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**Meetings venue** Molony Room\*  
24 Balmain Crescent  
Acton

**Postal address:**

PO Box 6050,  
O'Connor, ACT 2602  
phone: 02 6125 5309 / fax: 02 6125 5262  
website: <<http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/>>

**Editor:** Ian Mathews | **Assistant Editor:** Giles Pickford | **Publishing consultant:**  
Connie Stamos

\*location map: <[http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/anuef\\_location\\_map.html](http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/anuef_location_map.html)>

## ANU's quest to explore the unknown

In a speech at the ANU Public Policy 2013 forum on June 12, the Chancellor of the Australian National University, Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC, said:

Donald Rumsfeld is not my favourite role model as a policymaker, but there have been few more articulate descriptions of the difficulty and complexity of real-world problem solving—the theme at the heart of today's sessions of this forum—than his famous statement in the course of a press briefing in 2002 that:

“There are known knowns; there are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns; that is to say, there are things that we now know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns—there are things we do not know we don't know.”

Far from being incomprehensible gobbledegook, justifying the ‘Foot in Mouth of the Year’ award that it received at the time, this is in fact a perfectly lucid and accurate account of what can go wrong in policy decision-making in any context, at any level.

The one thing for which Rumsfeld can be criticised in his statement was that he left out what is often the most dangerous type of unknown: the “unknown known” – as someone once put it “What you think you know that just ain't so.” In fact the press briefing in question was on the issue of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and it was the Bush administration's certain knowledge of what just wasn't so—that Iraq actually continued to possess such weapons—that led Rumsfeld and his colleagues to undertake the disastrous military adventure that they did.

There are many areas of public policy which are full of the most complex and intractable problems, not least this area—my own—of peace and security.

Right now the most troubling international policy problem is the carnage in Syria – with after two years of civil war 80,000 men, women and children dead, and another 6.8 million in need of urgent humanitarian assistance: 4¼ million displaced internally, and nearly 2 million refugees in neighbouring countries.

Not the least of my own reasons for distress about the international policy paralysis on Syria is that I was one of those who helped to develop the new norm of the “responsibility to protect,” unanimously embraced by the UN General Assembly in 2005 and effectively implemented subsequently in cases like Kenya and Libya. This was intended to ensure that the international community never again stood by impotently while mass atrocity crimes (major crimes against humanity and war crimes) were committed behind state borders—yet in Syria over the last two years such crimes have been committed over and over again with apparent impunity.

This is a problem crying out for a solution, but the trouble is that every solution so far advanced has either been:

- wrong in principle (for , because it would involve coercive military action not authorised by the UN Charter);
- unable to be implemented in practice (for example, because there have been no states willing to play such a role, even for relatively narrow purposes like the establishment of buffer zones or humanitarian consequences);
- ineffective (for example, supplying arms to the rebel forces, because these have been and will continue to be more than matched by the supply of additional arms to the governing regime); or
- likely to cause more suffering than it will avert (for example again, the supply of arms to the rebels, where there has been a close correlation in surges in such supplies from Saudi Arabia and Qatar and increases in Syrian casualties, without compensating strategic gains).

The only credible solution is a diplomatic one in which both regime and rebels, pressured by their respective supporters, compromise on a transitional governing process, but one has to be a supreme optimist to think that the chances of implementing this in practice within the next few months are more than negligible.

I don't know whether Syria satisfies the currently accepted academic definition of a 'wicked' problem, but with serious downsides to every possible solution, it looks pretty wicked to me. The presentations you will hear today wrestle with situations of at least equal complexity and difficulty in other contexts, in the areas of climate change policy, alternative energy sources, disaster response, and the general problem of translating credible scientific research into effective policy action.

The underlying issue that runs through today's conference proceedings, and which will be very specifically addressed in Gabriele Bammer's opening keynote, is whether the capacity to deal (or at least begin to deal) with problems of great complexity and intractability is just a matter of judgement and experience—judgement which you either have or you don't, and experience which can take a very long time to acquire—or whether rather the necessary skills can be taught and learned.

Professor Bammer argues that we can do a better job of preparing future policymakers for their role through problem-based research and education, further work on the theory and method of dealing with complexity, and on bringing together knowledge and insights presently dispersed across different disciplines.

I'm not sure that I'm yet entirely persuaded by all the elements of this argument, particularly when the utility for practical decision-making of theorising about complexity, and I'll be fascinated to hear them spelt out in this morning's debate.

But I am certainly totally persuaded that universities have a crucial contribution to make, in multiple ways, when it comes to public policy-making: in generating evidence-based data, in developing rigorous analytical skills, in encouraging out-of-the-box creative thinking about solutions, and in bringing together academics and practitioners, and those from multiple disciplines, to tackle complex problems from multiple angles.

And I am totally persuaded that that there is no better university in Australia to play these roles than ANU, with its national charter, national capital location, huge reputation for intellectual excellence, and long tradition of major contribution to public policy debate.

The world's great universities are those that are great in three dimensions:

- traditional teaching and learning and the total student experience that goes with it;
- traditional research and the contribution to scholarship that goes with that; and
- outreach and engagement with the wider community, particularly in policy-focused research.

ANU satisfies all those criteria—and we are working hard to give particular new weight and emphasis to the third of them, including by:

- renaming the Crawford School of Economics and Government as the Crawford School of Public Policy;
- expanding its resources and reach;
- double-hatting high-impact policy-focused researchers around the entire campus as 'Crawford School Public Policy Fellows';
- appointing high-achieving public service policymakers as Public Policy Fellows;
- planning as a signature annual event the 'Crawford School Australian Leadership Forum' which, starting next February, will bring together major international policy leaders with the country's top policy makers and those who advise them across a range of disciplines; and
- this week's Public Policy program, which is intended to showcase every year the extraordinary intellectual resources we have at this University.

I am very proud as Chancellor of this great University of everything that ANU, with the Crawford School as its new focal point, has been doing, and will continue to do, to improve the quality of public policy both in Australia and internationally, and am delighted to have been asked to help set the scene for what I know will be a fascinating and enriching day of presentations and discussion.

Source: <http://news.anu.edu.au/2013/06/12/complexity-imperfection-and-public-policy/>

## **Tuckwell Scholarship mentors named**

The Australian National University (ANU) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington has announced the appointment of three fellows to mentor the Tuckwell Scholars when the first cohort arrives in 2014.

The Tuckwell Scholarship Program was established by ANU alumnus Graham Tuckwell and his wife, Louise, in February to support 25 undergraduate students each year for the length of an undergraduate degree. Their \$50 million gift to the University was the largest ever donation to an Australian university by an Australian citizen.

Professor Hughes-Warrington said the University received an outstanding response to the call for Fellows. “The committee congratulates all Colleges for the outstanding applications put forward, and looks forward to working with the Fellows,” she said.

Human rights law expert **Professor Simon Rice**, biochemist **Associate Professor Susan Howitt** and historian of Southeast Asia **Dr Mary Kilcline Cody** have been chosen to lead the inaugural cohort of undergraduate Scholars drawn from schools across Australia. The Fellows will provide Scholars with advice and support, and play an active role in coordinating social events and seminars to bring the Tuckwell Scholar community together.

Professor Rice said he was drawn to the Tuckwell’s vision of encouraging students to fulfill their wider leadership and community service ambitions alongside their tertiary studies. “What I like about university life is inspiring students to engage in the broader community,” he said. “University offers so much more than a degree, and I really enjoy motivating students to pursue everything that’s possible. The Tuckwell Scholars will arrive here with a history of doing interesting and innovative things, but it’s a big step to carry that forward into tertiary studies and adult life. To an extent that’s our role: mentoring them to translate their potential into something that really makes a social contribution.”

Associate Professor Howitt said she was excited about providing one-on-one support to students and helping them identify opportunities in their chosen fields. “This is an opportunity to develop real relationships with these students over the course of their degree,” she said. “It’s always good to have a mentor you can go to for advice. A lot of students feel inhibited about actually going to talk to someone. Sometimes just having a chat with someone can open up so many possibilities.”

This announcement follows a large response to the call for Tuckwell Scholarship applications. More than 650 students from schools around Australia applied and 217 were invited to progress to stage two of the selection process. The recipients of the first Tuckwell Scholarships will be announced in July.

Tuckwell Scholars will receive \$20,000 per annum for the length of a single or double undergraduate degree, including honours and vertical degrees (degrees that combine undergraduate and graduate study, across a range of disciplines, completed in a reduced time-frame).

### **High school students and Indigenous studies.**

The Australian National University (ANU) has announced a new scheme that rewards high school students who undertake Indigenous studies. From 2014, senior secondary Indigenous studies will be listed as an ANU nationally strategic subject. All secondary school students who successfully complete the course will receive five bonus ATAR points when they apply to study at ANU.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington said the University was committed to raising the profile of Indigenous studies among future students. “Not all states and territories have a senior secondary Indigenous studies subject. Students might wish to take this subject, but they have no opportunity to do so,” she said. “This step recognises the value of learning about Indigenous experiences, culture and knowledge for university studies across all disciplines. I hope that as a consequence more states and territories will offer students the option of taking Indigenous studies. I hope, too, that it will encourage students to see this as an important part of their future, and the future of Australia.”

Director of the ANU Tjabal Higher Education Centre Anne Martin is a strong advocate of teaching Indigenous history in high schools and praised the scheme as a “great act of reconciliation.” “Students are being encouraged to take Indigenous studies seriously; as an important area of study that is given huge credibility by the University’s support,” she said.

### **Honing the mind and nurturing the soul: *why the humanities are underrated***

**By [Steven Schwartz \\*](#), Executive Director, CHASS and Oliver Smithies Fellow of Balliol College at University of Oxford he works for the Council for Humanities and Social Sciences. He is also the Chairman of the Fulbright Commission and a Senior Fellow of the Centre for Independent Studies. He has received ARC and NHMRC grants.**

As a vice chancellor, I conducted many graduation ceremonies and welcomed scores of proud graduates to the fellowship of educated men and women. One regular feature of these ceremonies was a queue of students of “a certain age” waiting to receive their doctorates in history, literature, philosophy, fine arts or one of the other subjects collectively known as the arts and humanities.

Their stories were similar. After a career in business, the public service or one of the professions, they returned to university to fulfil a life-long desire to immerse themselves in the arts or humanities. Not once did I encounter a retiree who returned to university driven by a passion for accounting, marketing or business administration.

When working life wanes, and mortality is no longer just theoretical, people want to nurture their souls. Only the arts can provide the necessary nourishment. It is wonderful to see people follow their dream, but postponing fulfilment until the end of one’s life is a risky strategy.

As Seneca, a leader of the Stoics, [wrote to a friend](#), “How late it is to begin to live just when we must cease to live! What foolish forgetfulness of mortality...”

It is foolish because is it not necessary to choose between building a bank balance and nurturing our souls. We can have both.

Marissa Mayer, the chief executive of Yahoo, studied philosophy and psychology as an undergraduate at Stanford before becoming an early Google employee. While she was at Google, Mayer focused her recruiting strategy on [humanities and liberal arts graduates](#). Why? Because Google wants people who are smart and get things done and the skills possessed by arts graduates—problem-solving, clear communication and cultural understanding—are the keys to business success.

So, it is entirely possible for arts graduates to have their cake and eat it. As Damon Horowitz, a [Google executive with a humanities PhD](#), puts it: “You go into the humanities to pursue your intellectual passion; and it just so happens, as a by-product, that you emerge as a desired commodity for industry. Such is the halo of human flourishing.”

Knowledge of the humanities enhances all professions. Consider medicine for example. No one would argue that studying the arts makes it easier for a surgeon to remove a diseased prostate, but it would provide the surgeon with the communication skills, empathy and

judgement needed to help patients understand and cope with the consequences of the operation.

Similarly, our financiers would not find the study of drama much help in devising the complicated investment instruments that have wrecked such havoc on so many innocent people. But, if they had read Faust, they may have understood that [a deal with the devil](#) is rarely a win-win.

And what about our bloviating politicians? Few would see poetry as central to their work. Yet, reading Shelley's "Ozymandias" could help our leaders to put their [accomplishments in perspective](#).

[Ghandi warned us](#) to be on guard against science without humanity; politics without principle; knowledge without character; wealth without work; commerce without morality; pleasure without conscience; and worship without sacrifice. He may not have realised it, but he was making the case for the humanities. It's time we heeded his advice.

*Steven Schwartz is the Director of the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS). This year's [CHASS forum](#) will take place at Parliament House Canberra on 20 June 2013. (This article is in part based on a piece in the Australian Literary Review.)*

Source: <http://theconversation.com/honing-the-mind-and-nurturing-the-soul-why-the-humanities-are-underrated-15027>

## Obituary

**Patricia Marie White**

**7 January 1930 – 17 March 2013**

Pat White served the Australian National University for thirty years. She was a loyal and efficient member of an academic administration which functioned as a cohesive entity with members in all Faculties, Research Schools and Student Administration throughout the University. It was also responsible for Secretariats to Academic Boards and the University Council.

Having gained a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honours at the University of Melbourne, Pat acquired teaching experience, including a period in England. On her return voyage, she accompanied a group of children emigrating to Australia under the auspices of the Fairbridge Farm Scheme. She was distressed in later years by press reports of mistreatment of some of these children. Arriving back in Melbourne, Pat joined the Joint Intelligence Organisation (Department of Defence) and subsequently relocated to Canberra with it.

Pat joined the ANU in 1962, initially as Sub Dean and Faculty Secretary of the Arts Faculty. In this role she made an enormous contribution to the care of individual students. This was certainly not confined to the high performers but was freely available to others who were doubtful of their ability to complete a degree course. These included students who were struggling with unrelated difficulties in life and others whose academic progress was slow. On one occasion early in her ANU career, Pat served as Acting Deputy Warden of Bruce Hall while the Warden, Bill Packard, was on sabbatical leave, an experience she greatly enjoyed.

Since Pat's death, a number of former Arts students, who have had successful professional careers following graduation, have spoken of their profound gratitude for her personal support and care for them during their student days. 'If it hadn't been for Pat,' has been a

typical appreciation. Whilst she might have been surprised by their comments, she would undoubtedly have been pleased. Many former students kept in touch with her until her death, an unequivocal testimony to the friendship and understanding which she extended to Arts students throughout the 1960s and early 1970s as well as to the wider student community. At the lunch following her last University Council meeting before retirement, the Students' Association formally acknowledged its collective gratitude to her.

Similar care and support were also a feature of Pat's service as the representative, in the first instance of the Academic Registrar, and subsequently of the Registrar, on the Student Loan Fund Committee. This group, which also included an academic staff member and a student, met at least once a week at lunchtime during teaching periods, and often during vacations, to consider applications from undergraduate students in financial need. Approved loans were financed by the then University Co-operative Credit Union and indemnified by the University. As the administrator on the committee, Pat spent additional time chasing up slow payers and defaulters. Operation of the committee was a long term commitment which Pat regarded as a privilege.

Pat also acted as returning officer for Credit Union elections in her role as representative, successively, of the Academic Registrar and the Registrar. She served as the nominee of the University Council on the Burgmann College Council for some years.

Pat moved from the positions of Arts Faculty Sub Dean and Faculty Secretary to that of Assistant Registrar (Student Administration) in 1973 where she was responsible for approximately fifty administrative staff who dealt with all student-related matters. Her new role required frequent contact with senior officers of Government departments and agencies and staff of other tertiary institutions. It was her responsibility to devise and implement the administrative arrangements necessitated by changes in University policies. A notable example of this was the introduction of voluntary membership of student organisations that was necessitated by Government policies.

In 1983, Pat became Assistant Registrar (University Council). She remained in this position until her retirement in 1992. It involved working closely with, and providing advice to, the Vice-Chancellor and other senior officers as well as providing secretarial services to the University Council and undertaking detailed work in collaboration with the Advisers on Legislation.

The term 'mentor' was not in vogue in the early 1970s but the Academic Registrar's Division possessed three outstanding exemplars, namely Mollie Bouquet, Jane Flecknoe and Pat White. All three wrote well, paid great attention to detail and foresaw the wider implications of decisions made on behalf of the University. They ensured that the appropriate follow-up actions consequent upon those decisions were undertaken by the relevant members of the Division. Each of these women was extremely supportive of younger staff members, offering friendship. They did not hesitate to provide guidance when it was needed. All three were highly regarded and respected in the Chancelry and by academic and general staff alike. None of the three was an empire builder. All placed the wider interests of the institution ahead of ambition for personal empowerment.

Mollie Bouquet has written of Pat in the following terms: 'She had a profound understanding of what a university was about—not given to all administrators—and I am sure she has left a lasting impression on the lives of all who knew her. It was a life well lived'.

Pat died on 17 March 2013 after several years of ill health. Her partner of many years, Don Baker, died in 2007 and Pat is survived by her sister, Jean.

**Mary McCullagh**



## Current Affairs

### **Higher education and international education support**

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment has tabled its Advisory Report on Higher Education Support Amendment (Asian Century) Bill 2013 and report on International education support and collaboration: Review into the 2010 – 2011 annual report of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The committee recommended that the House pass the HESA (Asian Century) Bill 2013, and that the Commonwealth Government consider extending the eligibility of OS-HELP assistance to non-Commonwealth Supported Place students.

In the committee's report on its roundtable into the status and sustainability of international education, it recommended some additions to the Study in Australia information portal to aid effective communication with students. And, that the Commonwealth Government seeks opportunities to promote and discuss international education in Australia and the region on a regular and ongoing basis with stakeholders, including international students.

The reports and recommendations are on the committee's website, together with the Chair's tabling speeches:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_Committees?url=ee/reports.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=ee/reports.htm)

**For more information:** contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4573 or email [ee.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:ee.reps@aph.gov.au)

### **Australian Education Bill 2012 advisory report tabled**

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment tabled its Advisory Report on the Australian Education Bill 2012 on 29 May, recommending that the House pass the Bill, together with four amendments.

The Australian Education Bill articulates the Government's aspirations for school education in Australia. It provides the foundation for a legislative framework that seeks to put "an excellent education for every child at the heart of how Australia delivers and funds schooling".

The Bill incorporates core recommendations made by the Gonski Review to implement:

- a dollar per student resource standard and various dollar loadings for disadvantage, regardless of the type of school a student attends; and
- a National Plan for School Improvement.

The reports and recommendations are on the Committee's website, together with the Chair's tabling speech:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_Committees?url=ee/reports.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=ee/reports.htm)



For information on the inquiry: contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4573 or email [ee.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:ee.reps@aph.gov.au)

On 5 June 2013, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment was referred the Australian Education (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2013. The Bill amends certain Commonwealth laws and contains transitional arrangements consequential to the enactment of the *Australian Education Act 2013*.

The Bill, the Explanatory Memorandum and First Reading, and Second Reading Speeches can be accessed on the following website:  
[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Bills\\_Legislation/Bills\\_Search\\_Results/Result?bld=r5096](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bld=r5096)

Information regarding the inquiry can be found on the Committee's website:  
[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_Committees?url=ee/auseduconseq/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=ee/auseduconseq/index.htm)

### **Report on Sex Discrimination Amendment Bill tabled**

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs has tabled its report following an inquiry into the Sex Discrimination Amendment (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status) Bill 2013. The Bill proposes changes to the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* (SDA) to:

- extend the protection from discrimination to the new grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, and intersex status; and
- extend the existing ground of 'marital status' to 'marital or relationship status' to provide protection from discrimination for same-sex de facto couples.

On 21 March, 2013, the Selection Committee referred the Bill to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs for inquiry and report, citing the following reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

- the adequacy of coverage of antidiscrimination protection, and
- whether the terminology is appropriate.

The committee recognised that considerable consultation has gone on before the introduction of this Bill to the House, and that the provisions proposed are the enactment of recommendations made by the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee in its inquiry into the Exposure Draft of the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination (HRAD) Bill 2012. The Senate committee concluded that there was unanimous agreement that the SDA be amended to extend protection from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status, and for same-sex de facto couples.

"The committee has recommended that the House of Representatives pass this Bill because the protection of all Australians from discrimination is a core matter of social justice," Committee chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, said.

The report is available at [www.aph.gov.au/spla](http://www.aph.gov.au/spla). Printed copies will not be available.

For further information please visit the Committee website [www.aph.gov.au/spla](http://www.aph.gov.au/spla)

## **New law reform inquires**

Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus QC has released draft terms of reference for the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) to inquire into:

- Native Title law—Twenty Years and Beyond; and
- Legal Barriers for People with Disabilities.

### **Native Title—Twenty Years and Beyond**

“The Native Title Act turns twenty this year. The time has come to consider how to improve native title law and encourage faster, simpler resolution of native title claims for all parties,” Mr Dreyfus said.

“We must make sure that the law helps to unlock the economic potential of native title for Indigenous Australians.

“The draft terms of reference focus on proving connection to land and waters and authorisation, the laws which establish who can negotiate in particular circumstances. These are complex issues, which need detailed analysis and broad community consensus,” Mr Dreyfus said.

Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin said the Government would consult widely on the terms of reference and was open to adding new key issues to the Inquiry. “We want to hear from Indigenous peoples, representative bodies, farmers, miners, pastoralists and environmental groups about the issues they want considered by the Australian Law Reform Commission,” Ms Macklin said.

Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism, Gary Gray also welcomed the inquiry. “I would encourage all stakeholders, particularly those in the minerals and tourism industry, to have their views heard and make a submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission,” Minister Gray said.

### **Reducing legal barriers for people with disabilities**

Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus QC said that he is asking the Australian Law Reform Commission to inquire into how to reduce legal barriers to people with disabilities.

“I want to make sure that existing Commonwealth laws and legal frameworks do not create barriers to people with disability exercising their rights and legal capacity,” Mr Dreyfus said. “Most of us take for granted the independent decisions we make about our lives. People with disability deserve the same opportunity. This inquiry is about maximising choice and autonomy for Australians with disability.”

The Government encouraged stakeholders to provide feedback on the scope of both inquiries.

Draft terms of reference for the native title inquiry have been released for public consultation at [www.ag.gov.au/nativetitle](http://www.ag.gov.au/nativetitle). Submissions can be lodged at [native.title@ag.gov.au](mailto:native.title@ag.gov.au) until 28 June, 2013.

Draft terms of reference for the rights of people with disability inquiry have been released for public consultation at [www.ag.gov.au/RightsAndProtections/HumanRights](http://www.ag.gov.au/RightsAndProtections/HumanRights). Submissions can be lodged at [disabilityrights@ag.gov.au](mailto:disabilityrights@ag.gov.au) until 28 June, 2013.

## Early Years Fund inquiry

The House of Representatives Education and Employment Committee held a public hearing for the inquiry into the Early Years Fund Special Account Bill 2013 on June 6. The purpose of this Bill is to establish a Special Account to administer the Early Years Quality Fund.

The Explanatory Memorandum states that the Early Years Quality Fund will provide \$300 million over two years to support quality outcomes for children by assisting the early childhood services to attract and retain qualified hard working professionals in the sector and reduce the numbers of educators leaving the sector overall.

The Early Years Quality Fund will assist with maintaining the affordability of early childhood education, along with financial assistance to families through Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate, while ensuring the high quality of education and care for children.

**For information on the inquiry:** Contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4573 email [ee.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:ee.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ee>

## Second public hearing for TAFEs' inquiry

The House Standing Committee on Education and Employment held its second public hearing for the TAFEs inquiry in Brisbane on June 7.

The Chair, Mr Mike Symon MP, said, "The TAFE system is the backbone of the Australia workforce, having provided training and skills development to Australians for more than 100 years. A strong, highly accessible TAFE system is necessary to address current skills shortages and fortify the Australian workforce now and into the future."

At its first public hearing in Canberra on May 30, the committee heard the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education.

