smuggling cocaine through Sydney Airport
- **April 2005** - the dismissal of a Qantas baggage handler for wearing a camel outfit from passenger's luggage;
- **March 2005** - allegations raised that drugs were planted in Schapelle Corby's luggage as part of drug smuggling operation carried out by some rogue airport baggage handlers;
- **January 2005** - confirmation that three out of four rapid deployment regional aviation security teams, announced in December 2003, will not be ready for deployment until July 2005;
- **December 2004** - Victoria's air ambulance fleet based at Essendon Airport sabotaged in an early morning raid;
- **September 2004** - revelations that many contract airport workers don't have air security ID cards, 18 months after ASIO was ordered to re-screen all ID card holder for terrorist checks; and
- **July 2004** - a Korean Air plane is recalled two hours into its flight from Sydney after the bags of a passenger, who had tested positive for explosive residue, were loaded on board without being screened.

The Terms of Reference for the inquiry are attached. The Committee invites public submissions addressing the terms of reference of the inquiry. Information on making a submission is available on the Committee's website. The Committee will consider all submissions and may then invite individuals and organisations to discuss issues directly with Members.

For media comment: please contact **Mr Bob Baldwin MP** on telephone **(02) 6277 4200** or on mobile **0419 694 620**.

For more information: please contact the inquiry secretary on telephone (02) 6277 4615 or visit the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/

Terms of reference for new aviation security inquiry

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit will inquire into and report on developments in aviation security since its June 2004 *Report 400: Review of Aviation Security in Australia*, with particular reference to:

- a) regulation of aviation security by the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services, and the Department's response to aviation security incidents since June 2004;
- b) compliance with Commonwealth security requirements by airport operators at major and regional airports;
- c) compliance with Commonwealth security requirements by airlines;
- d) the impact of overseas security requirements on Australian aviation security;
- e) cost imposts of security upgrades, particularly for regional airports;
- f) privacy implications of greater security measures; and
- g) opportunities to enhance security measures presented by current and emerging technologies, including measures to combat identity fraud.