

COAG Reform Council: Report on the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) 2008-09

At its meeting on 13 February 2011 COAG agreed to establish a working group ('the working group'), led by Senior Officials from First Ministers' and Treasury agencies, to take forward the key and related recommendations arising from the Heads of Treasuries (HoTs) Review of National Agreements, National Partnerships and Implementation Plans and reports of the COAG Reform Council (CRC) to reinforce COAG's commitment to performance and public accountability. As an initial step the working group will review the performance frameworks of a limited number of agreements including the NAHA, consistent with CRC and HoTs Review recommendations and utilising the conceptual framework developed by the HoTs Review.

COAG agreed to the working group undertaking a review of the NAHA, commencing in August 2011 for conclusion by June 2012.

Recommendation	COAG Response
<p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG confirm that administrative data provided for each report should relate to the relevant reporting year.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2:</p> <p>The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG note the current review by the Australian Bureau of Statistics of the <i>Counting the Homeless</i> methodology, and ask the Housing Ministers Conference to report on options for improving the count of homeless people in Australia.</p>	<p>Noted and referred to the working group to consider as part of its review of the agreements outlined above.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3:</p> <p>The COAG Reform Council recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) COAG agree that the measure for the performance indicator 'the proportion of low-income households in rental stress' be refined to exclude non-renter households, in order to better measure performance against the outcome that 'people are able to rent housing that meets their needs' b) the proportion of low-income home owners in housing stress instead be reported as an indicator under the outcome that 'people are able to purchase affordable housing'. 	<p>Noted and referred to the working group to consider as part of its review of the agreements outlined above.</p>

<p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>The COAG Reform Council recommends that:</p> <p>a) For all relevant performance indicators in the National Affordable Housing Agreement, <i>low-income households</i> be defined as those in the bottom 40 per cent of equivalised disposable household income.</p>	<p>Noted and referred to the working group to consider as part of its review of the agreements outlined above.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5:</p> <p>The COAG Reform Council recommends that:</p> <p>a) COAG agree that performance indicators for the outcome</p> <p><i>Indigenous people have the same housing opportunities (in relation to homelessness services, housing rental, housing purchase and access to housing through an efficient and responsive housing market) as other Australians</i></p> <p>are each of the indicators used to report on the outcomes relating to homelessness, rental affordability, home purchase affordability, and market efficiency and responsiveness, disaggregated by Indigenous status</p>	<p>Noted and referred to the working group to consider as part of its review of the agreements outlined above.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6:</p> <p>The COAG Reform Council recommends that:</p> <p>a) COAG note the issues and suggestions for improvement to the performance reporting framework listed below, and refer them to the Heads of Treasuries Committee on Federal Financial Relations for further consideration and prioritization, in consultation with the Housing and Homelessness Information Management Group.</p>	<p>Noted and referred to the working group to consider as part of its review of the agreements outlined above.</p>

b) **Measuring performance**

Consider whether more frequent collections would be appropriate, taking into account costs and benefits and the council's annual reporting requirements.

c) **Benchmarks and targets**

Consider the development of performance benchmarks or targets for inclusion in the National Affordable Housing Agreement, to better allow the tracking of governments' progress towards the outcomes in the agreement.

d) **Outcome: People who are homeless or at risk of homelessness achieve sustainable housing and social inclusion.**

Investigate the development of additional performance indicators that measure whether people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness are achieving *sustainable housing* and *social inclusion*.

Investigate the development of inter-censal proxy measures, based on new or existing administrative data collections, that could be used to indicate changes in the homeless population on a yearly basis.

Expedite the development of a measure of repeat homelessness.

e) **Outcome: People are able to rent housing appropriate to their needs**

Investigate the development of additional performance indicators for this outcome, focusing specifically on the extent to which rental accommodation *meets tenants' needs*.

f) **Outcome: People have access to housing through an efficient and responsive housing market**

Develop and agree to performance indicators to measure progress towards the outcome that 'people have access to housing through an efficient and

responsive housing market'. This could include endorsing the interim indicator suggested by the National Housing Supply Council for the baseline report on the National Affordable Housing Agreement.

g) Outcome: Indigenous people have improved housing amenity and reduced overcrowding, particularly in remote areas and discrete communities

Investigate possible enhancements to data collections, and/or the development of additional performance measures, which would allow comparative reporting of progress towards achieving improved amenity and reduced overcrowding for Indigenous people in *remote areas* or *discrete communities*.

Consider whether the standard of 'acceptable housing' used in the current report is appropriate, taking into account general expectations of acceptable housing in Australia

Develop a measure of the proportion of Indigenous households living in social housing of an acceptable condition. This measure should be as consistent as possible with the general measure of the proportion of Indigenous households living in housing of an acceptable standard.

h) Reporting of outputs

Consider whether the outputs in the National Affordable Housing Agreement are sufficiently precise and measurable, and suggest refinements where necessary.

Develop and define nationally consistent measures of each output, where this has not yet occurred.

COAG Reform Council: Report on the National Disability Agreement (NDA) 2008-09

At its meeting on 13 February 2011 COAG agreed to establish a working group, led by Senior Officials from First Ministers' and Treasury agencies, to take forward the key and related recommendations arising from the Heads of treasuries (HoTs) Review of National Agreements, National Partnerships and Implementation Plans and reports of the CRC to reinforce COAG's commitment to performance and public accountability. As an initial step the working group will review the performance frameworks of a limited number of agreements, including the NDA, consistent with CRC and HoTs Review recommendations and utilising the conceptual framework developed by the HoTs Review.

COAG agreed to the working group undertaking a review of the National Disability Agreement (NDA) in the second half of 2011.

Recommendation	COAG Response
<p>Recommendation 1: The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG confirm that administrative data provided for each report should relate to the relevant reporting year.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG note the issues and suggestions for improvements to the performance reporting framework as listed below and refer them to the Heads of Treasuries Committee on Federal Financial Relations for further consideration and prioritisation, in consultation with the National Disability Information Management Group, a committee under the Disability Policy and Research Working Group.</p> <p>a) Improving the performance reporting framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To adequately measure progress towards the broad outcomes of the National Disability Agreement, consider improving reporting on access to and outcomes from mainstream services for people with disability, such as education, healthcare, housing and transport. This could include reporting on additional indicators or measures under the National Disability Agreement and/or under other relevant National Agreements, in particular the National Agreements on Healthcare, Education and Affordable Housing. (ii) Review the existing benchmarks and consider developing quantitative targets for those benchmarks closely related to assessing governments' performance under the National Disability Agreement. 	<p>Noted and referred to the working group to consider as part of its review of the agreements outlined above.</p>

b) Common data improvements

- (i) The council supports the increased frequency of data collection via the additional biennial disability module for reporting against the National Disability Agreement and considers it is a priority for the biennial disability module to be comparable to the six-yearly Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.
- (ii) Exclude disability psychiatric services from the Disability Services National Minimum Data Set estimates for the purposes of cross-jurisdictional analysis.
- (iii) Develop consistency across data collection methodologies in all States and Territories for the Disability Services National Minimum Data Set, including in relation to methods of collecting user information (treatment of non-consenting users and consistency in the opt in/opt out method).
- (iv) Review the measures on access to disability services to consider whether better matching between the potential population and the population accessing services can be addressed.
- (v) Consider and, where appropriate, provide comparator data on the population of people without disability or the total population for the purpose of drawing useful comparisons between people with disability and people without disability for all indicators (excluding those which relate to the Disability Services National Minimum Data Set).
- (vi) Consider providing data for a more appropriate measure of the experience of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, for example, the proficiency in English of people with disability and/or their parents.
- (vii) Provide, subject to data quality issues, further disaggregation of the data for people with disability and their carers by quintiles, as measured under the Socio-Economic Index for Areas.

(viii) Develop robustness around data on Indigenous Australians with disability and develop data which enables comparison between the Indigenous population with disability to the non-Indigenous population with disability.

c) Outcome: Economic participation and social inclusion

(i) Add an additional measure of the employment to population rate to the indicator on labour force participation.

(ii) Provide, subject to data quality, further disaggregation of social and community activities by people with disability.

(iii) Consider and, where appropriate, develop additional measures of underemployment of people with disability.

(iv) Clarify how the council should interpret findings in relation to income support data for people with disability—that is, whether governments are seeking to increase or decrease the proportion of the potential population receiving the Disability Support Pension.

d) Outcome: Choice, well-being and independence

- (i) Develop data for the following indicators for which there are currently proxy indicators and/or interim measures:
- proportion of people with disability who are satisfied with the range of disability service options and quality of support received (no data available against the indicator at present)
 - proportion of the potential population expressing unmet demand for disability support services (proxy indicator and interim measure for 2008-09).

- (ii) Standardise measures of client satisfaction within the development and implementation of State and Territory service quality frameworks and outcome standards.
- (iii) Provide further disaggregation of disability employment services between supported and open services, noting the different potential populations for each service type.

e) Outcome: Supporting families and carers

- (i) Develop data for the following indicators:
 - proportion of carers of people with disability who are satisfied with the range of disability service options and quality of support received (no data available in 2008-09)
 - proportion of carers of people with disability accessing services to assist in their caring role (proxy indicator and interim measure for 2008-09).
- (ii) Consider and, where appropriate, develop additional measures relating to the underemployment of carers.
- (iii) Consider development of measures on carers' access to services which capture the entire range of carer-specific services available to carers of people with disability.
- (iv) Provide further disaggregation of data on carers, including their relationship to the care recipient, the carer's age and the age of the care recipient

COAG Reform Council: National Healthcare Agreement (NHA) 2008-09

At its meeting on 13 February 2011 COAG agreed to establish a working group, led by Senior Officials from First Ministers' and Treasury agencies, to take forward the key and related recommendations arising from the Heads of Treasuries (HoTs) Review of National Agreements, National Partnerships and Implementation Plans and reports of the COAG Reform Council (CRC) to reinforce COAG's commitment to performance and public accountability. As an initial step the working group will review the performance frameworks of a limited number of agreements, including the NHA, consistent with CRC and HoTs Review recommendations and utilising the conceptual framework developed by the HoTs Review.

COAG agreed that the working group would review the performance framework of the National Healthcare Agreement, in conjunction with the development of the Performance and Accountability Framework under the National Health Reform Heads of Agreement, with a completion date of no later than 31 December 2011.

Recommendation	COAG Response
<p>Recommendation 1: The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG confirm that administrative data provided for each report should relate to the relevant reporting year</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG notes the issues in relation to conceptual adequacy and data quality and refers them to the Heads of Treasuries Committee on Federal Financial Relations for further consideration and prioritisation, in consultation with the National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee—a sub committee of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council. b) In particular, to better realise the intent of simple and transparent public accountability, the council recommends: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) there should be a strong conceptual framework underpinning the National Healthcare Agreement providing a clear basis for linking the performance indicators with the desired outcomes (ii) the conceptual framework should be consistent with the agreed reform of federal financial relations—a shift from Commonwealth prescription of State and Territory service delivery to a focus on the achievement of objectives and outcomes (iii) within this context, the number of progress measures, outputs and performance indicators should be reviewed and potentially substantially reduced based on their importance to achieving the identified outcomes and objectives, the availability of robust data and data development priorities 	<p>Noted. COAG, as mentioned above, agreed that the working group would review the performance framework of the National Healthcare Agreement, in conjunction with the development of the Performance and Accountability Framework under the National Health Reform Heads of Agreement, with a completion date of no later than 31 December 2011.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iv) the use and structure of performance language needs to be internally consistent within the National Healthcare Agreement, and with other National Agreements (v) once measures are established, data development be prioritised according to the extent to which data are available, accurate, comparable and timely. Further, an assessment of the anticipated speed of change in health outcomes is required, and an assessment of the cost and benefits of obtaining appropriate estimates, to confirm if more frequent collection is justified for those measures which are not supported by annual data. 	
<p>Recommendation 3: The COAG Reform Council notes that, under the new National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement agreed by COAG (with the exception of Western Australia), the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care will develop new clinical safety and quality standards across primary care and public hospitals. The council supports this development, but recommends that appropriate standards apply across the care continuum, including aged care</p>	Noted
<p>Recommendation 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG notes the issues in relation to the performance reporting framework relevant to each objective as listed below and refers them to the Heads of Treasuries Committee on Federal Financial Relations for further consideration and prioritisation, in consultation with the National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee. b) Objective: Prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Rationalise the number of sexually transmissible diseases and blood-borne viruses reported to support high-level performance reporting. (ii) Consider inclusion of appropriate measures which report prevention activity, such as exercise and health eating, and the extent to which Australians have access to education to make healthy choices. (iii) Improve the availability and accuracy of survey collections to report data under the prevention objective, particularly once disaggregated by Indigenous and socio-economic status. 	Noted and referred to the working group to consider as part of its review of the agreements outlined above.

(iv) Improve the accuracy of data on childhood obesity.

c) **Objective: Primary and community health**

(i) Consider inclusion of more meaningful measures of primary and community health, and the performance of the Commonwealth Government in this area.

(ii) Consider inclusion of measures which report on the affordability and quality of primary and community care.

(iii) Improve availability of data under the primary care objective noting that four performance indicators have no data available.

(iv) Improve the ability to report Medicare data disaggregated by Indigenous status.

(v) Improve comparability of data for potentially preventable hospitalisations noting differences in data collection in Western Australia.

(vi) Improve the ability to report potentially avoidable deaths and life expectancy for Indigenous Australians and make cross-jurisdictional comparisons.

d) **Objective: Hospital and related care**

(i) Consider inclusion of measures which report that hospital care is both affordable and appropriate.

(ii) Investigate ways to meaningfully report output data for the purposes of cross-jurisdictional comparisons.

(iii) Improve availability of data under the hospital and related care objective noting that four performance indicators have no data available.

(iv) Improve data quality for key measure of safety and quality in hospitals.

(v) Ensure hospital data are representative of all hospitals and all performance

indicators are able to report data for all hospitals if necessary.

(vi) Allow for more timely reporting of hospitals data—currently data are available for the year prior to the baseline reporting year.

(vii) Develop a more timely and regular measure of cancer survival

e) **Objective: Aged care**

(i) Consider inclusion of aged care measures which report if aged care services are meeting demand for these services.

(ii) Consider inclusion of measures which report appropriateness and affordability of aged care services, and choice and transitions within and across the sector.

(iii) Consider the appropriateness of the output—number of young people with disabilities accessing aged care services—under the aged care objective of the National Healthcare Agreement.

(iv) Improve availability of key quality-related performance indicators—incidence of pressure ulcers and rates of *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia in residential aged care.

(v) Develop rates for two key aged care performance indicators to allow comparisons to be made across jurisdictions.

f) **Objective: Patient experience**

(i) Develop appropriate and timely measures of patient experience to report on this objective.

g) **Objective: Social inclusion and Indigenous health**

(i) Consider broader measures of social inclusion for reporting equity in health outcomes.

(ii) Report socio-economic status at a finer level, such as SEIFA deciles or vintiles, to support a better understanding of social gradients where they

occur.

