



New Commonwealth performance framework inquiry

Parliament's Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) today launched a new inquiry into the Commonwealth performance framework, to improve accountability to the Parliament and the Australian public.

The *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) has established a single resource management framework for all Commonwealth bodies. Establishing this Act formed stage one of the Public Management Reform Agenda (PMRA). The JCPAA has an ongoing role in scrutinising the operation of the Act, with the Committee having previously conducted inquiries into the PGPA Bill and first set of PGPA rules.

Stage two of the PMRA is focused on improving the Commonwealth performance framework, including key performance reporting documents such as Annual Reports, Corporate Plans and Portfolio Budget Statements.

Committee Chair Dr Andrew Southcott MP said that improving the Commonwealth performance framework has been a long-term focus of the JCPAA.

"Noting that the Department of Finance has undertaken public consultation with stakeholders on the draft PGPA rule and guidance for this area, with enhanced arrangements for the Commonwealth performance framework becoming operational from 1 July 2015, the Committee has indicated its support for implementation of these arrangements by this date. However, the Committee is of the view that there is a need for further parliamentary scrutiny of this important area over a longer period."

"The significance of this framework should not be underestimated. Over 180 organisations will be operating under the new framework. Effective planning and performance reporting, and robust KPIs, enable the public, the Parliament and other stakeholders to assess whether resources are being used efficiently and programs and services are achieving their intended results," Dr Southcott said.

"Given that Finance is undertaking a gradual and staged introduction of these reforms, with transitional arrangements in place for some performance reporting documentation and pilot studies being conducted to further refine arrangements, this is a timely opportunity for the Committee to conduct a broad-ranging inquiry into this important area, with interim Committee reports."

"With such a large agenda, we want to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to have their say on the further development of the Commonwealth performance framework, including the effectiveness of the PGPA rule and guidance for this area. We will also be seeking to get a clear roadmap for future changes to achieve the significant aims of these reforms," Dr Southcott said.

Interested persons and organisations are invited to make submissions to the Committee's inquiry, addressing the terms of reference, by 1 May 2015. Further information about the Committee's inquiry, including details on how to lodge a submission, are available on the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa.

For media comment: please contact Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, on 0402579674 (Matthew Hee).

For information about the inquiry: please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4615, email jcpaa@aph.gov.au, or visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa>.