



Better Regulation Update – May 2013

Recap

April & May

- **Expenditure assessments:** three workshops held on category analysis and three on benchmarking techniques. Held joint forum with expenditure incentives on 29 April.
- **Expenditure incentives:** held joint forum with expenditure assessments on 29 April. Submissions on issues paper closed 10 May.
- **Consumer reference group:** held third CRG meeting, a training session and several subgroup meetings.
- **Confidentiality:** held stakeholder forum on 4 April. Submissions on issues paper closed 14 May.
- **Power of choice:** held stakeholder forum on 12 April. Held RIT-D workshops on 15 (Sydney) and 16 (Melbourne) May.
- **Consumer challenge panel:** expressions of interest for Panel Members closed 29 April.

Upcoming

May & June

- **Expenditure assessments:** final benchmarking workshop rescheduled to 6 June. Holding final workshop to discuss general issues in June.
- **Rate of return:** seeking submissions on further consultation paper by COB 14 June.
- **Shared assets:** submissions on issues paper close COB 17 May.
- **Consumer reference group:** CRG meetings on 23 May and 27 June.
- **Service provider. consumer engagement:** publishing draft guidelines in late June.

Most of our formal consultation processes on the guidelines before we release the draft versions are coming to an end. But we remind stakeholders that we remain open to further informal consultation.

Our recent workshops have been well attended. Almost 70 stakeholders attended our power of choice workshop on 12 April. At the joint expenditure incentives and expenditure assessments workshop on 29 April there were around 40 attendees representing businesses, industry and consumer groups. There was useful discussion at the workshop which we followed up with further materials for stakeholders. Expressions of interest for members of our Consumer Challenge Panel closed on 29 May. We are now going through the selection process to appoint members for the Panel's establishment on 1 July 2013.

We published our further consultation paper on the rate of return guideline on 10 May and are calling for submissions by COB 14 June. Expenditure assessments will hold a final pre-draft workshop in June to discuss the expenditure setting process and general issues. Meanwhile, the consumer reference group will be meeting in person in Melbourne on 23 May.

Rather than focus on a specific workstream, in this month's spotlight we discuss the policy note we recently released on the Better Regulation program as a whole.

Spotlight: policy note on the Better Regulation program

We recently published a policy note called *Better Regulation: an integrated package* providing an overview of the entire program. We discuss some background to the work, and our high level objectives. We explain each of our guidelines, highlight their interactions, and explain how they fit together in the regulatory process. It's available on our website here:

<http://tinyurl.com/caf3pxu>.

We hope the policy note will help stakeholders engage in the workstream-level conversations with an awareness of our goal to develop an integrated package. It also provides some useful background to the program and the regulatory process for readers less familiar with our work.