

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT Biannual hearing with the Commissioner of Taxation Issued: XX April 2007

Chair: Phil Barresi MP Deputy Chair: Sharon Grierson MP

First biannual public hearing with the Commissioner of Taxation

Federal Parliament's Public Accounts and Audit Committee is holding a public hearing with the Commissioner of Taxation, Michael D'Ascenzo, and other officers of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) in Melbourne on Friday 20 April.

Date/Time: Friday 20 April 2007, 10.45 am – 1.00 pm

Witnesses: Australian Taxation Office

Where: K room, Victorian State Parliament, Spring Street, Melbourne

"The hearing will be the first since the Committee and the Commissioner agreed in November 2006 that the ATO would, in the interests of greater public accountability and transparency, appear before the Committee twice a year to answer questions about the Tax Office's administration of the tax system," Committee Chair Phil Barresi said.

"These biannual hearings will provide an important forum for the Parliament to discuss key and emerging issues with the agency responsible for the administration of Australia's taxation system," Mr Barresi said.

"The hearings will also provide an opportunity for the Tax Commissioner to outline ATO's forward plans."

The hearing will also collect evidence for the Committee's inquiry into how the ATO administers income tax. This inquiry has particular reference to compliance and the rulings regime.

This hearing will be webcast live (audio only) on:

http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/

It will also be broadcast internally at federal parliament, Canberra, on: House Monitoring System channel 9.

For more information: please contact the Committee chair, Phil Barresi MP, on telephone (03) 9873 8351 or the inquiry secretary on telephone (02) 6277 4574 or visit the Committee's website at <u>www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/</u>