- (iii) Improve the availability and accuracy of data to report on the social inclusion objective, particularly when data are disaggregated by State and Territory.
- (iv) Improve ability to disaggregate data by Indigenous status, socio-economic status and remoteness under this objective.
- (v) Improve the timeliness and accuracy of data reliant on the National Health Survey and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey for the purposes of reporting on social inclusion outcomes.

h) **Objective: Sustainability**

- (i) Develop measures which meaningfully report the sustainability of the healthcare system and the extent to which it can respond and adapt to future need.
- (ii) Improve availability of data for the performance indicator which reports accredited and filled clinical training positions.
- (iii) Improve the ability to meaningfully compare data across jurisdictions.
- (iv) Consider expanding the scope of reporting for cost per casemix-adjusted separation to include all hospitals, reporting by hospital type, to enable more complete reporting of the efficiency of the health system as a whole.

i) **Performance benchmarks**

- (i) Develop jurisdictional benchmarks to transparently report State and Territory progress towards meeting national performance benchmarks.
- (ii) Develop a measure to report the performance benchmark—within five years implement a nationally consistent approach to activity-based funding for public hospitals.
- (iii) Improve availability of data for the performance benchmark—reduce the

<p>age-adjusted prevalence rate for type 2 diabetes to 2000 levels within 15 years.</p> <p>(iv) Improve the quality of data to report the performance benchmark on the rate of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> bacteraemia</p>	
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COAG Reform Council: National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) 2008-09

At its meeting on 13 February 2011 COAG agreed to adopt a revised NIRA which has been refreshed to take account of recommendations made in CRC reports. Where CRC recommendations have not already been reflected in the NIRA these are to be considered in a review of the NIRA to be undertaken for COAG, by Senior Officials and Heads of Treasuries prior to 31 July 2011.

Recommendation	COAG Response
<p>Recommendation 1: The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG confirm that administrative data provided for each report should relate to the relevant reporting year</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG agree to revise the indicator of the proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year olds with or working towards a post school qualification in Certificate III, IV, Diploma or Advanced Diploma to 'the proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year olds with or working towards a post school qualification in Certificate III or above'</p>	<p>Agreed. The indicator has been revised and was incorporated in the refreshed NIRA adopted by COAG at its meeting on 13 February 2011.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG note the issues and suggestions for improvements to the performance reporting framework listed below, and refer them to the Heads of Treasuries Committee on Federal Financial Relations for further consideration and prioritisation, in consultation with the NIRA PIMG.</p> <p>a) Overall data improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Give high priority to finalising the national and jurisdictional trajectories during 2010. (ii) Give priority to improving Indigenous identification in the Census and administrative data collections. (iii) Develop methods to allow mortality and child mortality data to be reported for jurisdictions with small Indigenous populations (where issues of Indigenous identification are also improved). 	<p>Noted and incorporated in the refreshed NIRA or referred to the working group to consider as part of its review of the NIRA outlined above.</p>

- (iv) Improve the disaggregation of performance indicators by geo-location (including survey coverage in remote areas) and investigate the desirability of providing disaggregations by geo-location for other indicators in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement.
 - (v) Investigate the feasibility of developing a model for an Indigenous index of socio-economic disadvantage.
 - (vi) Consider the appropriateness of the frequency of the data collections for indicator data and the impact on the council's ability to analyse the year to year performance of jurisdictions, taking into account both the benefits and costs of more frequent reporting.
- b) Target: Life expectancy**
- (i) Support the work being undertaken by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to develop a better measure of access to health services compared to need.
- c) Target: Child mortality**
- (i) Support the work currently undertaken by the AIHW to:
 - improve the collection of data on access to antenatal care and tobacco smoking during pregnancy to allow jurisdictional comparisons
 - collect data on the Indigenous status of the child, as well as the mother, in the National Perinatal Data Collection.
- d) Target: Early childhood education**
- (i) Develop, as a matter of priority, a data source that can be used to report against this indicator.

e) **Target: Literacy and numeracy**

- (i) Better understand non-participation in NAPLAN testing by separately reporting absent and withdrawn students, and by disaggregating students by geo-location.