The Committee adopted the inquiry referred to it by the Minister for Tertiary Education on 21 March 2013. The Minister asked the Committee to investigate the role played by TAFES in:

- the development of skills in the Australian economy;
- the development of opportunities for Australians to improve themselves and increase their life and employment prospects;
- the delivery of services and programs to support regions, communities and disadvantaged individuals to access training and skills and through them a pathway to employment;
- the operation of a competitive training market; and
- those jurisdictions in which State Governments have announced funding decisions which may impact on their operation and viability.

For information on the inquiry: contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4573 email [ee.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:ee.reps@aph.gov.au)

## Age and work inquiry report

The Commonwealth Government has launched the Australian Law Reform Commission's report, *Access All Ages—Older Workers and Commonwealth Laws* which identifies legal

barriers to older persons participating in the workforce and makes recommendations across superannuation, social security, employment, insurance and compensation law.

Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus QC said, “There are enormous opportunities that come with an ageing population including a more experienced workforce and the availability of mentors for younger workers and we need to take advantage of those opportunities.”

The Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Bill Shorten welcomed the Australian Law Reform Commission’s report and highlighted that the Government was already acting on recommendations such as:

- The right to request flexible working arrangements for mature-age employees and those with caring responsibilities.
- Abolition of the Super Guarantee maximum age limit, enabling employees aged 70 and over to contribute to their retirement savings for the first time.
- Financial encouragement to employers to recruit and retain mature age job seekers and to help mature age people find and keep a job.

Minister for Ageing Mark Butler said, “Older workers often don’t want to continue the work arrangements they had when they were younger and are seeking more flexibility in their work to take advantage of healthy semi-retirement years.”

The Commission considers that a major coordinating initiative is needed in the form of a National Mature Age Workforce Participation Plan, which is its first and keystone recommendation.

The other recommendations in the Report are specific strategies in the implementation of the National Plan, designed to provide:

- a coordinated policy response to enable mature age workforce participation
- consistency across Commonwealth laws and between Commonwealth and state and territory laws to support mature age workforce participation
- a reduction in age discrimination
- a greater awareness of mature age workers’ rights and entitlements
- support for maintaining attachment to the workforce for mature age persons
- work environments, practices and processes that are appropriate for mature age workers.

For more information, including access to the Commission’s full final report and its recommendations, go to [www.alrc.gov.au](http://www.alrc.gov.au).

## **Inquiry into Intellectual Property**

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs was referred the Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Bill 2013 on 30 May 2013.

The purpose of this Bill is to introduce a range of improvements across Australia’s intellectual property system, making refinements to existing arrangements and implementing new initiatives aimed at increasing efficiency and effectiveness.

Three of the key provisions in the Bill are:

- Amendments that will clarify and improve the operation of the Crown use provisions in the Patents Act to reduce uncertainty in the operation of these provisions. Crown use permits Commonwealth or a State to exploit an invention described in a pending patent application or in a granted patent without the need for authorisation by the owner;
- Amendment of the Patents Act to allow Australian pharmaceutical manufacturers to supply developing countries with the patented medicines they need to respond effectively to public health problems; and
- Streamlining of the processes for applying for patents in Australia and New Zealand, and for the examination of common applications.

A public hearing was held on June 6 with representatives from IP Australia and Dr Matthew Rimmer.

For further information visit the Committee website [www.aph.gov.au/spla](http://www.aph.gov.au/spla)

### **Access for people with print disabilities to copyright material**

Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General, Shayne Neumann has declared Queensland Braille Writing Association, a not-for-profit organisation, to be an institution assisting persons with a print disability under Commonwealth copyright laws.

The *Copyright Act 1968* has exceptions to copyright infringement, which allow institutions assisting persons with a print disability to use copyright material without permission, provided certain conditions are met.

“Copyright law needs to strike a balance between the rights of creators and the significant benefits of providing the Australian community with access to information and our cultural heritage,” Mr Neumann said. “Access should be meaningful for everyone. Institutions such as Queensland Braille Writing Association serve the important public purpose of helping people with print disabilities to access copyright works.”

Mr Neumann said the Australian Government was working to improve access to accessible material internationally. “The World Intellectual Property Organisation has agreed steps towards a ground-breaking new copyright treaty to assist people with a print disability to access materials in alternative formats,” he said.

### **Protecting whistleblowers**

The House of Representatives Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee has released its advisory report on the following bills:

- Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Bill 2012 and the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2012
- Public Interest Disclosure Bill 2013

The committee undertook two separate inquiries into these bills but chose to consolidate the results of each inquiry into one report. The committee recommended passing the Public

Interest Disclosure Bill 2013, with due consideration given to some of the issues raised in the committee's advisory report.

Committee chair Graham Perrett MP said, "We consider this legislation to be the initial step and the real work will be in developing internal disclosure processes and raising awareness within the Commonwealth public sector."

The report is available at [www.aph.gov.au/spla](http://www.aph.gov.au/spla). Printed copies will not be available. For further information please visit the Committee website [www.aph.gov.au/spla](http://www.aph.gov.au/spla)

### **Privacy alerts notify people of 'data breaches'**

Businesses and government agencies are required to notify people when a data breach affecting their privacy occurs, under new legislation.

