

Newsletter No 19

December 2008

Emeritus Faculty

Australian National University



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A message from Ian Chubb AC Vice-Chancellor

PARKING

I have now had the opportunity to consider a report on the comments made in response to my email of 13 October 2008.

There were over 100 responses on a variety of issues. In addition, 450 people-staff, students and others, wrote to object to the possible use of a part of Fellows Oval as a temporary car-park.

Thank you for taking the time to write - many of your responses were constructive, some appeared to be based on a misunderstanding of the role of Campus Planning Committee - or a misreading of my email, or both; just a couple were offensive.

Fellows Oval. I readily acknowledge and respect the concerns of staff and students who wish to preserve the beauty of the campus and in particular Fellows Oval; as a staff member of ANU, I also am concerned about the amenity of the ANU.

It has not been my intention, secret or otherwise, ever to use all of Fellows Oval, even temporarily, as a car-park. Nor was it ever my intention to use even part of it on a permanent basis. Whatever proposal once went to the Campus Planning Committee,

this Committee is advisory to me. Sometimes I accept the advice and sometimes I don't.

We will not pursue the Fellows Oval option at this stage - although it should also be understood that there was support for the temporary use of a (small) part of the Oval. This means that one of the existing car-parks adjacent to Sullivans Creek will become contractor parking during 2009; there will therefore be less car-parking available generally. I know that those charged with administering the car-parking on campus, the front office and security staff, are a little anxious about what might eventuate early next year. I am sure that they will not have to contend with any angry or abusive behaviour.

Taking account of the submissions, we will:

1. Renew the existing Transport Reference Group, with Terms of Reference and membership that will allow full consideration of the various views expressed in response to my earlier email;
2. Hire consultants to review car-parking. They will also be asked to comment on transport on, and to, the ANU campus. They will advise on car-parking fees, the costs and possible location of multi-story

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car-parking on campus; and advise me on the relevant matters through the Transport Reference Group.

3. Consider and where appropriate immediately implement alternative transport initiatives. These could include negotiating better public transport access with the ACT government, additional secure bicycle facilities, more motor cycle spaces, expansion of cross-campus cycle options and a commuter park-and-ride shuttle bus system.

Bradley Report

A later comment by the Vice-Chancellor on the Bradley Report can be read here: <http://news.anu.edu.au/?p=892>

Obituary Denis John Carr 15 December 1915 – 19 July 2008

Denis Carr, Emeritus Professor in the Australian National University, died on 19 July 2008, aged 92. He fell in his home in Canberra, and passed away just three days later, having retained his independence, lovely sense of humour and great erudition until the end.

He was a Foundation Professor of plant science in the ANU Research School of Biological Sciences from 1968 to his retirement in 1980, and previously Head of the Department of Botany in The Queens University of Belfast (1960-7) and a Senior Lecturer and Reader in Melbourne University (1953-1960). His undergraduate studies at Manchester University (1946-9) earned him a 1st Class Honours degree, after which he combined lecturing duties with a PhD project (1949-53).

His wife Maisie (Stella G. M. Fawcett), whom he had met and married in Melbourne, was famous for her pioneering research on the effect of grazing on the ecology of the Victorian High Plains. After her death in 1988* he wrote a detailed

memoir about his early life and wartime experiences, revealing much that few, if any, of even his closest colleagues had known. His account is a testament to his extraordinary ability to recall people, events, scenes, songs, poetry, folklore and other aspects of his life, just as in his academic career he used to astonish colleagues with his total recall of the research literature and history of plant science.

His ancestry was Irish, and he wrote that his grandfather disappeared from Kilkenny to avoid punishment - even possible transportation - for poaching a salmon. His grandmother moved to England, where his father found work as a miner in a North Staffordshire pit, working long hours underground from age nine until he was over 70. His father was well read, literate and numerate and keen for his children to be well-educated, though he had never attended school himself. Denis' own schooling was not propitious and his final results were not good enough for university entrance. He became a clerk, a dull job that he held for eight years until he was conscripted into the Royal Air Force in 1940. During that time he worked in the evenings in the North Staffordshire Technical College to gain a London University external BSc by correspondence. This was of little value at the time, but later was to prove crucial.

He was reticent about his war, and only in his 80s did he recount some of his experiences, initially as an aircraft fitter, later as a trainer, then, having found this monumentally boring, as a volunteer in an Air Force Commando unit, eventually going to Sicily, taking part in the Salerno landings, and suffering many dramatic and traumatic episodes. One such was a severe bout of malaria, during which he emerged from unconsciousness to hear medical orderlies discussing whether he should be given water: "Don't bother", one said, "He's not going to survive anyway". He did survive, and returned to his dull pre-war clerking job. He was now in competition with hordes of ex-servicemen, all looking for a better life, but his pre-war BSc gave him an edge, entitling him to apply for a further-education scholarship. He became an undergraduate in Manchester University, aged 30, a belated start to his academic career. His schoolboy

* Obituary: "RSBS loses foundation member", ANU Reporter October 1988

interest in natural history led him to choose zoology, but at the end of his first year he was persuaded by Professor Eric Ashby (pre-war Professor of Botany in Sydney University and later Baron Ashby) to take up botany instead.

His undergraduate years must have been ferociously competitive, indeed with hindsight this may have been very character-forming. At least four other future Professors of plant science in the UK were among his fellow mature-age classmates. Nevertheless Denis prevailed, winning a succession of prizes and awards and emerging with a First Class Honours degree in Botany. At that time it was possible for a bright graduate to combine lecturing duties with a PhD project. Ashby persuaded him that this was a promising career path and appointed him to a Junior Lectureship in Ecology. He started research on the control of flowering by daylength and won a scholarship that took him to a well-equipped lab in a Max Planck Institute in Tübingen. There he met many senior German scientists, learned German fluently enough to be able, much later, to give lectures in it as a Visiting Professor in Berlin. He also acquired a deep knowledge of classical European literature – which is one reason why the ANU library is so well-endowed with historical books and journals in plant science: he later served as Chair of its Library Committee and helped to build its collections.

Denis continued his research on flowering during his stay in Melbourne, and supervised many students who subsequently rose to senior positions. Perhaps because he felt driven to succeed by his late start in academia he worked excessively long hours in course-preparation and research. At one stage he designed a long-term experiment that was so demanding that an imminent nervous breakdown forced him to abandon it. He had risen to a Readership and had been awarded an Honorary Master of Science degree when a chance meeting at a conference led him to apply for the Chair of Botany in Belfast. His impact there was immense. By the end of his seven year stay the department had grown under his energetic championship to be one of the

best equipped in the UK, and he had propelled another crop of staff and students towards advancement in the field.

In ANU he recapitulated his history of department-building, in this case from scratch in the new Research School of Biological Sciences, and yet again he focussed on equipping and nurturing his staff and students. Long afterwards in retirement he said that helping others had given him his greatest satisfaction, and it is undoubtedly true that many can look back with gratitude on his intellectual and practical help, and his untiring work in creating opportunities to further their careers. It is easy to count at least ten Fellows of the Australian Academy of Science and Fellows of the Royal Society who benefited, to greater or lesser degree, from having come under his positive (sometimes forthright!) stimulation. To one of his early colleagues he was “a pioneer who encouraged students to achieve great heights, while standing back in the shadows himself, looking for new areas in which to inspire others to make a move”. He described himself as a generalist, which, as he realised full well, meant that he did not concentrate for sufficiently long to become recognised as *the* world leader in any one area. Regrettably this, and perhaps what Maisie called his propensity to “blow-up”, which did not endear him to everyone, probably resulted in academic honours going to those he had influenced, rather than to him.

His researches were original, significant and wide-ranging. In Manchester he had been among the first to find evidence for a “flowering hormone”. Continuing this line in Melbourne University he established and used the first facility in Australia for growing plants in controlled daylength and temperature regimes, and in Belfast he succeeded in obtaining active extracts which could induce flowering in vegetative plants

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and interact with a class of plant hormones, the gibberellins. Only in recent years with the advent of new molecular approaches are the details of these phenomena being fleshed out. Other projects included the distribution of water in leaves and its influence on drought tolerance, the

physiology of seed-filling and germination, the sources and transport from root-to-shoot and from cell-to-cell of plant hormones, and their mode of action – this latter area involving pioneering studies of how genes function in plant development, an area which, with great foresight, he selected as a focal activity for his new department in ANU. In parallel with these physiological and biochemical projects he collaborated with Maisie in long-term studies of *Eucalyptus*, compiling vast amounts of data on morphology, anatomy, ultrastructure, germination and history, leading to new understanding of taxonomic relationships and evolution within the genus.

