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Higher Education and Research Reform Amendment Bill 2014

On 28 August 2014, the [Higher Education and Research Reform Amendment Bill 2014](#) was introduced into the House of Representatives. The Bill aims to change higher education by deregulating fees and extending demand driven funding to higher education qualifications below the level of bachelor degree, including higher education diplomas, advanced diplomas and associate degrees, and also to private universities and non-university higher education providers.

The Government says the Bill would enable providers to determine the amount that students contribute to the cost of their courses and restructures Commonwealth subsidies for Commonwealth supported places "to ensure a more equal sharing of costs between taxpayers and students".

The Bill also directs higher education providers with 500 or more Commonwealth supported places to provide 20 per cent of additional revenue to a Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme.

The Bill also includes a number of changes to the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP): including new indexation arrangements for HELP debts, a new minimum repayment

Diary Dates

Sept 9 – ANU Chancellor Gareth Evans AC QC, on *Inside the Hawke-Keating Government*, Manning Clark 1
Sept 17 Wed 4pm Elizabeth Truswell. "Early Antarctic exploration: intersection of art and science."

Sept 17 Age Discrimination Commissioner Susan Ryan address to the National Press Club on ageing in the Australian community. For more information or to attend the address, access:
<http://www.npc.org.au/speakers/the-hon-susan-ryan-ao.html>

There are 4 free car parking spaces for ANUEF members visiting the Molony Room in the Balmain Lane Car Park immediately south of the Molony Room.

More diary dates **on page 15**.

threshold, removal of loan fees and lifetime fee limit and discontinuation of the HECS-HELP benefit.

Through the Bill, technical amendments are also made to the *Australian Research Council Act 2001*. These amendments allow additional investment in research through the Future Fellowships program and would also allow universities to charge Research Training Scheme students' tuition fees up to a specified maximum amount depending on whether the course is a low cost or high cost course.

This Bill is subject to being passed through Parliament.

The [Minister's media release on the Bill](#) is available.

Higher education package amendments proposed

Universities Australia, the peak body representing Australia's universities, has called on the Parliament to support the deregulation of Australian universities with changes to the Government's proposals that will assure affordability for students and taxpayers.

Chief Executive, Belinda Robinson, said on August 28 that the Parliament had a once in a generation opportunity to shape an Australian higher education system that is sustainable, affordable and equitable in serving the best interests of students and the nation.

She said, "With budgets under pressure, governments faced with a myriad of competing priorities for public funding, and successive governments being disinclined to invest at the level that repeated independent reports have shown to be needed, full deregulation of higher education is needed.

"Either the status quo of ongoing inadequate investment, or further cuts without deregulation will condemn Australia's great university system to inevitable decline, threaten our international reputation and make it increasingly difficult for universities to meet the quality expectations of our students,.

"In transforming lives, Australian universities transform the nation. They make for a civil society, are the lifeblood of our regions and provide the means for securing Australia's place in the highly competitive knowledge-based global market of the future. Education is Australia's third largest export.

"The introduction into Parliament of the Federal Government's higher education legislation is a chance for all parliamentarians to seize the opportunity for making real, lasting changes that are needed in positioning our universities for the challenges of the future."

In calling for cross-bench Senators to support the sector's consensus position in favour of deregulation, Ms Robinson said that changes to the package were needed to assure affordability for both students and taxpayers.

"Under the current student loans scheme, fees are deferred until students graduate and earn over \$53,000 per annum and interest is calculated at CPI. Universities Australia urges the Senate to maintain the CPI interest rate so no one with the ability to attend university is saddled with a large debt.

"Similarly we call on the Senate to moderate the size of the proposed 20 per cent cut in the Government contribution to tuition fees so as to reduce upward price pressure on fees.

"It is also critical, as with any substantial industry change brought about by changes to policy settings, that a package of support be provided to universities, particularly those that serve disadvantaged and regional communities."

Ms Robinson said the decision to provide Federal Government funding for non-university higher education providers at 70 per cent of the subsidy for universities struck the right balance in recognising the different functions performed by non-university providers and universities. She called on the Parliament to remove the ongoing uncertainty for students, universities and the broader community, by moving swiftly to approve the reforms with changes proposed by Universities Australia.

Commenting on the Minister's recent speech to the National Press Club, Ms Robinson said: "While the Government has made clear that it intends to introduce the package to the Parliament in its current form, UA will be meeting with Senators to encourage them to consider changes in key areas."

