



Getting the rules right for improved public sector performance

The Department of Finance will appear before Parliament's Public Accounts Committee as part of its investigation into draft rules to improve the productivity and performance of the public sector.

The *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and its associated rules will establish a new resource management framework for all Commonwealth bodies.

Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, said that the significance of this framework should not be underestimated. Almost 200 organisations will be operating under the new framework, which largely sets the controls for spending of around \$400 billion per year.

"The PGPA Act and its associated rules seek to reduce red tape, enhance the quality of information provided to the public and the Parliament, and improve public sector performance. This new framework also seeks to build a coherent system of governance across the Commonwealth, establish a more mature approach to risk, and encourage greater cooperation between the Commonwealth and other sectors".

"With such a large agenda, we want to know whether stakeholders have been properly consulted during the development of the draft rules and whether their concerns have been adequately addressed", Dr Southcott said.

"The committee will also be investigating whether agencies are ready to implement the changes on 1 July and seeking to get a clear roadmap for future changes to achieve the significant aims of these reforms", he said.

The PGPA Act comes into effect on 1 July, but the rules (which are similar to regulations) are yet to be finalised and tabled in Parliament. A second public hearing with a range of stakeholders has been scheduled for 7 April.

PUBLIC HEARING: Thursday, 27 March 2014 from 10.45am–12.30pm, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra.

More information about the hearing can be found at the committee's website <http://www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa>. **The hearing will be broadcast live at: www.aph.gov.au/live**

For media comment: please contact Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP (Marion Themeliotis 0413747351).

For information about the inquiry and public hearing: 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>.