Along the way he made many contributions in administration and teaching. He served as Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor in ANU, as Acting Director of his Research School, was a Visiting Professor in Berlin and Harvard, gave numerous lectures in many countries, including a scholarly and passionate advocacy of fundamental research using as its title the ANU motto (translated as “First Know the Nature of Things”). His books (with Maisie) on “People and Plants in Australia” and “Plants and Man in Australia” (Academic Press, 1981) are wonderful social histories related to utilisation of plants. Other books concerned *Eucalyptus*, plant hormones and plant development. One of his most beautiful (and challenging to produce) volumes was on “Sydney Parkinson, Artist of Cook’s Endeavour Voyage” – possibly the last book to come from the ANU Press (1983). After retirement he continued to publish on taxonomy of *Eucalyptus* and descriptions of new-to-science bryophytes which he and Maisie had collected in their Melbourne days. His last major work, at age 89, was “A Book for Maisie”, a compilation of letters and reminiscences in honour of his wife, and his last paper, one year later, was as co-author of a biography of a Polish scientist who in the 1880s had made the first observations on the structural basis of intercellular communication in plants. Aside from these academic achievements his accomplishments as a gifted pianist, a fascinating and witty raconteur, bibliophile, talented linguist and historian deserve much more space than can be given here.

He claimed that he had had a fortunate life. It was also long, eventful, influential and productive, and it was a shame that its academic phase started so late. The ANU motto “Naturam primum cognoscere rerum” would be an apt epitaph, and the quotation “When an old man dies it is like a library burning to the ground” could well have been written for him. He lives on in those whom he helped. I was one of them, and I will always be grateful, and will treasure memories of a truly charismatic, supremely gifted and generous man.

Brian Gunning
Research School of Biological Sciences,
Australian National University

The Chair’s Report to the Emeritus Faculty AGM

First I extend my thanks to the Committee for their time and generosity. Each member gave significant service to the Faculty.

PROJECTS

1. Incorporation

At the 2007 AGM we agreed to incorporate under the ACT Associations Incorporation Ordinance. It was a long and complicated journey which it is not necessary to describe here as I can report to you that the incorporation has been accepted by the ANU and the ACT authorities and is now before the Minister for his final seal of approval. Most of the hard work in this project was done by Peter Stewart with assistance from Peter Scardon. We are indebted to both of them for what they have done. It was not an easy job. We are also indebted to the ANU Legal Officers, especially to Catherine Hynes, as well as the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Mandy Thomas, who ensured that our new Constitution proved acceptable to the University.

2. Our New Brochure

We now have a brochure which is displayed at the front door and is being distributed all

over the University. The Human Resources Division is using it in their mail-outs to people who are approaching retirement. The Colleges are helping in the distribution, and our own members have been asked to send it to friends. We can thank Judith Caton for this work. She has done a splendid job.

3. Oral History Project

Peter Stewart, with the technical assistance of Nik Fominas, has worked persistently and diligently on this Project which has assumed both important and massive proportions. Ken Campbell, Adrian Gibbs, Jack Golson, David Craig, Frank Fenner, John Molony, Barry Ninham and Beryl Rawson have been interviewed – all at considerable length and in some instances amounting to over four hours. The arduous task of editing and compiling the individual interviews is currently being undertaken.

To our delight we discovered that about fifty individual members of staff had been interviewed some years ago and the resulting material is held by the University Archives. The equally arduous task of transferring this material into a more lasting format from old floppy disks has been undertaken by the Emeritus Faculty for the Archives where they will be held.

4. ANUEF Eastern Australia project

We are considering taking a step towards a larger project which will begin by attempting to make an authoritative judgment on who charted the east coast before James Cook – if anyone. At least one ANUEF member, Keith Crook, is interested and it should be possible to gather a team together to carry out this investigation. The Committee has approved of the concept and noted that it might develop into a Colloquium at some point in the future.

5 Preservation of Artefacts

We have been considering the matter of preserving artefacts held within the university which has still to be addressed. The Committee agreed that this is not a

local problem in fact it is a national problem. The Committee has agreed that the Chair should write to Professor Kurt Lambeck, President of the Australian Academy of Science and Penny Sackett, the Chief Scientist, seeking their involvement in finding a solution to the issue.

6. Excursion to Kioloa

We met again at Kioloa on 21-23 November. This excursion was also organised by Judith Caton and Mike Rickard and it was most enjoyable by all accounts.

7. ANUEF Web Site

More improvements have been made to the ANUEF Web Site, under the management of Nik Fominas. New features are being added regularly, including an enormous amount of work on the back end of the site through which members of the Committee can administer their own pages.

8. ANUEF Lecture Series

The ANUEF Lecture Series this year was painstakingly and successfully managed by Ian Buckley. It was very interesting and included ten lectures from February to November.

9. ANUEF 'News'

Ian Mathews has done a splendid job with the quarterly 'News' in spite of some difficulties. The 'News' is serving a good purpose in communicating with the members and to a wider community in the ANU.

10. The ANU Obituaries

Some years ago the Vice-Chancellor entrusted the Faculty with the duty of honouring dead of the University with well-prepared and sensitive obituaries. James Grieve has willingly given a great deal of his time and energy to the project. Its success has been obvious with the publication of the ensuing obituaries, at times in several newspapers and in other publications, including our own Newsletter. This year

obituaries have been written of Denis Carr, Greg Denning, Frank Gibson, Graeme Laver, Hugh McKenzie and Andrée Rosenfield. We are grateful to the writers of the obituaries who have generously undertaken their task in a manner befitting a work of high *pietas*.

11. OPERATUNITIES

Angela Giblin has been involved in offering musical excursions to events in the Music World's winter seasons in Sydney and in Canberra.

12. Relationships

We have relationships with some outside organisations.

- RAPLink, which has become even more useful with our involvement in a joint project called Rustic (Rural Students in the Community). Giles Pickford was recently elected Vice-President: <http://www.raplink.org.au>
- The ANU Poets' Lunch, which has now published all available poems on our web site. These poems go back to the early Poets' Lunch first held in the Staff Centre. They are now held here in the Molony Room: <http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/poets>
- Other organisations use our rooms, including the Nature and Society Forum, the Meningans, The Association for Tertiary Education Management and the Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association.

We also promote the programs of the Friends of the Australian Botanic Gardens.

13 The Committee Anniversary

The Committee held an enjoyable dinner at Vivaldi on the occasion of its 100th meeting in September. Previous committee members joined us and we had a feast (all at our own expense: Auditor please note).

John Molony Chair

ANU Poets' Lunch

You can read the poems given at the 2008 ANU Poets' Lunch at this address:

<http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/poets/lunches.html>.

Click on the 2008 list of poems.

Cheers

Giles Pickford

Report on research training in Australian universities

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Innovation yesterday released its final report into research training and research workforce issues in Australian universities.

Building Australia's Research Capacity makes 38 recommendations in several key areas.

"This report makes a number of key recommendations aimed at addressing the current shortfall in research funding as well as boosting Australia's research capacity," Committee Chair Ms Vamvakinou said.

"Australian universities play a key role in driving innovation through the research projects they undertake. But attracting new graduates to research, and keeping hold of our best and brightest researchers here in Australia, has become a challenge for many Australian universities."

Some of the key recommendations from the report include increasing Australia's gross expenditure on research and development, and funding the full cost of research and research training at Australian universities and research institutions.

A suite of recommendations designed to assist research training students includes increasing the value and length of the Australian Postgraduate Award stipend,

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which will see students lifted above the poverty line.

"The recommendations contained in this report are a strong endorsement of support for Australian universities and research graduates who play a vital role in driving innovation in Australia, and will ensure that Australia is building its national research capacity to the level required to support future growth" Ms Vamvakinou said.

