

POLICY AND RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PRAC)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Policy and Research Advisory Committee of the Standing Committee of Officials of Consumer Affairs (SCOCA) will:

- Maintain awareness of domestic and international consumer and market issues and developments so as to inform consumer policy development and implementation and specifically:
 - develop and maintain a national consumer policy research agenda;
 - coordinate with SCOCA and the other SCOCA Advisory Committees to undertake research and consultation to inform consumer policy development and implementation by SCOCA; and
 - develop and implement an ongoing process of evaluation for Australia’s national consumer law and enforcement framework.
- Articulate the benefits of rational, robust and effective consumer policy, consistent with SCOCA’s objectives and in consultation with SCOCA’s other Advisory Committees.
- Advise SCOCA on consumer law and consumer policy issues with specific reference to:
 - the future development of the Australian Consumer Law;
 - the review, rationalisation and harmonisation of other national, state and territory consumer laws, including sector-specific consumer laws, consistent with the Australian Consumer Law;
 - consumer policy elements of other COAG-agreed reforms;
 - other emerging consumer policy issues; and
 - the alignment of consumer policy and legislation between Australia and New Zealand,

consistent with SCOCA’s consumer policy making framework and in consultation with SCOCA’s other Advisory Committees.