UA agrees with the Minister that changes are required to prevent Australia being left behind in the ever-intensifying competitive global higher education environment.

"An innovative, high quality, accessible and affordable higher education system not only provides life-changing opportunities for individuals but is a critical driver of national productivity and prosperity," Ms Robinson said.

"UA has also long been part of the chorus calling for change to the proposal to index student loans at the long term bond rate capped at six per cent. A number of excellent alternatives have recently been fed into the mix and UA will be encouraging the Senate to give these close attention," said Ms Robinson.

In pointing to the disproportionate impact that the reforms are likely to have on regional communities and the universities that serve them, UA will be encouraging Senators to require the development of a package to ensure that regional communities and disadvantaged students can continue to be well-served by their local universities.

The Minister's announcement that the Government is reviewing the financial viability of research infrastructure has been warmly received by the sector.

"The budget only funds nationally significant research infrastructure for one additional year. These critical facilities provide the under-pinning of Australia's research capability. Without them, our research system will erode and our global standing as a research nation, diminish.

"Students, their families and universities can be assured that over the coming months, Universities Australia will be doing all it can to make sure that Australia continues to enjoy an enviable higher education reputation and that a university degree will continue to be affordable and accessible," said Ms Robinson.

Commented on the legislation on August 28 the shadow Minister for Education, Kim Carr, said, "Christopher Pyne and the Abbott Government introduced legislation that will radically transform our higher education system. These changes not only cut funding to universities, but could allow universities to charge \$100,000 for a degree.

"It's not fair that Australians who dream of a university education will have to choose between buying their first home and getting a degree. University education should be accessible to everyone, regardless of their background.

"It's not too late to stand up for what's fair -- this legislation is yet to be debated in the Senate. Labor has been out talking to students and staff at universities all across Australia and the message we're hearing is very clear: Australians will simply not stand for \$100,000 degrees".

Chief Scientist's report: a strategy for a more competitive country

Universities Australia supports calls by the Chief Scientist, Professor Ian Chubb, for a more strategic approach to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to help secure Australia's future prosperity.

The report: "[Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics: Australia's Future](#)" reinforces calls by Universities Australia on the need for a long-term, strategic approach to investment in science and research.

"Science and research are the pillars upon which Australia's productivity, living standards and community well-being is built. They are critical to Australia making a successful transition to a knowledge economy, and our ability to succeed in an intensely competitive global market," said Belinda Robinson, Chief Executive of Universities Australia.

"Improving our economic and productive performance requires strategic, long term and stable investment, even in difficult economic times. It aims to embed STEM learning at all levels of the education system and workforce. This investment will deliver maximum returns only if there is a long-term plan for science and research that identifies strategic priorities, acknowledges the need for research career programs and encourages the study and teaching of STEM courses that align skills with workforce needs," said Ms Robinson.

The report recommends a range of actions to build a stronger Australia with a competitive economy through:

- Building competitiveness;
- Supporting high quality education and training;
- Maximising research potential; and
- Strengthening international engagement.

"Universities are a critical part of the nation's economic and knowledge infrastructure. They provide skilled graduates, underpin our research effort and are the cornerstone of delivering education services internationally," Ms Robinson said.

"Countries around the world have recognised that they cannot be complacent if they are to prosper and compete in the rapidly changing global economy.

"Our competitors are putting in place explicit strategies to support research and innovation as prime drivers of economic and social prosperity and we must do the same," Ms Robinson said.

Government, science and industry collaboration

In a statement issued on September 2, the Government says science and research are at the centre of the Government's industry policy "which is focused on lifting Australia's rate of business and research collaboration to deliver commercial outcomes, economic growth and productivity gains".

Minister for Industry Ian Macfarlane today joined Australia's Chief Scientist Professor Ian Chubb at the launch of the report *Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics: Australia's Future*.

"I welcome Professor Chubb's report, in particular his focus on using science to make Australian businesses more competitive. This complements the work the Government has been undertaking through the development of its National Industry Investment and Competitiveness Agenda to determine the economic infrastructure and industry policy directions that will create the businesses and jobs of the future – in sectors where Australia has competitive strengths," Mr Macfarlane said.

"Science will be essential to laying the foundation of this new industry policy as the nation's businesses evolve to keep pace with changes in global markets and consumer attitudes.

"It's no accident that science is in the Industry portfolio. The work of Australian scientists is one of our national competitive advantages; they have an increasingly important role in giving Australia an innovative edge in the global economy – if we can draw science and business closer.