The report will be made available on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/isi/research/report.htm>

Further details, including the terms of reference, submissions, membership of the Committee, and transcripts of public hearings can be obtained on the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/isi

Australian elected to UN committee

The Australian Human Rights Commission congratulated on 4 November 2008 Professor Ron McCallum AO, who has been elected as one of 12 experts to the first monitoring committee for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

"Professor McCallum's election is a great honour for Australia," said Human Rights Commissioner Graeme Innes. "It will further enhance the respect Australia has recently attracted on international human rights issues."

Professor McCallum, the former Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Sydney and an expert in industrial law, won his place from a large field of candidates from other countries.

Professor McCallum's lived experience of disability further qualified him for the role.

He is the only Australian currently serving on a UN treaty body.

"This Convention at last gives specific human rights to the 600 million people

around the world who are living with disability - and a distinguished Australian will now play a role in its implementation," Commissioner Innes said.

"The appointment of Professor Ron McCallum will also continue Australia's progress towards a national disability strategy which will allow all Australians with disability to be able to enjoy equal access to all aspects of Australian life and to participate as full citizens," Commissioner Innes said.

Australia ratified the Convention in July this year.

Call for Papers: Council of Australian Humanist Societies

Annual Convention Adelaide 8th -10th May 2009. Adelaide International Motel 521 Anzac Highway, North Glenelg.

Theme: "Human Rights and a Civil Society"

Papers are called for presentation at the Public Session, Sunday, 10th May, 10 a.m.- 1.00 p.m., not more than 15 minutes in length. Please send your 300 word summary (or the full length) by the 29th February to GPO Box 177 Adelaide, 5001 or by Email to rmc@adelaide.on.net State any qualification and your background. A room may be booked at the hotel (08 8294 2155) There will be a dinner on the Saturday night. Costs and full program will be available early March.

Enquiries 08 8255 9508

Immigration detention in Australia: A new beginning

A parliamentary inquiry into immigration detention has recommended a limit of 90 days to complete security and identity checks before a detainee must be considered for release on a bridging visa.

Continued next page

The report released last night by the Joint Standing Committee on Migration calls for a series of open and transparent guidelines against which detainees and the Australian public can judge the fairness and rationality of the detention system.

It recommends a maximum time limit of 12 months detention for all detainees, except those considered a significant and ongoing risk to the community.

In preparing its report, the Committee visited all of Australia's detention centres. "We also spoke to former and current detainees during our consideration of how long it is reasonable to hold a person in detention, and what criteria should apply for their release", said Committee Chair Michael Danby.

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship announced reforms in July that unauthorised arrivals will only be held in detention until health, security and identity checks have been completed. Beyond this, mandatory detention will continue to apply only to those people that present an unacceptable risk to the community and to unlawful non-citizens who have repeatedly refused to comply with their visa conditions.

M Danby said that the Committee's report was supportive of a presumption against detention and the use of immigration detention only where necessary to safeguard public health, security and immigration compliance.

"We have heard a range of views on what a contemporary Australian immigration policy should look like," said Mr Danby, "and what is clear is that the impacts of prolonged immigration detention and failures in administration have been too high".

"The series of recommendations we have made will build on the new immigration detention values and strike a fair balance between protection of the Australian community and our obligations towards those in immigration detention."

"Our inquiry has been committed to restoring both fairness and certainty to our treatment of those in immigration detention."

The report tackles the uncertainties of indefinite detention and recommends the following time frames for detaining individuals:

- ☐ 5 day time frames for health checks;
- ☐ up to 90 days for the completion of security and identity checks, after which consideration must be given to release onto a bridging visa;
- ☐ a maximum time limit of 12 months detention for all except those who are demonstrated to be a significant and ongoing risk to the community; and
- ☐ the publication of clear guidelines regarding how the criteria of unacceptable risk and visa non-compliance are to be applied.

The report also recommends additional measures to increase oversight and transparency, such as:

- ☐ greater detail and scope of the three month review to be conducted by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship;
- ☐ ensuring the six month Ombudsman's review is tabled in parliament and that the ministerial response to recommendations is comprehensive;
- ☐ providing increased oversight of national security assessments of people in detention; and
- ☐ enshrining the new values in legislation as a priority.

In addition, the report provides some remedy to past practices of prolonged detention with little scope for review by recommending that:

- ☐ a maximum time limit of 12 months in detention is established, unless a person is determined to be a significant and ongoing risk to the Australian community; and

□ merits and judicial review of the grounds for detention are available where a person has been detained for more than 12 months.

