

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Joint Committee of Public Accounts

REPORT 347

Annual Report 1995-96

November 1996

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Chairman's Review

This report has been prepared as a means of reporting to the Parliament on the activities and performance of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts (JCPA) during 1995-96.

The report covers work done by the current JCPA, which was appointed on 29 May 1996, at the commencement of the 38th Parliament, and work done by the JCPA which operated during the 37th Parliament (under the Chairmanship of Mr Les Scott).

The period July 1995 to January 1996 was an extremely busy period for the former JCPA: inquiries were undertaken and reports prepared on accrual accounting, cash management, the administration of specific purpose payments, whole of government reporting and fiscal reporting legislation.

In addition, the JCPA:

- examined the reports presented by the Commonwealth Auditor-General in the financial years 1993-94 and 1994-95;
- monitored the work of the Tax Law Improvement Project;
- commenced a review of legislation to replace the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*; and
- held hearings on the draft Taxpayers' Charter prepared by the Australian Taxation Office.

In the period since its reappointment the JCPA has:

- presented a report on its review of the audit reports presented in 1993-94 and 1994-95;
- prepared a report on the new income tax assessment legislation; and
- commenced a review of the audit reports presented in 1995-96.

In my view the Committee's reports have made constructive contributions to a range of significant matters in public administration. In particular the Committee's work has resulted in:

- renewed efforts to introduce commercial accounting principles and practices throughout the Commonwealth public sector;
- the preparation of whole of government accrual based financial reports; and
- agreement by the Government to reform the Commonwealth's budgetary and fiscal reporting systems.

In addition, reports from the JCPA have led to many less visible changes in accounting policies and procedures, both within individual agencies which have been the subject of JCPA inquiry, and across the Australian Public Service.

These are significant achievements and I would like to thank my colleagues, past and present, and the secretariat staff for their contributions to the work of the Committee.

Alex Somlyay MP
Chairman

Membership of the Committee¹

38th Parliament

Mr A M Somlyay, MP (Chairman)
Mr A P Griffin, MP (Vice-Chairman)

Senator M Baume ²	Mr L J Anthony, MP
Senator the Hon R Crowley	Hon D P Beddall, MP
Senator I D Macdonald ³	Mr R E Broadbent, MP
Senator S Mackay	Mr L D T Ferguson MP
Senator J O W Watson	Mr J A Fitzgibbon, MP
Senator the Hon R L Woods	Mr P Georgiou, MP
	Mrs S N Stone, MP
	Mr M A J Vaile, MP

37th Parliament

Mr L J Scott, MP (Chairman)
Mr A M Somlyay, MP (Vice-Chairman)

Senator B Cooney	Hon R J Brown, MP
Senator M G Forshaw	Mr J Beale, MP
Senator B F Gibson	Mrs M Easson, MP
Senator B Neal	Mr E J Fitzgibbon, MP
Senator R L Woods	Mr A P Griffin, MP
	Mr C D Haviland, MP
	Mr W L Taylor, MP
	Mr M A J Vaile, MP

¹ In the period 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996.

² Appointed 29 May 1996, discharged 1 July 1996.

³ Appointed 1 July 1996.

Committee Photograph (38th Parliament Committee)



This Committee is the nineteenth appointed under the
Public Accounts Committee Act 1951

Front (left to right)

Mark Vaile MP, Alan Griffin MP (Vice-Chairman), Alex Somlyay MP (Chairman),
Sharman Stone MP

Back (left to right)

Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Petro Georgiou MP, Larry Anthony MP,
Senator Rosemary Crowley, Senator John Watson, Hon David Beddall MP,
Russell Broadbent MP, Grant Harrison (Secretary)

Absent

Laurie Ferguson MP, Senator Ian Macdonald, Senator Sue Mackay,
Senator the Hon Bob Woods

