

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: F163

Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. The *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* commences on 1 July 2014 – can you please provide an update on the progress of implementing the legislation?
2. Is the 1 July 2014 start date still on track?
3. Is there anything that would prevent the Act from commencing on 1 July 2014?
4. How does the Commission of Audit's work interact with the implementation process for the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*?

Answer:

1. Finance has undertaken an extensive program of consultation and communication with Commonwealth agencies and key stakeholders in developing the rules, guidance and training required to implement the legislation.

Training and information sessions for Commonwealth entities have been delivered in Sydney and Melbourne through February and March and are currently being delivered in Canberra. Further training modules will be provided in the lead up to 1 July 2014.

In the lead up to 1 July 2014, FMA Act agencies and CAC Act bodies will not have to make significant structural, system or process changes to prepare for the start of PGPA Act. The primary task will be to review and update the sources of authorities for internal controls and financial delegations within the entity by 1 July 2014.

The Joint Committee on Public Accounts and Audit is holding public hearings on Thursday 27 March (Finance only) and Monday 7 April as part of an inquiry into the PGPA rules.

Finance's submissions provide:

- draft PGPA rules and supporting guidance
- draft guidance on the general duties of accountable authorities and officials
- draft Resource Management Instructions (similar to the current model CEIs).

These documents are available on the PMRA website and the JCPAA website.

2. Yes.
3. The current JCPAA inquiry into the PGPA Rules development and passage of the PGPA Consequential and Transitional Bill 2014 are the remaining events to facilitate commencement on 1 July 2014.
4. The implementation process for the PGPA Act has been in train for some time and the Commission of Audit is aware of progress.