The report also recommends that people in immigration detention no longer be charged for the costs of their detention, and that all existing debts be waived immediately.

"The Committee found this policy harsh and without a reasonable rationale", said Deputy Chair Danna Vale. Immigration detainees are currently generating liabilities of \$125.40 per day, with some debts running into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

A dissenting report was submitted by Petro Georgiou (LIB), Senator Alan Eggleston (LIB) and Senator Sarah Hanson-Young (Greens), calling for broader access to judicial review of detention.

The report will be the first in a series of three, with the remaining two to be tabled in 2009. They will address alternatives to detention, service provision and the infrastructure necessary to support a new framework for immigration detention.

As at 7 November 2008, there were 279 people in immigration detention nationwide, the majority of them people who had overstayed their visas or had their visas cancelled after breaching the conditions.

for the full report and background information, please visit the inquiry website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/detention/report.htm>

or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560 or jscm@aph.gov.au.

9 December 2008

Human Rights Commissioner, Graeme Innes, today urged the Australian Government to refrain from using the massive new detention centre on Christmas Island to hold people in immigration detention.

The Minister for Immigration has said that the new centre will be used when numbers require it.

Responding to a media report today that recent arrivals could lead to the new detention centre being used, Mr Innes reiterated concerns he raised after his visit to the centre in August.

"The new immigration detention centre on Christmas Island is completely inappropriate for detaining asylum seekers - not only is it the most isolated facility on an extremely remote island, but it looks and feels like a high-security prison," Commissioner Innes said. "I am deeply concerned at the prospect of people being detained there for any period of time."

With the nearest capital city, Perth, 2600 km away, Mr Innes said Christmas Island was possibly the most remote part of Australia the government could use to put people who are seeking asylum from persecution.

"That distance limits access to basic services," the Commissioner said. "Moreover, the small size of the local community and the very limited infrastructure also make it difficult for immigration detainees to get adequate access to services like health care, mental health care, legal assistance, and cultural and religious support."

"These people include men, women and even unaccompanied children, who are seeking Australia's protection," he said. "Realistically, in such a remote and inaccessible location, how can Australia expect to properly meet its international obligations to them?"

The Commissioner said that all unauthorised arrivals who make claims for asylum should be assessed through the refugee status determination process on the Australian mainland.

"People should not be held in immigration detention on Christmas Island," Mr Innes said.

Continued next page

The 2008 report of the Human Rights Commissioner's annual inspection of immigration detention facilities around Australia, including those on Christmas Island, will be released in January 2009.

Media contact: Brinsley Marlay 02 9284 9656 or 0430 366 529

Thursday 4 December 2008

Size Does Matter: Committee recommends efficiency dividend relief for small public sector agencies

Parliament's Public Accounts Committee today tabled a report recommending relief for small public sector agencies from the efficiency dividend.

The dividend introduced in 1987-88 trims the public funding component of agencies' budgets by 1.25 per cent per annum. For the 2008-09 year only, the Government increased the efficiency dividend by an extra 2 per cent.

Committee Chair Sharon Grierson MP said that it was important to understand whether the dividend is having a greater impact on small agencies than the larger ones and whether after 20 years, the dividend may be leading to reductions in service – rather than genuine efficiencies – in the case of smaller agencies.

"The evidence proved that these concerns are wellfounded. It is clear that the smaller agencies have greater difficulty in attracting funding for new policy proposals, and we heard repeated instances of small agencies reducing services or delaying initiatives as a result of the dividend," Ms Grierson said.

"We are particularly concerned that budget pressures exacerbated by the efficiency dividend have inadvertently restricted agencies that are independent of executive government, including the courts, the Australian National Audit Office, and the parliamentary departments."

"Additionally, major cultural institutions like the Australian War Memorial, National Gallery of Australia and National Library are being compromised in their capacity to properly fulfil their growth mandate".

"Reduced functions in regional areas and a diminished capacity for innovation were other consequences that small agencies reported during the inquiry. While the committee supports efficient and effective government spending, it is very concerned about the unintended consequences of the ongoing efficiency dividend on small agencies."