Highlights of the Year

1995	
25 July 1995	Chairman's address to the Institute of Public Administration, Canberra
7 August 1995	Chairman's address on the launch of the exposure draft of the MAB-MIAC publication <i>Guidelines for Managing Risk in the Australian Public Service</i>
26 October 1995	tabling of <i>Report 339, Annual Report of Activities 1994-95</i> tabling of <i>Report 340, Cash Matters: Cash Management in the Commonwealth</i>
20 November 1995	Chairman's address to the Canberra Revenue Law Discussion Group and the Canberra Commercial Law Discussion Group Chairman and Vice Chairman give a joint address to Australian National Audit Office on 'Performance Improvement and Accountability from the Parliamentary Perspective'
29 November 1995	tabling of <i>Report 341, Financial Reporting for the Commonwealth: Towards Greater Transparency and Accountability</i> tabling of <i>Report 342, The Administration of Specific Purpose Payments: A Focus on Outcomes</i> tabling of <i>Report 343, Tax Law Improvement: A Watching Brief</i>
15 December 1995	Public Hearing on the Draft Taxpayer's Charter
1996	
29 May 1996	establishment of nineteenth Joint Committee of Public Accounts
19 June 1996	Referral of Income Tax Assessment Bill 1996, Income Tax (Transitional Provisions Bill 1996 and Income Tax (Consequential Amendments) Bill 1996 to Committee for consideration and an advisory report
27 June 1996	tabling of <i>Report 344, A Continuing Focus on Accountability: Review of Auditor-General's Reports 1993-94 and 1994-95</i>

Chapter 1 JCPA Purpose, Objectives and Methods of Operation

Introduction

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts (JCPA) is a committee of the Commonwealth Parliament. The Committee is established pursuant to *the Public Accounts Committee Act 1951* (the PAC Act) and is empowered to scrutinise the moneys spent by Commonwealth agencies from funds appropriated to them.

To guide its work and provide a framework for the selection of inquiry topics the Committee has developed the following statements of its purpose and objectives.

Purpose

The purpose of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts has remained unchanged since it was first established in 1913: the JCPA exists to hold Commonwealth agencies to account for the probity, efficiency and effectiveness with which they use public monies.

Objectives

The duties of the JCPA are described in detail in section 8 of the PAC Act. These duties can be interpreted as setting the following objectives for the Committee:

- to help the Parliament hold the Executive and its agencies to account for the probity, efficiency and effectiveness with which government policy is implemented; and
- to help increase parliamentary and public awareness of the financial and related operations of government.

How the Committee Operates

Although the Committee has the capacity to determine its own work program and priorities, it is required under sections 8(1)(ab) and 8(1)(d) of the PAC Act to examine reports of the Auditor-General and to inquire into any question referred to it by the Parliament. The Committee generally conducts its inquiries in public, although it does hold regular private meetings to plan its activities and discuss the progress of inquiries.

The Committee is assisted by a full time secretariat, by observers from the Department of Finance, and by observers and secondees from the Australian National Audit Office. The Committee also occasionally employs consultants to provide advice on particular issues.

Conduct of Inquiries

The Committee usually advertises its inquiries in the national media and invites interested individuals and organisations to make written submissions. Almost all the Committee's evidence gathering hearings are open to the public and interested parties can receive transcripts of those public hearings free of charge.

The Committee presents the results of its inquiries in reports which are tabled in both houses of Parliament. Copies are distributed to all Ministers and Commonwealth agencies with an interest in individual reports. The reports are also available to the public through the Commonwealth Bookshop.

Government Responses to Reports

Government responses to reports of the Committee can be transmitted in two ways: either by means of a Finance Minute (in those cases where the Committee's recommendations address administrative matters) or by means of a Government response (where the Committee has made policy recommendations).

A Finance Minute is usually received by the committee within six months of the tabling of a report. Ultimately, if the Committee is dissatisfied with the contents of a particular Finance Minute, it may decide to re-open its inquiry.

When the Committee makes recommendations of a policy nature, a separate Government response is prepared by the responsible Minister. Such Government responses are usually tabled in Parliament by the Minister.

Reviewing Reports of the Auditor-General

As mentioned above, a key element of the JCPA's accountability work is its statutory responsibility to examine and report on audit reports tabled in Parliament by the Auditor-General.

At one of its earliest meetings in the 38th Parliament, the new Committee decided to change the focus of its audit report review process: from seeking written submissions on all audit reports, to examining selected audit reports at regular public hearings.

The Committee has embarked on a program of public hearings to be held every three months at which it will examine the findings of significant audit reports tabled in the preceding quarter. Witnesses from the ANAO and officials from each audited agency will be invited to comment on the nature and appropriateness of the audit findings and of the responses from audited agencies.

As soon as possible after the completion of each hearing, the Committee will provide Parliament with a brief report on the issues and themes which have emerged from the hearings and a synopsis of any undertakings given by either the ANAO or the audited agency.

The reason for adopting these new procedures is to ensure more timely and effective parliamentary scrutiny of audit reports. The JCPA hopes that these new procedures will revitalise, and focus agency attention on, what is an integral part of the process by which Parliament holds the Executive to account for its stewardship of public monies.

