

## Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2010

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

#### Outcome 1, Program 1.1

Topic: BRCWG

Question reference number: F67

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010

Number of Pages: 1

Senator Ronaldson asked:

The Working Group considered over 35 possible areas of reform where progress against the objectives relating to improving Australia's competitiveness, productivity and work place mobility could be made in 2008 and decided that 27 areas of reform should be included in the implementation program.

- a) What were the areas of reform that were not included in the implementation program, and why were they not included?
- b) How was it decided not to include these 'possible' areas of reform in the implementation program?
- c) What input/role did the Finance and Small Business Ministers have in deciding what areas of reform are to be included and what areas have been excluded?
- d) Please outline the status of the harmonisation of OH&S laws and the timeframes involved.

#### Answer:

- a) On 27 November 2008 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed the National Partnership Agreement to Deliver a Seamless National Economy. The agreement includes an implementation plan to progress the reforms.
- b) Please see answer to F67(a) above.
- c) Please see answer to F67(a) above.
- d) On 23 February 2010 the COAG Reform Council released its report *National Partnership Agreement to Deliver a Seamless National Economy: Report on Performance 2008-09*. The report provides a summary of the status of progress on harmonisation of the OH&S laws and timeframes involved as at 30 September 2009. Progress since 30 September 2009 on OH&S reforms is reported in the BRCWG Report Card released on 23 February 2010, which is available at [www.coag.gov.au](http://www.coag.gov.au).