

ATTACHMENT C

ROLE OF THE COAG REFORM COUNCIL (CRC)

COAG agreed a new and expanded role for the CRC, to help enhance accountability and promote reform as part of the reformed Commonwealth-State financial arrangements.

COAG agreed a new and expanded role for the CRC, that, when requested by COAG, the CRC will report to the Prime Minister:

- on a case by case basis on the publication of performance information for all jurisdictions against national SPPs outcomes and progress measures;
- 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;
- the independent assessment of whether predetermined milestones and performance benchmarks have been achieved before an incentive payment to reward nationally-significant reforms under NP payments is made;
- through the assessment and reporting process, highlighting examples of good practice and performance, although not extending to a policy-advising role; and
- monitoring the aggregate pace of activity in progressing COAG's agreed reform agenda.

COAG also agreed that the CRC's role include:

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

COAG further agreed that:

- to assist the CRC in its role, the Productivity Commission report to COAG on the economic impacts and benefits of COAG's agreed reform agenda every two to three years (this overtakes the CRC's current role of ex post assessment of the costs and benefits of reforms referred to the CRC in April 2007); and
- COAG Senior Officials resolve:-
 - (a) the precise final details of the CRC's role in relation to the new performance reporting framework, informed by the work of the Ministerial Council for Commonwealth-State Financial Relations on that framework, and report back to COAG at the July 2008 meeting, and
 - (b) the implications of the CRC's role for other bodies and processes, including COAG's Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision.