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AVIATION SECURITY INQUIRY RE-OPENED

The re-opening of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) inquiry into aviation security should help answer some critical questions for the safety of Australia's travelling public, JCPAA Deputy Chair Sharon Grierson said today.

The re-opening of the inquiry follows ongoing breaches of airport security, and revelations that the key position of Inspector of Transport Security has been vacant since February.

JCPAA tabled a report ten months ago - *Review of Aviation Security in Australia* - which made a number of important recommendations on improving airport security in this country.

"In light of ongoing public concerns about security breaches at our airports, the Audit Committee has a key role in holding accountable the agencies entrusted with the safety of travelling Australians," Ms Grierson said.

"In 2004, over 38.7 million passengers were carried on domestic airlines, and international passenger traffic was over 19.3 million."

"It is vital that these passengers have confidence that their safety and security is not compromised as they move through our airports."

"Aviation security is only as strong as its weakest link, so we must ensure that airlines, airports, customs, Federal Police and security firms are all complying with Commonwealth security requirements."

"As the lead agency in regulating and coordinating aviation security, the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) will be called upon by the Committee to account for its response to incidents that have occurred since June 2004."

"I look forward to working with DOTARS and other aviation stakeholders to ensure that the Australian travelling public gains the safety and security assurances they need."

For more information contact Sharon Grierson on 4926 1555

AVIATION SECURITY INQUIRY: TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit will inquire into and report on developments in aviation security since its June 2004 *Report 400: Review of Aviation Security in Australia*, with particular reference to:

- a) regulation of aviation security by the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services, and the Department's response to aviation security incidents since June 2004;
- b) compliance with Commonwealth security requirements by airport operators at major and regional airports;
- c) compliance with Commonwealth security requirements by airlines;
- d) the impact of overseas security requirements on Australian aviation security;
- e) cost imposts of security upgrades, particularly for regional airports;
- f) privacy implications of greater security measures; and
- g) opportunities to enhance security measures presented by current and emerging technologies, including measures to combat identity fraud.