"With businesses and government agencies holding more information about Australians than ever before, it is essential that privacy is safeguarded," Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus QC said. "The new laws will alert consumers to breaches of their privacy, so that they can change passwords, improve security settings and make other changes as they see fit."

The new laws will also require notification of data breaches to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

The notification requirements do not apply to all data breaches, only breaches that give rise to a risk of serious harm.

### **Report into relations with Japan and South Korea**

The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade has tabled its report for the inquiry into Australia's trade and investment relationship with Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Recognising that education is one of Australia's key exports, the committee welcomed the Government's efforts to position Australia as a preferred supplier of high-end educational services and programs for global human capital development.

Trade Sub-Committee Chair Ms Janelle Saffin, said, "The committee was disturbed by reports about the lack of appreciation of the importance of Australia-Korea relations. The committee considers that the Government should give greater priority to promoting this relationship. It has also recommended recognition of Korean as a priority language for school education and greater support for Australian businesses seeking to enter the Korean market."

The report is available at:  
[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_Committees?url=jfadt/japanandkoreatrade/report.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jfadt/japanandkoreatrade/report.htm)

For background information: contact the committee secretariat on **(02) 6277 2313** or via email at [jscfadt@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscfadt@aph.gov.au).



## Are there enough shops in the Parliamentary Triangle?

The impending introduction of pay parking on National Land in Canberra has highlighted the issue of the provision of amenity in the Parliamentary Triangle and adjacent areas. These areas contain a number of national institutions and government departments, employing a large number of people and receiving a large number of visitors, but feature little by way of services or retail outlets.

The Parliament's National Capital Committee held a public hearing on June 11, as part of its inquiry into the provision of amenity in the Parliamentary Triangle, with contributions from:

- the National Capital Authority
- the Community and Public Sector Union
- the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Questacon
- the National Gallery of Australia
- the Department of Parliamentary Services
- Doma Group.

Committee Chair, Senator Louise Pratt, says that "the committee is keen to consider community concerns that workers in the Parliamentary Triangle and surrounding areas are disadvantaged when it comes to access to services and retail outlets. The Commonwealth can't ignore the need for these services considering the large number of people who work in this precinct. This lack of amenities has certainly been a justification for free parking in the past."

## CSIRO Chief Executive extends contract

CSIRO Chairman Simon McKeon has announced that Chief Executive Dr Megan Clark has agreed to extend her term with CSIRO to the end of 2014.

Dr Clark will continue to implement the 2011 – 15 strategic objectives including providing a platform for the organisation under a future new Chief Executive to lead the development and implementation of the 2015 – 2020 Strategic Plan. "I am very proud of the impact that CSIRO is delivering to the nation under Megan Clark," Mr McKeon said. "We've seen the Hendra virus vaccine developed and brought to market in three years, fast Wireless Local Area Networks are now licensed for use in billions of devices worldwide. These and many other examples are a demonstration of passionate leadership with a deep commitment to applied science. CSIRO is well positioned to continue its 87-year role as a trusted advisor to the community, governments and industry."

## 700 Australia award fellows from developing countries

Foreign Minister Bob Carr has announced 37 Australian organisations have been selected to provide 733 Australia Awards Fellows from 51 developing countries with training and professional development in the latest round of the Australia Awards Fellowships.

Senator Carr said Australia Awards Fellowships provide senior officials and mid-career professionals from developing countries with the opportunity to undertake short-term study, research and professional development within Australian organisations.



“The Australian Government is committed to helping our closest neighbours respond to development issues,” Senator Carr said.

“Australia Awards Fellowships provide education and training to professionals who are in a position to advance the development of their countries when they return home.

“They also strengthen links between organisations in Australia and developing countries in our region.

“This latest round of Fellowships will build capacity in a variety of sectors including: border management and people movement in Indonesia; avoidable blindness in Myanmar and Laos; health in Timor Leste; blood transfusion services in the Pacific; and dispute resolution in Cambodia.”

Close to three quarters of the Australia Awards Fellows selected through the latest round are from Asia, contributing to the Government’s commitment to provide 12,000 ‘Asian Century’ Australia Awards over the next five years.

Senator Carr said Australia Awards Fellowships are an ideal way to share Australia’s expertise and make a difference to the lives of people overseas.

“The Australian Government is providing \$13.4 million to support this latest round of Australia Awards Fellowships and has invested more than \$126 million to support Fellows from developing countries since 2007,” Senator Carr said.

“This investment has engaged an influential network of approximately 6,550 leaders from across the Asia-Pacific, Africa, Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean who now have strong links to Australia.”

There are two funding rounds per year. The first of the 733 Fellows will arrive in July 2013.

The next round, for programs beginning in 2014, opens on 13 May 2013 and will close on 19 June 2013.

*A list of successful Australia Awards Fellowships funded through the latest round is available at [www.aisaid.gov.au/Publications/Pages/aus-awards-fellowships-round-13.aspx](http://www.aisaid.gov.au/Publications/Pages/aus-awards-fellowships-round-13.aspx)*

## **17,000 students from Latin America study here**

Foreign Minister Bob Carr has announced the appointment of Mr Chris Gale as the new chairman of the Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR). Mr Gale replaces Mr David Luboff who has served as chairman since July 2010. Mr Gale has been a member of the Council’s board since August 2012. He is the managing director of Latin Resources, a Perth-based iron and mineral sands focused exploration and development company.

More than 17,000 students from Latin America are currently studying in Australia. Australia’s merchandise trade with Latin America is worth approximately \$7.6 billion a year. Known

Australian investment in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico alone reached \$24 billion in 2012, mostly in the mining and energy sectors.

### **Committee hearing on overseas development**

The House of Representatives Agriculture Committee has taken evidence from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) about its work supporting Australia's overseas development agenda.

A statutory authority, ACIAR harnesses the expertise of Australia's agricultural scientists in assisting agricultural development in a range of countries in the Asia-Pacific and Africa. ACIAR funds research projects consistent with Australian aid priorities, national research capabilities and the agricultural research and development needs of partner countries.

One of ACIAR's key outcomes has been the development of the Australian International Food Security Centre. The Centre aims to help smaller farmers achieve a sufficient, accessible and nutritious food supply. The Centre also aims to facilitate market access for small landholders through assistance in overcoming economic and policy barriers.

Further information about the Inquiry is available on the Committee's website at: [www.aph.gov.au/arff](http://www.aph.gov.au/arff) or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4500, email [arff.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:arff.reps@aph.gov.au)

### **The Arms Trade Treaty: Where to from here?**

On June 11 three eminent speakers described the salient features of the Arms Trade Treaty and assessed its prospects to effectively control arms transfers that result in widespread human suffering: Those taking part in the discussion at the ANU Law Theatre were:

**Dr Greg French** – Assistant Secretary, International Legal Branch, in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Monica Silverwood** – Legal Adviser for the International Committee of the Red Cross Regional Delegation in the Pacific

**Dr Stephanie Koorey** – Visiting Fellow, Fragile States Project, University of New South Wales Canberra

Other participants included the Australian Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Centre for International and Public Law for discussions the UN General Assembly's historic adoption of a global arms [treaty](#) that will establish, for the first time, controls on international transfers of conventional weapons and ammunition.

For more information, contact Andrea Lunt, Communications Officer, ICRC Mission in Australia, Regional Delegation in the Pacific (02) 6273 2968

### **Remembrance for Pat Walker**

Emeritus Faculty members and past members of the ELJF committee held a small afternoon event and afternoon tea on June 9 at the Kioloa Coastal Campus to remember the life of Pat Walker. Without Pat the ANU would not have benefited with the gift of the ELJF.

## Awards ceremonies

The Australian National University will be conducting *Conferring of Awards* ceremonies on 17, 18 and 19 July 2013 at Llewellyn Hall.

ANU Emeritus Faculty members are invited to participate in the academic processions for these ceremonies. Please register your intent to participate via the following web address: <http://students.anu.edu.au/graduation/emeritus-faculty-members.php>

You will be asked to select the ceremony (or ceremonies) you wish to attend, and the area that you will be representing. A schedule for each ceremony is included on the website. Registration will close on Friday 12 July at 5pm.

It is the responsibility of each participant to provide their own academic dress. If a participant is unsure of the code of dress, the Examinations & Graduations Office ([graduation.officer@anu.edu.au](mailto:graduation.officer@anu.edu.au)) may be consulted.

Assembly for all processions occurs near the Graduands' Robing Room; there will be signs on the day providing directions. Registered participants are asked to assemble in this location, at least half an hour before the commencement of the ceremony.

Please feel free to contact–

If you require any further information (or if you are unable to complete the registration form) the Senior Graduations Officer – Emilia Ciampa Ph: (02) 6125 4648  
[graduation.officer@anu.edu.au](mailto:graduation.officer@anu.edu.au)

## ANUEF Room Bookings

Requests for booking the Molony Room should be addressed to Judith Caton via email, and these will be forwarded to the committee for approval, and then entered into the diary. A return email will be sent to the organisation confirming the booking. The diary will be held in the office rather than being left on the table in the meeting room. Conditions for the use of the premises will be emailed to users and a copy is on the ANUEF website.

Contact Judith Caton at [judith.caton@anu.edu.au](mailto:judith.caton@anu.edu.au)

## What's On at the ANU?

*What's On at ANU* is a fortnightly email for staff and students that aims to highlight many of the interesting, enlightening and engaging public lectures, seminars and events happening around the university. All of these events are open to the public. Please check if reservations are needed.

For more information on any of the events listed, or to see a calendar of upcoming events, go to <http://billboard.anu.edu.au/events.asp>

**The next edition of *Emeritus*, the ANUEF Newsletter, will be published in July 2013.**