To address these concerns the Committee has made a number of recommendations, including:

- the provision of additional safeguards in the Budget process to reinforce the independence of the Auditor-General, Parliamentary departments and the courts from the Executive;
- the development of a new funding model for cultural agencies that takes into account their growth mandate; and
- that the first \$50 million of public sector agencies' appropriations should be exempt from the efficiency dividend (excluding departments of state).

"We believe these recommendations would provide some relief for small agencies at modest cost to the Budget," Ms Grierson said.

For more information: please contact the Committee chair, Sharon Grierson MP, on telephone 0412 291 654 or the Secretary on telephone (02) 6277 4615 or visit the inquiry's website at www.aph.gov.au/jpaa/efficdiv The report is available at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/efficdiv/report.htm>

3 December 2008

Pay equity - Government needs better input from private sector

Government needs better input and commitment from the private sector on how to solve the problems confronting pay equity and the participation crisis; a submission from the Australian Institute of Management (Vic/Tas) said.

The Australian Institute of Management (AIM) has called for serious consideration of an independent, government owned organisation charged with engaging industry to cultivate new approaches to overcome the problems preventing pay equity and higher participation rates.

"AIM raises a number of issues in its submission, such as the imbalance of superannuation payouts of men and women and the lack of women in executive positions. Both are reasons for concern and have been continually raised by a variety of witnesses," Committee Chair, Ms Sharryn Jackson, said.

"The establishment of an independent, government owned organisation is an interesting suggestion and the Committee looks forward to exploring this and other issues raised in the Institute's submission."

The Australian Institute of Management (Vic/Tas) will appear before the House Employment and Workplace Relations Committee on Thursday 4 December from 11 am in Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra to discuss this and other issues relevant to pay equity and women's participation in the workforce.

Discussions should also cover the need for education and information among employers, employees and trade unions in relation to pay equity issues; the adequacy of current arrangements to ensure fair access to training and promotion for women; the adequacy of recent and current equal remuneration provisions in state and federal workplace relations legislation; and the need for further legislative reform to address pay equity in Australia.

The Committee continues to welcome submissions to the inquiry.

Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, background documents, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ewr>, by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4162 or emailing ewr.reps@aph.gov.au. This hearing will be webcast live (audio only) on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Sharryn Jackson, on (02) 6277 4044

For background information, contact the Committee Secretary, on (02) 6277 4162

2 December 2008

Report released on research training in Australian universities

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Some of the key recommendations from the report include increasing Australia's gross expenditure on research and development, and funding the full cost of research and research training at Australian universities and research institutions.

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For media comment: contact the Committee Chair Ms Maria Vamvakinou on 0417 541 465.

For further information: contact the Committee Secretary on 02 6277 4594 or isi.reps@aph.gov.au

ANUEF Lecture Series

Lectures Series for 2009

18 February

The Committee has decided to follow the tradition and avoid holding Lecture Series events in January, February and December.

18 March

Brij Lal, "Fiji: Islands of Turmoil."

15 April

Neville Fletcher "Clouds, Rain and Rainmaking - the Possibilities for Australia"

Speakers and topics

Dr Ian Buckley is ANUEF Events Officer. If you wish to propose a topic for the lecture series you should contact him at ibuckley@cybermac.com.au

ANUEF MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

1. Library borrowing rights (including access to e-journals) for financial members with a membership card. Also **access to e-journals** in the ANU Library System is available through the computers in the Molony Room, Fellows Lane Cottage, Fellows Lane, ANU.

2. The right to buy a staff parking permit at the student rate, or packs of one-day parking scratchies which entitle members to park all day in **Permit Parking** spots at ANU for a few dollars a day, and the right to park in the designated parking areas in the Fellows Lane Cottage car park, and in adjacent car parking spots if the membership card is displayed on the dash board. Also, the right to apply for free parking for special events such as Conferring of Degrees Ceremonies and other high days.

3. The right to be posted **ANU Reporter** if the member wishes.

4. An ability to get staff discounts from **PCTech** and purchase certain products (eg. software) at Academic/Education pricing from appropriate outlets.

5. The right to use **University House Library** facilities.

6. \$2 tickets many concerts given by the **Canberra School of Music**.

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