Improving Public Awareness of Committee Activities

In a major initiative to increase public access to and awareness of the JCPA's activities, the Committee has created a home page on the Internet. The Committee's Internet address is:

<http://www.reps.aph.gov.au/committees/jcpa/jcpahp.htm>

The home page provides background information on the Committee and its members; details of the current inquiries; advice on how to make submissions to the Committee; and tips for witnesses appearing at the public hearings.

Subject to resource availability, the JCPA also plans to publish summaries of its reports on the Internet from the 1996-97 financial year onwards.

Chapter 2 Reports Tabled in 1995-96 and Other Activities

The Committee tabled six reports in the financial year 1995-96. This section contains a summary of each report and briefly describes other Committee activities during the year.

Report 339, Annual Report of Activities 1994-1995

Report 339 is a report on the Committee's activities in 1994-95. It contains information on reports tabled in 1994-95 and comments on inquiries current in that period.

Report 340, Cash Matters: Cash Management in the Commonwealth

Report 340 represents the findings of the Committee's review of two audit reports by the Auditor-General: *Audit Report No. 22, 1993-94, Efficiency Audit: Cash Management in Commonwealth Government Departments* and *Audit Report No. 10 1994-95, Efficiency Audit, Cash Management in Commonwealth Government Departments*.

The Committee decided to review these audit reports because of the vast amount of cash managed by the Commonwealth each year and the likelihood that any improvements in cash management practices would result in substantial savings.

The Committee was concerned at a lack of 'whole of government' approach to the Commonwealth's cash management and the Committee recommended that the Department of Finance should play a more prominent role in providing cash management advice to line agencies as well as monitoring, analysing and reporting on cash management performance.

In June 1996, the Committee received responses from the Departments of Finance and Treasury, the Reserve Bank and the Australian National Audit Office to the report.

The ANAO's response was positive, although it canvassed only those recommendations which were directed to the Auditor-General.

The responses from Finance and Treasury were mixed: agreeing to some recommendations, agreeing to monitor other issues, and arguing that, in other respects, the Committee had underestimated the complexity of the Commonwealth's cash management operations and erred in suggesting that it was possible to establish objective Commonwealth wide rules for measuring cash management performance. The Reserve Bank also disagreed with the JCPA's conclusion that there is a cost, perhaps excessive cost, to the Commonwealth of holding large cash balances at the Reserve Bank and, accordingly, that cash holdings should be lowered and greater use be made of the Commonwealth's overdraft facility.

Subsequent correspondence with Finance revealed that one of the assumptions upon which the Committee based its conclusion about the cost to the Commonwealth of holding large

cash balances was flawed. As noted in *Report 340*, the assumption was made by the Committee based on documentary material originally provided by Finance.

The Committee remains of the view that the implementation of its recommendations will help strengthen the focus on managing cash resources wisely. Nevertheless, the JCPA accepts that in some respects it underestimated the complexity of the Commonwealth's cash management task.

Report 341, Financial Reporting for the Commonwealth: Towards Greater Transparency and Accountability

Building on the recommendations contained in its *Report 338, Accrual Accounting - A Cultural Change*, the Committee proposed in *Report 341* that the accrual reports of government agencies - including government business enterprises (GBEs) - should be consolidated into an accrual based whole of government report for the Commonwealth.

'Whole of government' reports consolidate the financial statements of government agencies to give a picture, not only of the government's revenue and expenditure, but also its assets, liabilities and resulting financial position. In the report, the Committee discussed:

- an acceptable timetable for implementing whole of government reporting;
- the form and content of whole of government reporting;
- how GBEs should be shown in Commonwealth financial reports; and
- how the Commonwealth should account for its portfolio of disparate assets.

The Committee stressed that Parliament should play a key role in determining the form and content of financial reports tabled. The Committee also proposed a model of fiscal reporting for the Commonwealth and recommended that the Budget be prepared on an accrual basis.

While the Committee has not yet received a formal response to *Report 341*, which was tabled in November 1995, the Government has taken a number of steps which indicate strong support for the findings and recommendations in the report.

As recommended in *Report 341*, the Department of Finance and the ANAO collaborated to produce trial (unaudited) accrual based Whole of Government reports for the Commonwealth public sector for the 1994-95 financial year. These are currently available for public comment.

In March 1996 the Government announced the formation of a National Commission of Audit with terms of reference to examine many of the issues which were canvassed in JCPA's report. The Commission of Audit report, which was published in June 1996, supported the adoption of whole of government accrual based reporting for the Commonwealth, the introduction of accrual budgeting, and the introduction of fiscal reporting legislation to require the government of the day to set and report against clear fiscal indicators. All of these reforms were recommended in *Report 341*.

