

**THE ROLE OF THE COAG REFORM COUNCIL (CRC)**

In March 2008 COAG agreed a new and expanded role for the CRC that, when requested by COAG, the CRC will report to the Prime Minister as Chairman of COAG:

- a) on the publication of performance information for all jurisdictions against national Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs) outcomes and progress measures;
- b) production of an analytic overview of performance information for each SPP, noting that the CRC would draw on a range of sources, including existing subject experts;
- c) the independent assessment of whether predetermined milestones and performance benchmarks have been achieved before an incentive payment to reward nationally-significant reforms under National Partnership (NP) payments is made;
- d) through the assessment and reporting process, highlighting examples of good practice and performance, although not extending to a policy-advising role; and
- e) monitoring the aggregate pace of activity in progressing COAG's agreed reform agenda.

Further to COAG's agreement in relation to a new and expanded role for the CRC, COAG also agreed that the CRC's role include:

- f) continuing to monitor and report on the implementation of those National Reform Agenda reforms referred to it by COAG in April 2007; and
- g) other matters referred unanimously by COAG.

Today COAG agreed further details about the role of the CRC including:

- h) the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP) should provide to the CRC, desirably within three months and certainly no later than six months after the reporting period to which the data relates, the agreed performance information for the CRC to undertake its assessment, analytical and reporting responsibilities;
- i) the CRC will consult with jurisdictions for a period of one month before releasing its SPP reports and NP assessments, but should independently assess whether any feedback from a jurisdiction need to be reflected in its final findings;
- j) that the SCRGSP should also continue for the time being to oversee the content, form and publication of the Report on Government Services (ROGS) and that the CRC be able to request improvements in specific areas of data provided to it by the SCRGSP as appropriate;

- k) that the reports in relation to the new SPP framework (referred to in (a) above) provided by the CRC to the Prime Minister in his capacity as Chairman of COAG be made public; and
- l) that the CRC's assessments in relation to NP reward payments (see paragraph (c) above) be made available to COAG in accordance with the reporting framework agreed in advance by COAG.