



Commissioner of Taxation to appear before Public Accounts and Audit Committee

The Commissioner of Taxation, Michael D'Ascenzo, will appear before federal parliament's Public Accounts and Audit Committee in Brisbane on Monday, 30 March to explain how Australia's tax system is being administered.

Date/Time: Monday, 30 March 2009, 11 am – 1 pm

Witnesses: Australian Taxation Office

Where: The Dandair Room
Level 5
Parliamentary Annexe of the Queensland State Parliament
Corner of George and Alice Streets
Brisbane

The Committee holds these public hearings with the Commissioner twice a year. The last hearing with the Commissioner was in Melbourne in October 2008.

Recent issues involving the ATO that may be investigated further include:

- the ATO's decision to discontinue publishing its register of private binding rulings and the subsequent reversal of this decision;
- how the ATO is dealing with taxpayers who may be in difficulty due to the Queensland floods and the Victorian bushfires;
- the ATO's timeliness in distributing the Government's tax bonus payments;
- ATO staff accessing taxpayer information without proper authorisation, including the information of public figure Roberta Williams; and
- delays in implementing the Tax Office's major IT upgrade, the Change Program.

The Committee also has a long-running interest in how the ATO is managing employer compliance with the superannuation guarantee.

The Committee Chair, Sharon Grierson MP said, "The Commissioner has extensive powers to carry out the important function of collecting revenue. These hearings are a way of ensuring the Tax Office is operating efficiently yet still treating taxpayers fairly."

For more information: please contact the Committee chair, Sharon Grierson MP, on telephone 0412 291 654 or the inquiry secretary on telephone (02) 6277 4574 or visit the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa.