

INTRODUCTION

This publication is the lead volume for a series which the Management and Training Services Division is producing on the subject of Public Service Management: Strategies for Improvement. So far, we have published country profiles of Canada, Malaysia, Malta, New Zealand, Trinidad & Tobago and the United Kingdom. In addition, a number of round tables, workshops, advisory missions, training programmes, and conferences were organised, including the Inaugural Conference of the Commonwealth Association of Public Administration and Management held in Charlottetown, Canada, all of which enabled officials from throughout the Commonwealth to meet, share experiences, and learn from one another.

This lead publication, Commonwealth Strategies for Reform, develops a framework for the management of public service reforms, based on successful innovations and practical strategies which have been developed and implemented across the Commonwealth.

The first section highlights the pressures that Commonwealth countries have faced which have triggered public service reforms and have led to fundamental changes in the role of the government in the management of socio-economic activities. The two sections that follow aim to draw out the common strategic approaches across the Commonwealth and provide a framework for public service reform focusing on practical solutions. These are followed by seven practical action strategies which have been widely deployed in improving the management of public services within the Commonwealth countries.

The final section identifies the critical challenges, within and outside the public service, which must be addressed in order to sustain public service reform and underpin accountable administration for just and honest government.

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