f) **Target: Year 12 attainment**

- (i) Consider inclusion of a timely and accurate measure of Indigenous Year 10 completion rates for use in both the National Indigenous Reform Agreement and the National Education Agreement
- (ii) Continue to develop alternative measures of secondary school engagement to apparent retention rates for use in both the National Indigenous Reform Agreement and the National Education Agreement.
- (iii) Continue to investigate a more timely and informative measure of Year 12 attainment based on the actual number of Year 12 completions through certificate identification.

g) **Target: Employment**

- (i) develop the relevant data sources to be able to report on engagement with study by level of study, and report separately on higher education and vocational qualifications

COAG Reform Council: National Skills and Workforce Development Agreement (NSAWD) 2009

At its meeting on 13 February 2011 COAG agreed to establish a working group ('the working group'), led by Senior Officials from First Ministers' and Treasury agencies, to take forward the key and related recommendations arising from the Heads of Treasuries (HoTs) Review of National Agreements, National Partnerships and Implementation Plans and reports of the CRC to reinforce COAG's commitment to performance and public accountability. As an initial step the working group will review the performance frameworks of a limited number of agreements, including the NASWD, consistent with CRC and HoTs Review recommendations and utilising the conceptual framework developed by the HoTs Review. COAG agreed to the working group undertaking a review of the NASWD to be completed by 31 July 2011.

Recommendation	COAG Response
<p>Recommendation 1: The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG:</p> <p>a) notes the following two priorities for improvement to the performance reporting framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) improvements to the overall performance reporting framework under the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development (ii) improvements to support robust reporting of change over time. <p>b) requests the Ministerial Council for Tertiary Education and Employment and the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (where relevant) to progress the following actions which address these priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) better linkage of the objectives and outcomes of the Agreement with progress measures and performance indicators (ii) the development of jurisdictional targets (and trajectories where feasible) for the COAG targets (iii) enhancements to the reporting of the ABS Survey of Education and Work (iv) the work underway to implement a unique student identifier across all education and training sectors. 	<p>Noted. COAG, as mentioned above, COAG agreed at its meeting on 13 February 2011 that a Senior Officials/HoTs working group would undertake a review of the NSAWD to be completed by 31 July 2011.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG requests the Ministerial Council on Federal Financial Relations to consider the council's recommendations, as endorsed by COAG, and provide advice to COAG on a six-monthly basis on the progress of the council's recommendations and prioritisation for data development across all National Agreements.</p>	<p>COAG agreed at its meeting on 13 February 2011 that COAG Senior Officials would report to it by December 2011 on recommendations concerning the governance and performance reporting framework.</p>

COAG Reform Council Report on Progress 2010

Recommendation	COAG Response
<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG:</p> <p>a) note that the COAG Reform Council considers the institutional reforms implemented under the <i>Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations</i> are an important foundational achievement of the COAG reform agenda, and encourages COAG and governments to continue to pursue the necessary cultural changes needed to ensure that the key features of the institutional reforms are fully realised in practice</p> <p>b) note that, in future reports, the council may examine the extent to which the key features of the new institutional arrangements are realised in practice, and the extent to which they support the implementation of the COAG reform agenda</p>	<p>a) Noted. The Commonwealth and states and territories, have commenced work on a COAG implementation and capacity building project which seeks to encourage cultural change and promote and strengthen key features of the institutional reforms. At its meeting on 13 February 2011 COAG agreed to establish a working group led by Senior Officials from First Ministers' and Treasury agencies, to take forward the key and related recommendations arising from the Heads of Treasuries (HoTs) Review of National Agreements, National Partnerships and Implementation Plans and reports of the COAG Reform Council (CRC) to reinforce COAG's commitment to performance and public accountability. This will include the development of a 'drafters toolkit' for use in development of future agreements.</p> <p>b) Noted. The CRC is tasked to report on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • performance against the outcomes and benchmarks in National Agreements and National Partnerships to the extent they contribute to the achievement of the objectives of National Agreements; • the independent assessment of whether predetermined performance benchmarks have been achieved before incentive payments to reward performance under National Partnerships are made; • the aggregate pace of activity in progressing COAG's agreed reform agenda; and • other matters referred by COAG. <p>COAG has agreed that the CRC is able to examine the new institutional arrangements, and the extent to which they support the implementation of the COAG reform agenda.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG note that, while the COAG Reform Council has identified some initial implementation planning problems and performance reporting framework issues, the council believes that the breadth and ambition of the COAG reform agenda to improve the wellbeing of Australians remains worthy and encourages COAG, governments and stakeholders to stay the course of reform</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

