

## PREFACE

This report was prepared by the Commonwealth Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) on Quasi-regulation.

The IDC on Quasi-regulation was established in response to concerns raised in the 1996 report of the Small Business Deregulation Taskforce about inadequate review and scrutiny of quasi-regulation in Australia. In March 1997, the Prime Minister, in his statement *More Time for Business*, announced that a Commonwealth interdepartmental committee would be established to inquire into:

- the extent of quasi-regulation;
- the circumstances in which quasi-regulation is a viable alternative to government regulation;
- essential features of successful quasi-regulation; and
- processes for monitoring and reviewing quasi-regulation to ensure that it is current, effective and efficient.

The interdepartmental committee was chaired by the Office of Regulation Review — part of the Productivity Commission — and consisted of representatives of the following departments and agencies:

Attorney-General's Department  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
Department of Industry, Science and Tourism  
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet  
Department of Workplace Relations and Small Business  
Treasury

The report was presented to the Assistant Treasurer on 19 December 1997.

The Government's decisions in response to this report will be embodied in a revised edition of the Office of Regulation Review publication *A Guide to Regulation*.