

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

ESTIMATES BRIEF - Hot Issue

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
Budget Estimates – October 2014

PROGRESS TOWARDS JOINING THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

Issue:

Australia's progress towards joining the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and developing a National Action Plan

Key Facts:

- The Government is currently assessing the value of joining the Open Government Partnership.
- Australia has a long history of openness with a number of mechanisms supporting transparency such as *data.gov.au*, which provides access to nearly 4,000 Commonwealth, state and territory datasets; and AusTender, a centralised publication of opportunities for business to provide goods and services to the Government as well as reporting contracts awarded.
- The Open Government Partnership (OGP) has established an Open Government Guide which contains 162 specific recommendations covering 19 different topics, such as open data and open contracting. Australia is already either partially or substantially compliant with more than 75% of the OGP recommendations.
- While the Government considers its membership with the OGP, it remains committed to delivering its eGovernment and Digital Economy Policy agenda.
- This agenda provides tangible benefits to all Australians, including improved online service design and delivery, greater digital literacy, more access to government data, and an ICT Project Dashboard to keep projects on time and budget.

Background:

- The Open Government Partnership was launched in 2011 to provide an international platform for governments to be more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens. There are now 65 participating countries:
 - Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovak Republic, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay.
- To finalise membership for the Open Government Partnership, Australia needs to:
 - Endorse the Declaration of Open Government;
 - Develop a public consulted national action plan; and
 - Agree to independent reporting of progress.
- The National Action Plan needs to be developed with public consultation and contain three core elements:
 - An introduction about what open government means for Australia;
 - The Australian history and progress of open government; and
 - A list of commitments to progress open government in Australia.
- Finance has commenced drafting a national action plan which is scheduled for completion in December 2014 and will take into account the Government's e-government and digital economy agenda.

Date: 17 October 2014
Cleared by (SES): Jan Mason
Telephone No: 02 6215 3504
Group/Branch: BPAM/Technology and Procurement Division
Contact Officer: Yvette Sims
Telephone No: 02 6215 2970
Consultation: N/A