The Government has indicated in public statements and in the 1996-97 budget statement that it intends to proceed with these reforms.

This represents a very significant achievement for the JCPA. Through its inquiry and report (and an earlier report on accrual accounting, *Report 338*) the Committee has energised efforts to introduce commercial accounting principles and practices to the Commonwealth.

Report 342, The Administration of Specific Purpose Payments: A Focus on Outcomes

Report 342 contains the Committee's recommendations for its inquiry into the administration of Commonwealth-state agreements for the administration of Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs). SPPs are one of the mechanisms by which the Commonwealth provides financial assistance to the States and Territories, usually with conditions attached on how the funds are to be spent.

The Committee's inquiry process involved the Committee and the Australian National Audit Office jointly surveying those Commonwealth departments that administer SPPs. The Committee also travelled to state capitals surveying the opinions of state and territory governments, which was vital, given the joint Commonwealth-state nature of SPP administration.

The Committee concluded that there needed to be a greater focus by the Commonwealth on the measurement and accountability of SPP performance. This should involve the Commonwealth focusing on strategic planning and national goal setting while the States and Territories became increasingly responsible and accountable for service delivery.

The Committee is still awaiting a formal Government response to *Report 342*, even though the report was tabled in November 1995.

The value of the report lies in the fact that it identifies many areas of good practice in the administration of SPPs. The JCPA is confident that the recommendations in the report, if adopted, will result in more effective and efficient SPP administration and, importantly, better service to those in the community who receive SPP funded services.

Report 343, Tax Law Improvement: A Watching Brief

In *Report 326, An Assessment of Tax*, tabled in 1993, the JCPA recommended that *the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* ('the 1936 Act') be restructured and rewritten to make it easier to understand. In response to this recommendation, the then Government established the Tax Law Improvement Project to rewrite the 1936 Act.

Since the tabling of *Report 326*, the Committee has maintained an active interest in tax law improvement. The Committee received briefings from key players involved in the process and in October 1995, the Committee held a public hearing at which witnesses from government, tax and accounting bodies and academia gave their views on a range of issues related to tax improvement.

Report 343 contains the Committee's comments on evidence taken at the public hearing. In that report, the Committee recommended that the new tax law should be enacted and commence in phased instalments. The Committee also recommended that Treasury should implement improved consultative processes for developing and considering tax policy issues. Both recommendations were accepted by the Government. However, the principal purpose of the report was not to make recommendations but:

- to demonstrate continuing parliamentary interest in and support for the task of rewriting of Commonwealth tax laws;
- to provide a forum for discussion of priorities and alternative approaches to the rewrite task; and
- to build upon the momentum for change, by challenging governments to think beyond the Improvement Project to a complete tax simplification program involving tax policy reviews at the State and Federal level.

Feedback provided to the Committee during its review and after the report suggest that the first two goals were achieved. The third, to build momentum for further reform, is likely to be an ongoing theme in the work of Committee.

Report 344, A Continuing Focus on Accountability: Review of Auditor-General's Reports 1993-94 and 1994-95

Report 344 contains a review of 75 reports of the Auditor-General which were tabled in Parliament in the financial years 1993-94 and 1994-95.

As a result of its review, the Committee made 5 recommendations in the report, affecting the Australian Taxation Office, and the departments of Defence; Employment, Education, Training & Youth Affairs; and Health and Family Services.

The report was tabled only shortly before the end of the financial year and a formal response is not yet available.

Review of draft Taxpayers' Charter

On 15 December 1995, the Committee held a public hearing into the draft Taxpayers' Charter produced by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

The draft, which had been issued for public comment by the Tax Commissioner, was prepared in response to a recommendation contained in *Report 326, An Assessment of Tax*, which was tabled in November 1993.

The main purpose of the public hearing was to talk to the authors of the draft Charter to test whether the draft captured the essential elements of the Committee's proposal - that is, that taxpayers be informed about their rights to timely, accurate and confidential advice; to

privacy; to judicial and administrative review; to the presumption of honesty and innocence; and to individual consideration and treatment.

The Committee did not table a report on the one public hearing. However, the Committee awaits with interest the release by the Australian Taxation Office of the amended draft of the Charter.

