



STATEMENT BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT PROVIDING A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CONTRACT REPORTING

In December 2017 the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (the Committee) initiated an inquiry into Government contract reporting based on ANAO Report No.19 (2017-18), *Australian Government Procurement Contract Reporting*.

The report was described by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) as an Information Report rather than an audit as it relied on publically available data and did not test 'the integrity of the underlying data contained in this report and, accordingly, does not provide any assurance in respect to the reliability of that data'.

As part of the inquiry the Committee requested details of expenditure on contractors, consultants, and labour hire workers from 29 selected Government entities.

The Committee held public hearings for the inquiry on 16 February 2018, 23 March 2018, and 17 August 2018, and received 59 primary submissions.

The public hearings explored issues such as government entities' use of, and spending on, contractors, consultants, and labour hire workers; the reasons driving the use of contractors, consultants, and labour hire workers, and the impact their use may have on the public service; and issues raised in the ANAO Information Report related to the accuracy of contract reporting, and issues relating to the transparency of the current reporting framework.

The Committee has decided not to issue a report on the ANAO Audit Report No.19.

Senator Dean Smith
Chair
11 April 2019