"Australia has a strong record of generating good ideas, but the Government wants to encourage more activity that will get these good ideas to market in a way that creates jobs and business growth.

"Australia is not performing when it comes to collaboration between business and research. We're last in the OECD countries on collaboration with higher education or public research institutions.

"Boosting our rate of collaboration will be essential for business growth and competitiveness and to create the next wave of jobs in Australian industry that are based on sophisticated skills in sustainable sectors where Australia has a competitive edge.

"The Government is working to create the right environment in which businesses will invest, including through the \$484 million Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Program and the \$476 million Industry Skills Fund. These are part of a broader strategy to create new connections between industry and researchers.

"Australian industry isn't about handouts and a Government knows-best mentality. It's about creating the catalyst infrastructure to develop new ideas and new products, sharing knowledge and unleashing the potential for creativity and growth in Australian businesses.

"Scientists and researchers have a central role in making sure the framework delivers real-world outcomes, including productivity gains and new jobs.

"The Australian Government looks forward to working with Professor Chubb on our shared goals of strengthening the role of science in the community and using it in ways that make us more competitive."

The Government is working with Professor Chubb to convene a reinvigorated Science Council. The Council will advise the Government on its long term strategic science and research investment.

Eulogy for Leslie Zines

Given by the Honourable Sir Anthony Mason AC KBE GBM at the LESLIE ZINES MEMORIAL SERVICE in the Great Hall, ANU University House, on 4 August 2014

It is with a sense of acute loss that I speak this afternoon. Leslie Zines was my close and dear friend. So I hope that my remarks will recall, as far as words can do, his life, his achievements and his personality which we celebrate in this Memorial Service here in the Great Hall of University House.

Leslie was associated with the ANU for the greater part of his life, first as a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, subsequently at the early age of 36, as Sir Robert Garran Professor of Law, later in 1994 as Emeritus Professor and member of the Law Program in the Institute of Advanced Studies and finally in what is now called the ANU College of Law. He was Dean of the Faculty of Law 1973 – 1975 and 1985 – 1986 but he preferred scholarship to administration.

He was immensely proud of his association with the ANU, an association which included University House. It was the venue of many conferences, seminars and dinners in which he participated over the years.

Leslie was not only a constitutional law scholar of national and international renown but an outstanding teacher as well. Few academics manage to combine these two different qualities as successfully as he did. Judges and lawyers regarded his principal work, *"The High Court and the Constitution"*, which has gone to five editions, as the leading study of the High Court of Australia's constitutional jurisprudence. Justice Gummow, who recently retired from the High Court and is now a Professor of Law at the ANU College of Law, has stated that "developments in methods of constitutional interpretation over the last thirty years have been influenced, in significant measure, by Professor Zines." As Justice Gummow himself was regarded as an "influential" judge, his tribute comes straight from the horse's mouth, so to speak.

Leslie was also the co-author of the second edition and sole author of the 3rd edition of Zelman Cowen's work on *"Federal Jurisdiction"*, the authoritative text on a topic which is now so complex as to be almost inscrutable. And Leslie was the author of *"Constitutional Change in the Commonwealth"*, a collection that incorporated the Smuts Memorial Lectures which he delivered at Cambridge University dealing with the history of the development of constitutional autonomy in Australia and other members of the British Commonwealth.

Leslie was the author of many lectures and papers on constitutional, equity, trust and intellectual property law. His presence at a constitutional law conference in Australia was virtually inevitable. His publications and his lectures exhibited his incisive and ordered mind and a clarity of expression and style unmatched in the dense and impenetrable undergrowth of constitutional jurisprudence.

Among other appointments Leslie was appointed with his great friend Bryan Beaumont, then a QC, to conduct a Royal Commission into Tasmania's Parliamentary System. From 1985 to 1988 he was, along with Mr E G Whitlam QC, Sir Maurice Byers QC and others, a member of the Commonwealth Constitutional Commission. Earlier, in 1958-1959 he had been Secretary to the Spicer Committee which recommended substantial changes to Australia's copyright law. He also served on many ANU committees, notably when Peter Karmel was Vice-Chancellor. He had a very high regard for Peter Karmel which was reciprocated.

In 1992 he was awarded the Order of Australia at Officer level for service to the Australian legal system, particularly in the field of constitutional law. In 1994 the ANU conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Law. The citation records his peerless and formidable reputation as a teacher and summed up his work as distinguished by “elegance, sensitivity to our history and political development” and “a comparativist’s appreciation of what we can learn from and give to other federations”.