<p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) agree that the COAG Reform Council should work with governments (with input from relevant experts) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) develop a methodological framework for future editions of this report, including how and when the council will measure the contribution that reform activity is making to the outcomes of the COAG reform agenda (ii) explore options for clear and measurable outcomes and a program logic linking the activities of the COAG reform agenda with those outcomes, consistent with principles for good performance management and reporting b) agree that the council’s proposed methodological framework will be submitted for consideration by COAG prior to the preparation of next year’s report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) (i) Agreed. For the purposes of the methodological framework the outcomes of the COAG reform agenda should be defined as the outcomes and high-level outputs set out in NAs and NPs and implementation of the IGA FFR. (ii) Agreed in principle. COAG requests that the CRC provide additional information on what action will be taken following COAG’s agreement to this recommendation. Noting that the working group mentioned above will consider performance reporting frameworks under the auspices of the HoTs Review and CRC Recommendations. (b) Noted
<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) take all necessary steps required to finalise and publicly release outstanding National Partnership implementation plans and the Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plans under the <i>National Indigenous Reform Agreement</i> b) ensure that its commitment—critical to boosting productivity—to establish improved implementation plans by mid-2010 for competition reforms in the areas of transport, infrastructure and energy, is met c) address (through the mechanisms proposed in recommendation 5) the implementation planning issues identified by the COAG Reform Council, with the objective of simplifying and streamlining implementation planning to achieve implementation plans that are clear and accessible, and consistent with the design principles of the <i>Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Agreed b) Completed c) As identified above, a working group led by Senior Officials from First Ministers’ and Treasury agencies, will be established to reinforce COAG’s commitment to performance and public accountability. This working group will progress the work already underway which seeks to build the future capacity of all parties to realise the full potential of the <i>Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations</i>.

Recommendation 5

The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG:

- a) **consider** the performance reporting framework issues identified in this report and in the council's first reports on National Agreements, including:
 - (i) the conceptual frameworks underpinning the National Agreements, in particular the links between performance indicators and outcomes
 - (ii) in the context of stronger conceptual frameworks, the rationalisation of outcomes and performance measures to sharpen the focus on performance against key outcomes
 - (iii) the possibility of improvements to the measures used for both the need for services and the quality of services
 - (iv) data availability and reliability issues
 - (v) a systematic information planning and development process across sectors of the COAG reform agenda to develop performance measures from existing administrative data sets
- b) **agree** that these matters be addressed through the current Heads of Treasuries' review of National Agreements, National Partnerships and implementation plans by December 2010 (to the extent that these matters can be dealt with under the review's terms of reference); or otherwise by the Ministerial Council on Federal Financial Relations, in its ongoing role of improving the National Performance Reporting System, during the first half of 2011.

a) Noted. As identified above, at its meeting on 13 February 2011 COAG agreed to establish a working group led by Senior Officials from First Ministers' and Treasury agencies, to take forward the key and related recommendations arising from the Heads of Treasuries (HoTs) Review of National Agreements, National Partnerships and Implementation Plans and reports of the CRC to reinforce COAG's commitment to performance and public accountability.

As an initial step the working group will review the performance frameworks of the six National Agreements; Homelessness and Indigenous Economic Participation National Partnerships; and the Murray-Darling Basin Water Management Partnerships, consistent with CRC and HoTs Review recommendations and utilising the conceptual framework developed by the HoTs Review.

b) Agreed.