Government Response to Earlier Reports

During 1995-96, the JCPA received a partial government response to *Report 336, Public Business in the Public Interest: An Inquiry into Commercialisation in the Commonwealth Public Sector* (tabled in April 1995). The response, which covered those recommendations which were administrative in nature, was very positive: 24 out of 33 recommendations were accepted. A theme running through many of the recommendations was that the Department of Finance take a leading role in developing and monitoring the operational and accountability frameworks for commercialised entities. One means to this end was for Finance to prepare a 'Guide to Commercialisation', to provide a central source of advice to agencies exploring the potential of commercialisation. The Guide is scheduled for publication in July 1996.

The nine recommendations in *Report 336* which canvass matters of policy have not yet been considered by the Government.

In 1995-96 the JCPA also received a government response in relation to *Report 337, A Focus on Accountability: Review of Auditor-General's Reports, 1992-93* which had been tabled in June 1995.

This report contained 6 minor recommendations in relation to administrative matters within the Health Insurance Commission, the Joint Coal Board and the Department of Social Security. All of these recommendations were accepted.

The most significant recommendations in *Report 337* were the nine recommendations dealing with the management by the Department of Defence of the new submarine project. The responses were generally positive, although in some cases Defence argued that existing practices and procedures were adequate. The Committee notes that several of the problems identified in relation to the submarine project (such as, the quantum and timing of advance payments to contractors, the recovery of advance payments which have not been used in accordance with the contract, the assessment and management of opportunity costs, and allowing ANAO access to contractor pricing records) have also been highlighted in a June 1996 report by the Auditor-General on the Jindalee Operation Radar Network Project⁴. The Committee intends to review this audit report during 1996-97.

⁴ Auditor-General, *Audit Report No. 28, 1995-96, Jindalee Operational Radar Network Project*, Department of Defence, June 1996.

Other Activities

The JCPA Chairman is traditionally an active participant in public debates on issues in public sector management. During the course of 1995-96 the Chairman spoke at conferences and seminars on public sector risk management, public sector ethics, reforming Australia's income tax legislation, and performance improvement and accountability in the Commonwealth.

In November 1995 the JCPA Chairman participated in the judging of the annual Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants public sector accounting awards.

Chapter 3 Work in Progress

Introduction

This section provides a brief description of the inquiries and other activities being conducted by the Committee as at 30 June 1996.

There was a considerable hiatus in the Committee's activities between the dissolution of the 37th Parliament in January 1996 and the appointment of the current JCPA on 29 May 1996. For that reason, the Committee had fewer activities underway at the end of the financial year than usual.

Inquiry into the Income Tax Assessment Bill 1996, the Income Tax (Transitional Provisions) Bill 1996 and the Income Tax (Consequential Amendments) Bill 1996

On 30 November 1995, the 37th Parliament referred a package of three Bills designed to replace the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* ('the 1936 Act') to the JCPA for consideration. The Bills were referred to the Committee in acknowledgment of the JCPA's ongoing interest in taxation matters generally and oversight of the Tax Law Improvement Project (TLIP) in particular (see the review of *Report 343* above). The Committee held two 'round table' public hearings on the draft legislation in January 1996 in Sydney before the inquiry ceased on the dissolution of Parliament.

On 19 June 1996, the 38th Parliament referred almost identical Bills to the new JCPA for consideration with an advisory report to be presented to the House by 22 August 1996. As of 30 June 1996, the Committee was preparing to hold public hearings on the Bills in early July 1996 in Sydney.

The Bills being reviewed by the Committee are the culmination of TLIP's first eighteen months of consultation, information papers and exposure drafts. The Income Tax Assessment Bill 1996 ('the 1996 Bill') is the main bill of the package and contains rewritten sections of the 1936 Act. The 1996 Bill rewrites only part of the 1936 Act, which will be progressively phased out as rewritten sections, currently being drafted are enacted.

Auditor-General's Reports

As of 30 June 1996, the Committee had begun reviewing audit reports presented by the Auditor-General in 1995-96, with a view to selecting a number of audit reports for closer examination at public hearings in the first quarter of 1996-7.