In the Pantheon of Australia’s outstanding constitutional law scholars Leslie was chronologically the third in a line of succession beginning with Professor William Harrison Moore of Melbourne University, followed by Professor Geoffrey Sawer of Melbourne University and the ANU. Their fields of interest and experience differed so that one cannot compare them. But it is fair to say that no one has matched the excellence of Leslie’s systematic analysis of the High Court case law in the light of the constitutional provisions, their antecedent history and their wider context.

He had a long-standing connection with Cambridge University. He spent his sabbaticals, mostly at Wolfson College where he formed an enduring friendship with Sir David Williams, the English constitutional law scholar who was President of Wolfson College and later the first Executive Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University. In 1992-1993 Leslie was appointed Arthur Goodhart Professor of Legal Science at Cambridge University and lectured on comparative federalism. In 1995 he was made an Honorary Fellow of Wolfson College.

Many of you will recall Leslie, not so much as a jurist but as an inspired teacher, a teacher who succeeded in encouraging a spirit of inquiry and in promoting a systematic method of thinking about problems. As I speak to lawyers, who were his students, their immense respect and their sense of gratitude to him shines through. He pursued the Socratic method of teaching. Students were expected to read in advance of lectures and to submit to searching interrogation. The comment made to me has been, “He was tough but fair”. He was the ANU’s outstanding law teacher. The Faculty’s reputation was based in large measure, but by no means solely, on his reputation and the high regard his students had for him. Their regard for him was matched by his own regard for them. He looked upon them as part of an extended family. Indeed, one of them, Justice Griffiths of the Federal Court, became one of his closest friends.

As a scholar at Harvard University, where he graduated as a Master of Laws, he had learned the Socratic method of teaching from Professor Paul Freund, the legendary American constitutional lawyer. Justice Gageler of the High Court, an ANU and also a Harvard graduate, has said that in his time at Harvard there was no finer exponent of the Socratic method than Leslie.

I remember Leslie telling me that he was asked by Freund how he would answer a question of interpretation. At that time, as at others, some fancy theories of interpretation were in vogue in the United States. Leslie’s answer was that he would read the text in the light of the language of the provision, its entire context, having regard to its purpose and policy – in other words, an approach that matches our current standard. Freund’s response was “Zines, your approach is quite novel but not to be entirely dismissed as unacceptable on that account.” It was a response that Leslie would much have enjoyed making had he been in Freund’s position.

It reminds me of an anecdote related by a friend of mine who, as a student, was asked by Leslie what he thought of a judgment of Latham CJ. My friend, whom I shall call Smith, mumbled somewhat hesitantly “I don’t think much of it”. Another student, of a kind we all know, put his hand up and launched into a lengthy and confident disquisition on the Latham judgment. At the end of it, Leslie simply said “I think I prefer Mr. Smith’s answer”.

To savour the flavour of the comment you need to know that one of Leslie's characteristics as a lecturer was that he was a performer, indeed a showman, and that the lecture room was his stage. You did not need to be a close friend of Leslie to realise that he was a showman. He was a gifted raconteur who appreciated his own wit and humour as much as, perhaps more than anyone else. The telling of the story, whatever it was, in his distinctive voice, was accompanied by gestures, waving of hands and irrepressible laughter. The irrepressible laughter just as enthusiastically greeted the wit and humour of others.

Margaret Stone has described Leslie as "a bit of a gossip" and so he was. He always enjoyed the latest scandal. As a sparkling conversationalist he knew that a bit of gossip makes the world go round. He was at his best recounting the early days of University House when Professor Trendall was the Master. Some of the social activities engaged in by residents of the House in the early days were revealed in the *Canberra Times* coverage of a divorce case, matrimonial misdemeanours in such cases then being publishable. By today's relaxed standards what happened then wouldn't rate a mention, but things were different then.

I remember a youthful student representative saying about that time that one of the benefits of education at the ANU was that many public servants studied part-time courses and this enabled full-time students to learn "how the other half doesn't live". Again we owe this advertisement of the ANU to "in depth" reporting by the *Canberra Times*.

My friendship with Leslie, which arose out of my association with the ANU Law School, began in the 1960s at about the time when Judith Wilson became the love of his life. Her wit and understanding responded to his mercurial personality. Her devotion to Leslie and her experience as a researcher in the ANU Department of Anthropology enabled her to assist him in typing, proofreading and correcting his academic writing. It was not long after that my wife Pat met them both and from then on the four of us met regularly for dinner in Canberra (sometimes at Boffins next door) and Sydney as well as travelling together in England and Europe. Pat was captivated by Leslie's quicksilver conversation. Leslie and Judith regularly had Christmas lunch in Sydney with our family. Leslie and Judith were regarded as part of our extended family. Leslie always followed the careers of family members with keen interest. At these Christmas lunches Leslie's humorous jousts with my stepmother generated much hilarity.

