



MEDIA RELEASE

**LINDSAY TANNER MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR FINANCE**

ANDREW MURRAY TO REVIEW AND SCRUTINISE LABOR BUDGET

Australian Democrats Senator Andrew Murray has agreed to conduct a review of Budget transparency issues for an incoming Rudd Labor Government.

Federal Labor has campaigned for much greater disclosure of Government financial information, and through its Operation Sunlight program, committed to a range of reforms.

Various Senate inquiries have recommended major reforms, including most recently the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee report: *Transparency and Accountability of Commonwealth Public Funding and Expenditure*.

Andrew Murray is a widely-respected Senator with major expertise in issues of financial transparency and parliamentary accountability.

As a Democrat Senator who will retire on June 30 2008, he is ideally suited to review existing financial reporting arrangements and recommend changes.

If Federal Labor wins government, Senator Murray will be asked to review all options for greater disclosure of financial information, and provide recommendations to the Government.

Federal Labor's Operation Sunlight commitments will be upheld, but may be improved or supplemented in the light of Senator Murray's recommendations.

Under Prime Minister John Howard, financial disclosure has diminished while spending has soared.

Federal Labor will turn this around. Andrew Murray's expertise, integrity and independence make him an ideal person to ensure we deliver.

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For further information contact Lindsay Tanner on 0419 881 282