



Committee releases report into role of the Auditor-General in scrutinising government advertising

The Parliament's Public Accounts and Audit Committee has released a report examining the role of the Auditor-General in formally scrutinising proposed government advertising, finding it was not an appropriate role for the Auditor-General.

Committee Chair Rob Oakeshott MP (Member for Lyne) said: "By the end of the inquiry, all Committee members agreed that it was not an appropriate role for the Auditor-General to be involved in the scrutiny of proposed advertising campaigns. The Committee considered that it blurred the boundary between executive decision-making and audit review."

Instead, the Committee will continue to work with the Auditor-General to scrutinise government advertising via on-going audits. The Auditor-General has already confirmed he will be performing 'spot audits' of government advertising this year and we look forward to completion of that work."

Mr Oakeshott thanked those who gave evidence to the inquiry, and also the members of the Committee in the previous Parliament (Chair Sharon Grierson MP, Deputy Chair Petro Georgiou MP) who undertook the work for the inquiry.

For more information: please contact the Committee chair, Rob Oakeshott MP, on telephone 02 6584 2911 or the Committee Secretary on telephone (02) 6277 4615 or visit the inquiry's website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jcpaa.