Leslie was an avid reader. His main interest, like my own, apart from the law, was history. But his interests extended widely to current affairs, politics and literature. So there was never a shortage of topics to talk about. It might be a book, an article in the *New York Review of Books*, a High Court judgment or the latest rumour – but never sport. In the last year of his life, when in hospital, he greatly enjoyed Michael Fullilove's *Rendezvous with Destiny*.

The warmth of his friendship always lifted my spirits. Whenever I appeared in his room in the Coombs Building or in the College of Law, his face would light up and he would exclaim "Tony!" with an obvious sense of delight. Of all the Zines experiences I shall miss these fleeting moments most of all.

Leslie was a very private and reserved person. He rarely spoke about his early life and that is why I have left his early life to the end. He was born on 12 December, 1930. His father, Morris, was a tailor born in Safed, Palestine, one of the four holiest cities in Judaism. Morris followed in the footsteps of his father who was also a Jewish tailor. Morris migrated to Australia when 15 years of age. He married Maud Franklin, Leslie's mother, who was from Leeds, on Christmas Day 1929. Leslie was an only child and his mother died when he was 10 years old. Thereafter he lived with relatives and attended several primary schools before

returning to the family home in Coogee after his father remarried. Leslie and his stepmother had a close and loving relationship.

He went to Sydney Boys High School where he matriculated. In 1952 he graduated with an LL.B degree with 1st Class Honours from Sydney University. Leslie told me that he was walking along Coogee beach with his father when he was sixteen or seventeen and his father asked him what he wanted to do after leaving school. Leslie replied "I want to be a philosopher". His father then asked "What do philosophers do?" Leslie's answer was "Nothing". His father was evidently nonplussed by the response. Later Leslie followed advice from a career adviser to do law. His father was much relieved to hear this.

He was admitted as a barrister after he graduated and was believed to be the youngest barrister in NSW when he was admitted. But he did not practise as a barrister. He had been articled with Remington & Co., a Sydney firm of Solicitors. Geoffrey Remington, Leslie's master solicitor was an impressive looking man of imposing appearance as you would expect of a solicitor who then acted for Rolls Royce Ltd. in Australia. In my mind's eye I can see the diminutive and mercurial Leslie walking down the street in the company of the confident and imposing Geoffrey Remington.

From 1953 to 1961 Leslie served as an officer of the Federal Attorney-General's Department where he worked with the then Solicitor-General, Sir Kenneth Bailey, and later with Sir Garfield Barwick when he became Attorney-General. One colleague in the Department, with whom he was friendly was Bill Deane, later Sir William Deane, High Court Justice and Governor-General. I am told that they entertained the idea of jointly writing a book on the Constitution. Leslie was known to say, "Who would have written the chapter on implied rights?" Leslie left the Department to join the ANU Faculty of Law in 1962.

Leslie's life and achievements speak for themselves. His career represents what we think of as a great Australian story: the son of migrants who, through his own efforts, without any advantages except his own abilities, achieved pre-eminence in his chosen field of activity. And, in doing so, as a teacher, influenced the life and career of so many others. We shall miss him not only for his achievements, but also as a personality and as a wonderful friend. We offer our deepest sympathy to his beloved Judith and the members of his family.

Ryan and ageing Australia

According to the Human Rights Commission, we are in the grip of an economic and social crisis. People are living into their 80s and 90s and beyond, and most are living healthy lives. In 40 years' time Australia will have 1.8 million Australians aged 85 and over. Yet public policy, business practice and community attitudes are failing to respond to these changes. At this stage the longevity revolution is fast becoming a potential crisis.

The Commission goes on, "Today's widespread rejection of workers over fifty condemns them to up to 40 years of unemployment. This could be around 25% more than the years they have spent in the workforce. It could amount to 40 years living off the public purse. Our country can't afford this unnecessary cost. The cost can be avoided if we embrace the power of this sector of our population.

"The way we address this issue today will determine the strength of our economy in the future. It will determine both the quality of our lives and whether older people are forced to become a drain on our economy. It is the greatest challenge to economic management faced by our country in decades.

