

Introduction

The Committee's inquiry

- 1.1 On 26 March 2015, the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) resolved to inquire into and report on the development of the Commonwealth Performance Framework (the Framework).
- 1.2 The Terms of Reference for the Inquiry were to ensure an effective, integrated performance management system that continues to improve accountability to the Parliament and the public, with particular reference to enhancing the effectiveness of key performance information under the framework, including:
 - performance measures that both foreshadow and subsequently assess the impact of government programs
 - criteria that performance information must satisfy to enable performance comparisons across Commonwealth entities and ensure auditable performance information
 - reporting of high level, quantitative key performance information across Australian government
 - enhancing the effectiveness of performance documentation under the framework, including annual reports, corporate plans and Portfolio Budget Statements
 - enhancing the effectiveness of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* rule and Department of Finance Resource Management Guides for the Commonwealth performance framework

- Commonwealth entity requirements concerning implementation of the performance framework
 - Australian and international models
 - any other relevant matters.¹
- 1.3 During 2015, the Committee held six public hearings in Canberra with key stakeholders including the Australian Government Department of Finance and the Australian National Audit Office. The Committee also received twenty six submissions from interested parties which are listed in Appendix A.
- 1.4 The Framework sits within a larger reform initiative - the Public Management Reform Agenda (PMRA). This report forms part of the Committee's ongoing engagement of the PMRA - with which it has several formal legislated roles (as discussed later in this report).
- 1.5 Chapter 2 provides background to the key elements of the PMRA, the Framework and the Committee's role in the process. Chapter 3 details key issues raised during the inquiry. Chapter 4 puts forward the Committee's view on how best to proceed and also outlines potential future lines of inquiry by the Committee as the PMRA continues to develop.

1 Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, *Inquiry into Development of Commonwealth Performance Framework*, website (accessed 28 October 2015): http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Accounts_and_Audit/Performance_Framework.