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## **PREFACE**

The Committee's Terms of Reference were complex and wide-ranging, and in recent times, 'competition policy' has become an emotionally charged subject.

Nevertheless, the Committee is grateful to the many individuals and organisations who took the time to write to the Committee to express their views or who appeared at the public hearings conducted in the various states.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

To inquire into and report on the National Competition Policy, including:

(a) its socio-economic consequences, including benefits and costs, on:

- (i) unemployment,
- (ii) changed working conditions,
- (iii) social welfare,
- (iv) equity,
- (v) social dislocation, and
- (vi) environmental impacts;

(b) the impact on urban and rural and regional communities;

(c) its relationship with other micro-economic reform policies; and

(d) clarification of the definition of public interest and its role in the National Competition process.