“Yet, it is not inevitable that 1.8 million Australians will have to rely on public expenditure. In fact, it is a matter of choice – choice by governments, choice by employers and choice by the community. The choices we make today will determine whether we can successfully manage to turn this longevity crisis into an enduring and productive longevity revolution.”

Age Discrimination Commissioner Susan Ryan will examine this critical national issue in an address to the National Press Club on September 17. She will look at possible solutions and announce the actions she will be taking over the second half of her term to help address both this situation.

For more information or to attend the address, access:

<http://www.npc.org.au/speakers/the-hon-susan-ryan-ao.html>

Alumnus appointed ambassador

Mr Paul Robilliard, a graduate of the Australian National University, has been appointed Australia's next Ambassador to Thailand and is expected to take up his appointment in October. A senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Robilliard is currently First Assistant Secretary, South and West Asia Division. He has served overseas as Deputy Head of Mission in Jakarta; Consul-General in Honolulu; and Ambassador to Syria and Lebanon, with earlier postings in Singapore and Syria.

Mr Robilliard holds a Bachelor of Arts with honours from the ANU.

People-to-people interaction between Australia and Thailand is significant. More than 900,000 Australians travelled to Thailand in 2013 and the provision of high quality consular services to travelling Australians is a priority for the Embassy. Australia is a destination of choice for Thai students studying abroad. Australia is working to expand institutional and people-to-people links through the Australia Thailand Institute.

New ACT privacy laws introduce Territory Privacy Principles

Privacy laws operating from September 1 in the ACT introduce a new set of [Territory Privacy Principles \(TPPs\)](#). The new [Information Privacy Act 2014 \(ACT\)](#) gives the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) responsibility for investigating, resolving complaints, providing advice and conducting privacy assessments of ACT public sector agencies.

‘The OAIC says it welcomes the introduction of these new laws and principles that promote responsible and transparent handling of personal information by public sector agencies and contracted service providers,’ Australian Privacy Commissioner Timothy Pilgrim said.

Mr Pilgrim said that the first priority for ACT public sector agencies will be to make sure their privacy policies are up to date.

“We will work with ACT public sector agencies to assist them to implement the new principles across government. We will be expecting agencies to take steps to update their privacy policies to ensure that they meet the requirements of the TPPs,” he said.

ACT public sector agencies were previously covered by the *Privacy Act 1988* (Privacy Act), but the ACT government chose to introduce the ACT-specific TPPs when federal privacy laws changed in March 2014. The TPPs are very similar to the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs), but have been written to apply specifically to ACT public sector agencies. The TPPs cover areas such as:

- open and transparent management of personal information, including privacy policies
- collection, and notification of collection, of personal information
- use and disclosure of personal information
- access and correction of personal information.

The Privacy Commissioner also said that the OAIC is committed to ensuring that ACT residents have all the information they need in order to understand their rights.

'If someone has a privacy concern, they can call our Inquiries line on 1300 363 992 1300 363 992 FREE, and we will be happy to answer questions or help them with their complaint.' The [OAIC website gives information about the legislation](#) (including the OAIC's role) for individuals, and about how to make a privacy complaint against an ACT public sector agency.

In preparation for the changes, the OAIC has also produced [Privacy agency resource 3: Information Privacy Act 2014 — Checklist for ACT agencies](#), to help agencies assess their compliance with the new principles, and [Privacy fact sheet 42: Australian Capital Territory Privacy Principles](#), which provides the principles in full.

Boost for Australian archival research

The National Archives of Australia and the Australian Historical Association (AHA) are continuing their joint commitment to encourage postgraduate archival research into Australia's history.

The organisations announced on August 26 the latest winners of their twice-yearly joint scholarships: PhD candidate Christoph Ellssel from the University of Munich and Master of Philosophy candidate Wai Yan (Vivian) Kong from the University of Hong Kong.

The scholarships, at \$650 each, help talented postgraduate scholars with the cost of copying or digitising records held in the National Archives' various locations, when the cost of travel may be prohibitive. For example, scholars may be based in one city or another country and want to investigate archival records located elsewhere that are essential to their research.

Christoph Ellssel's research project is the impact of the Colombo Plan, which was seen in part as a tool to open up South-East Asia to Western influence during the Cold War period. Students who attended Australian universities under the plan had a major impact on South-East Asia's political development. Mr Ellssel's research deals with the Australian position in the negotiation of the Colombo Plan and its connections to ANZUS and SEATO.

Wai Yan Kong is researching the forced evacuation of British women and children from Hong Kong to Australia in 1940. Her research will examine the impact of the largest evacuation policy in Hong Kong history on the lives of those affected. Sources in the National Archives of Australia will help provide a picture of evacuees' experiences after they left Hong Kong – especially how they tackled the difficulties of living in a foreign land without their husbands and fathers.

'Both projects will add significantly to our knowledge of Australian history and will also benefit other archival researchers', said Louise Doyle, Assistant Director-General, Access and Communication at the National Archives. 'It is exciting to see aspects of Australian history being studied by students located beyond our shores.'

Joint partner, the AHA is also pleased to encourage international postgraduate research into Australian history.

“It is very pleasing that this collaborative scheme is providing direct, tangible assistance to meritorious postgraduate students overseas,” said President of the AHA, Professor Angela Woollacott. “At the same time, these awards expand the online availability of National Archives records.”

Australia and US strengthen information sharing

In a joint media release the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection have announced that the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia have signed an agreement for the sharing of visa and immigration information, “bolstering the capacity of each country to confirm identities of foreign nationals”.

The agreement for the sharing of visa and immigration information, which was signed at Parliament House on August 27, will enable two-way information sharing between Australia and the United States.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop, says the agreement comes at a time when strengthening national border control through the use of technology has never been more important for Australia.

The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Scott Morrison, said the agreement would enable the exchange of appropriate immigration information in accordance with the countries' respective privacy and legislative provisions, increasing volumes and response times and facilitating timely immigration-related decisions.

Native Title ministers meet

For the first time since 2009, the Commonwealth, state and territory ministers responsible for native title have met “to renew and reinvigorate discussions about the operation of the Native Title Act 1993”.

At the Darwin meeting, co-hosted by the Commonwealth Attorney-General and the Commonwealth Minister for Indigenous Affairs, ministers confirmed their commitment to work cooperatively on native title issues. Cooperation on native title issues between the Commonwealth, States and Territories will improve social, cultural and economic outcomes for indigenous people, landholders and local communities. Ministers discussed how Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments could work collaboratively, as jurisdictional partners, to improve efficiency in the system.

Ministers discussed challenges for the future acts regime; opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of claims resolution; and the role and future directions of native title organisations.

Ministers also discussed future directions for organisations negotiating native title on behalf of Indigenous people and corporations holding and managing native title. This included how to coordinate support between Commonwealth and state and territory government and other possible measures to improve the native title corporations' sustainability, independence and capacity to make the most effective use of their native title rights.

Ministers Brandis and Scullion acknowledged the significant role and experience of the States and Territories in adapting to the Native Title Act 1993, including the implementation of the Commonwealth native title system into their respective land administration regimes.

Queensland will host another ministerial meeting in December 2014.

Infrastructure development

The House of Representatives' Infrastructure Committee held a public hearing in Canberra on 29 August at which it examined the importance of key freight routes and the crucial role they play in infrastructure development, innovative infrastructure funding and financing techniques, improving telecommunications infrastructure through regulatory reform, and rethinking charging practices for road users.

Committee chairman Mrs Jane Prentice MP says that to meet Australia's future infrastructure needs it is vital that strong and cooperative links are made between Government and private industry.

Further information on the inquiry, including the full terms of reference and how to prepare a submission can be obtained from the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/ic or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 2352 or email ic.reps@aph.gov.au

Inspiring Australians with Maths and Stats

From August to November, the 2013 Prime Minister's Science Prize winner and one of Australia's most eminent statisticians, Professor Terry Speed, is touring the country as the 2014 AMSI-SSAI Lecturer. This annual event gives the research community and the general public an opportunity to hear top academics in the fields of both pure and applied mathematics speak about their research.

Professor Speed addressed a seminar in the ACT on August 26 titled "Removing Unwanted Variation from high-throughput omic data" and gave a public lecture on "A New Frontier: understanding epigenetics through mathematics" on August 27 at the ANU.

Professor Terry Speed is a Senior Principal Research Scientist and lab head in the Bioinformatics Division of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne, Australia, and an associate of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Melbourne. He remains affiliated with the Department of Statistics of the University of California at Berkeley, where he taught for many years. He mentors graduate students and postdocs in statistics and bioinformatics and is co-investigator on genetic, genomic and bioinformatics projects. He serves on a number of scientific advisory boards, including those of Veracyte, Inc, a Bay area diagnostics company, Cancer UK's Cambridge Institute, and the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics in Oxford.

Professor Speed is recognised as one of the world's leaders in the relatively new field of bioinformatics. He has more than 40 years of experience in statistics, specialising in the design and analysis of studies in genetics and genomics. He was awarded the 2002 Pitman Medal (Statistical Society of Australia), the 2003 Moyal Medal (Macquarie University), and was the joint recipient of 2004 Outstanding Applications Paper Award, American Statistical Association. A fellow of the Australian Academy of Sciences, Professor Speed was recently elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of London, and in 2013 he was awarded the Australian Prime Minister's Prize for Science.

Have your say

New direction in Australia – PNG economic relations under review

The Parliament's Treaties Committee examined the Treaty on Economic Cooperation intended to reset the economic relationship between Australia and Papua New Guinea at a public hearing on September 1

Committee chair Wyatt Roy said Australia's economic relationship with PNG has been typified as aid donor and recipient.

"This treaty is intended to better reflect our true relationship as economic partners," he said. PNG has experienced 10 years of economic growth. This is expected to continue with projects like PNG LNG, a liquefied natural gas operation, starting up in the next few years. Australia's economic relationship with PNG is substantial, with Australian investment in PNG topping \$19b, almost equal to Australian investment in China.

The treaty obliges Australia and PNG to make their best endeavours to improve trade, investment, and business cooperation, and to work together on issues such as quarantine and technical barriers to trade.

The Committee examined amendments to the Australia New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement and amendments to three bilateral migratory waterbird treaties with Japan, Korea and China.

Copies of the treaties and submissions received can be found at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties

Alternatively, interested parties may email jsct@aph.gov.au or phone (02) 6277 4002.

Inquiry into the National Security Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2014

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security has advised the Attorney-General that it intends to present its report on the National Security Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2014 in the week beginning 22 September 2014.

The National Security Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2014 was referred to the Committee by the Attorney-General on 16 July 2014, with a requested reporting date of 8 September 2014.

The Committee Chair, Mr Dan Tehan MP, explained "while every effort has been made to meet the requested reporting date, given the importance of the Bill and the need to give due consideration to matters raised during the inquiry, the Committee has delayed the presentation of its report until the following sitting fortnight".

During its inquiry, the Committee has received more than 30 written submissions and has conducted two public hearings. The Committee has continued to receive submissions late in the inquiry process.

The Bill implements many of the bipartisan recommendations made by the Committee in Chapter 4 of its 2013 Report of the Inquiry into Potential Reforms of Australia's National Security Legislation. Chapter 4 included 22 recommendations on reforms to legislation governing the Australian Intelligence Community, including the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979 and Intelligence Services Act 2001.

The Joint Committee held a further public hearing on August 18 for its inquiry at which evidence was taken from the Law Council of Australia; Electronic Frontiers Australia; Civil Liberties Councils (joint appearance); Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law; the Australian Lawyers Alliance; the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance and the OAIC

Submissions can be accessed via the [Committee's website](#). The Bill and Explanatory Memorandum can be accessed via this [link](#). For inquiry information: contact the Committee Secretariat on 02 6277 2360 or email pjcis@aph.gov.au.

Intellectual property

More than 50,000 people are already using the Federal Government's intellectual property agency, IPAustralia's eServices platform to manage their intellectual property across the four IP rights groups, according to a recent announcement by the agency

eServices is a web-based portal that allows you to quickly and safely apply, register, renew and pay for your IP rights in Australia. It is a secure, easy to use, self-service portal for lodging IP through streamlined online transaction processes - covering all IP Right service requests.

[From 1 September, eServices users are able to access and download patents and correspondence from IP Australia in PDF format](#)

To help newcomers to the service navigate through the system more easily IPAustralia has developed six instructional videos.

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>

Additional Diary Dates

"Meet the authors – a series" – organised by Colin Steele

For more details email colin.steele@anu.edu.au

9 September – Gareth Evans, *Inside the Hawke-Keating Government*, Manning Clark 1

14 October – Graeme Simsion, *The Rosie Effect – The Sequel to the Rosie Project*, which was the 2013 Australian Book of the Year. Manning Clark 2

22 October – Hugh McKay, *The Art of Belonging*, Manning Clark 1

ANU Archives supporters can find updated news on the ANU website at

<http://www.archives.anu.edu.au/news-and-events-1>

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 is held in the office. Conditions for the use of the premises will be emailed to users and a copy is on the ANUEF website. Contact Judith Caton on judith.caton@anu.edu.au

The next edition of *Emeritus*, the ANUEF Newsletter, will be published in October, 2014.