Alex Somlyay MP
Chairman

18 November 1996

Appendix 1 Committee Meetings and Hearings in 1995-96

General Business of the Full Committee

Membership - 37th Parliament

Mr L J Scott, MP (Chairman)
Mr A M Somlyay, MP (Vice-Chairman)

Senator B Cooney
Senator MG Forshaw
Senator BF Gibson
Senator B Neal
Senator RL Woods
Hon RJ Brown, MP
Mr J Beale, MP
Mrs M Easson, MP
Mr EJ Fitzgibbon, MP
Mr AP Griffin, MP
Mr CD Haviland, MP
Mr WL Taylor, MP
Mr MAJ Vaile, MP

Public Hearings: 3
Private Meetings: 10

Membership - 38th Parliament

Mr AM Somlyay, MP (Chairman)
Mr AP Griffin, MP (Vice-Chairman)

Senator M Baume
Senator the Hon R A Crowley
Senator S Mackay
Senator JOW Watson
Senator the Hon RL Woods
Mr LJ Anthony, MP
Hon DP Beddall, MP
Mr RE Broadbent, MP
Mr LDT Ferguson, MP
Mr JA Fitzgibbon, MP
Mr P Georgiou, MP
Mrs SN Stone, MP
Mr MAJ Vaile, MP

Public Hearings: 0
Private Meetings: 3

Sectional Committee on Review of Auditor-General's Reports 1994-95

Membership - 37th Parliament

Mr LJ Scott, MP (Chairman)
Senator B Gibson
Mr EJ Fitzgibbon, MP
Mr AP Griffin, MP
Mr CD Haviland, MP
Mr AM Somlyay, MP
Mr WL Taylor, MP
Mr MAJ Vaile, MP

Public Hearings: 0
Private Meetings: 5

Membership - 38th Parliament

Mr AM Somlyay (Chairman)
Mr AP Griffin, MP
Hon DP Beddall, MP
Mr RE Broadbent, MP
Mr P Georgiou, MP
Mr LD Ferguson, MP
Mrs SN Stone, MP
Mr MAJ Vaile, MP
Senator the Hon R Crowley

Public Hearings: 0
Private Hearings: 0

Sectional Committee on Income Tax Assessment Legislation

Membership

Mr AM Somlyay, MP (Chairman)
Senator JOW Watson
Mr DP Beddall, MP
Mr AP Griffin, MP
Mr LD Ferguson, MP
Mrs SN Stone, MP

Public Hearings: 0
Private Meetings: 1

**Sectional Committee on Cash Matters
in the Commonwealth**

Membership

Mr LJ Scott, MP (Chairman)
Mr EJ Fitzgibbon, MP
Mr AP Griffin, MP
Mr CD Haviland, MP
Mr AM Somlyay, MP
Mr WL Taylor, MP
Mr MAJ Vaile, MP
Senator B Gibson

Public Hearings: 0
Private Meetings: 0

**Sectional Committee on Financial
Reporting for the Commonwealth**

Membership

Mr LJ Scott, MP (Chairman)
Senator MG Forshaw
Senator BF Gibson
Senator BJ Neal
Hon RJ Brown, MP
Mr CD Haviland, MP
Mr AM Somlyay, MP
Mr WL Taylor, MP
Mr MAJ Vaile, MP

Public Hearings: 5
Private Meetings: 13

**Sectional Committee on the
Administration of Specific Purpose
Payments**

Membership

Mr LJ Scott, MP (Chairman)
Senator MG Forshaw
Senator BF Gibson
Senator BJ Neal
Hon RJ Brown, MP
Mrs M Easson, MP
Mr EJ Fitzgibbon, MP
Mr CD Haviland, MP
Mr AM Somlyay, MP
Mr MAJ Vaile, MP

Public Hearings: 1
Private Meetings: 4

**Sectional Committee on the Taxpayers'
Charter**

Membership

Mr LJ Scott, MP (Chairman)
Senator BJ Neal
Hon RJ Brown, MP
Mrs Easson MP
Mr CD Haviland, MP
Mr AM Somlyay, MP
Mr MAJ Vaile, MP

Public Hearings: 1
Private Meetings: 0

Appendix 2 Committee Expenses

Although the Committee is a statutory body, it does not receive a separate appropriation.

The Committee is funded from the appropriation made to the Department of the House of Representatives. The Committee's annual budget for administrative and staff salary costs is a component of Program 2 (Committees) in the Department of the House of Representatives.

The Committee's administrative expenses for 1995-96 were \$53,348. This included expenditure on: advertising, catering, consultants; conference fees for committee members and staff; publishing; travel and accommodation costs for staff; and miscellaneous expenditure.

In addition, the secretariat's salaries expenditure for 1995-96 amounted to \$402 166⁵.

The Chairman of the Committee received an allowance of \$13 074 in recognition of the responsibilities of the position. The amount of the allowance is set by the Remuneration Tribunal and paid by the Department of the House of Representatives pursuant to the *Remuneration and Allowances Act 1990*.

⁵Does not include allowances for superannuation or long service leave.