

# EMERITUS Vol 5 No 10

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## Emphasis on research

Translating Australia's research success into an economic boost is the focus of a new discussion paper, *Boosting the Commercial Returns from Research*, released by the Australian Government.

The Government will now consult on initiatives to better capitalise on research strengths, including possible changes to research funding to foster greater collaboration between universities and industry.

The strategy will link with the Government's Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda, which is focussed on enhancing Australia's productivity and international competitiveness.

Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne, and Minister for Industry, Ian Macfarlane, said the Government will consult with the research community and industry on creating better translation of research into commercial outcomes, including:

- adjusting research funding to provide greater incentives for collaboration between research and industry
- supporting world-class research infrastructure to attract the world's best researchers and facilitate collaboration with industry

## Commemorative Lunch

One of our most illustrious members died last week, so there will be a special collegiate lunch on Wednesday, **November 5** at noon for 12.30 to discuss "Gough Whitlam's Legacy; some Emeritus Faculty views". Discussion will be led by Don Anderson (Education); John Molony ("comrade"); Fergus Thomson (Murphy's Law); Patrick Troy (Urban and Regional Development). BYO lunch, as usual - drinks and nibbles will be provided. The start of the Executive Committee that afternoon will be delayed until 3pm.

### Other Events

**Nov 11** Tuesday Lecture 'Gallipoli' by Peter Fitzsimons. 'Meet the Authors' Series. Theatre 1, Manning Clark Centre 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm. Vote of thanks by John Molony.

**More diary dates on page 16**

- promoting 'intellectual property' arrangements that facilitate collaboration and commercialisation of ideas
- ensuring training prepares researchers to work with industry and bring their ideas to market
- improving assessment of the research system and research outcomes and their impact.

"The Government's Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda focuses on several targeted measures to ensure Australia can create new opportunities and new jobs in global markets," Mr Macfarlane said.

"To maximise our economic opportunities in the years ahead Australian industry must capitalise on our areas of competitive strength and we must lift our game when it comes to collaboration between business and research.

"Australia is already performing well on research excellence – more than 3.5 per cent of the world's top highly cited international research publications involve Australian researchers, up from just over 2 per cent in 2006.

"But when it comes to collaboration with business our performance falls away, with fewer than 5 per cent of Australian businesses turning to the research sector for new ideas or problem-solving."

Mr Pyne said that the Government's focus was to address the challenges Australia faces in turning good ideas and research breakthroughs into commercial results.

"The need for reform is clear with Australia ranking 81st out of 143 countries on the Global Innovation Index measuring how effectively we get returns from research, ideas and institutions," Mr Pyne said.

"We rank last in the OECD on the proportion of businesses which collaborate with research institutions on innovation. A national strategy to create stronger links between research, science and industry is a central plank of the Government's commitment to boost Australia's economy, ensuring our competitiveness into the future.

"It also aligns with the Government's higher education reforms, and the efforts to realise the potential of health research and help businesses to thrive."

As part of the Competitiveness Agenda the Government is also establishing the Commonwealth Science Council as the pre-eminent body for advice on science and technology issues facing Australia

The Council will bring together leaders in Australian industry, research and government. One of its first actions will be to advise on national priorities for science and research.

**The Government welcomes input from the research sector and industry on the discussion paper and invites submissions by 28 November 2014 at 5.00pm AEDT.**

Further details on the initiative and how to make a submission are set out in a discussion paper available at [www.education.gov.au/current-reviews-and-consultations](http://www.education.gov.au/current-reviews-and-consultations).

## PM's science prizes

The Prime Minister's Prizes celebrate the accomplishments of Australian science, scientists and educators. Each year, scientists and science educators are awarded across five categories for the impact they make to economic and social wellbeing both in Australia and internationally, and the part science educators play in bringing about an interest in science in their students.

This year, the recipients of the prizes are:

- [Laureate Professor Sam Berkovic and Professor Ingrid Scheffer](#) – Prime Minister's Prize for Science for their discoveries in the link between genetics and epilepsy, a condition that affects around 50 million people.
- [Professor Ryan Lister](#) – Frank Fenner Prize for Life Scientist of the Year for mapping how our genes are turned on and off and its potential ability to change agriculture and the treatment of disease and mental health.
- [Dr Matthew Hill](#) – Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year for reinventing filters for everyday industry use.
- [Mr Geoff McNamara](#) – Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Secondary Schools for his contributions to science teaching and the nurturing of student creativity.
- [Mr Brian Schiller](#) – Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Primary Schools for his influence to science teaching and inspiring science learning.

Over the past 13 years the prizes have recognised Australians responsible for many globally significant discoveries including cervical cancer vaccine; WiFi; multi-focal glasses and the bionic ear -- some of the many Australian innovations that are today used all around the world as a result of Australian science.

You can read more about the history of the Prime Minister's Prizes for Science and all past recipients on the [Department of Industry website](#).

## International education – the challenge

Senator Bridget McKenzie, addressing the Australian International Education Conference on *the Government's plan for sustainable growth in international education* in Brisbane on October 7, outlined the Government's response to the report prepared by the International Education Advisory Council, chaired by Michael Chaney AO. The report, *Australia – Educating Globally*, provides considered advice on the challenges and opportunities facing international education in Australia. A formal response to this report will be part of a draft National Strategy for International Education, which will subsequently be put out for consultation to the broader sector.

Senator McKenzie, speaking on behalf of the Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne, said, [in part]The Government's higher education reform package, currently in the Parliament, cannot be separated from Australia's international reputation as a world leader in education services.

The Government's higher education reforms are precisely about inventing the future. They aim to free education institutions to focus on the only future that works – a future of quality, combined with access and equity. The reforms are carefully designed to improve Australia's higher education system and ensure it is not a victim of increasing competition. They aim to

make marketing to students easier – by enabling universities and other providers to make the most of their individual strengths, to specialise and offer courses that meet students' needs.

The reforms will ensure that Australia does not get left behind in increasing competition. The Shanghai Jiao Tong index – the Academic Ranking of World Universities - lists eight Australian universities in the world's elite 200. Universities in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore are rising strongly through the rankings. Five years ago, there were no Chinese universities in the top 200, now there are six.

The “*Times Higher Education*” World University rankings showed that while last year there were 20 Asian universities in the top 200, now there are 24.

The reforms will safeguard our position as a leader, strengthen our universities, offer more to students, and – as part of the package – protect Australia's strong, competitive research system. They will position our institutions to attract the best and brightest students and staff from around the world. There is much at stake if we don't do this. That is why the Government is working tirelessly to see this vital package pass.

While a formal response to the Chaney report will be part of the upcoming draft National Strategy for International Education, on behalf of the Minister, I can outline a broad response to the Chaney report. The International Education Advisory Council included representatives from the education and business sectors. It was established to provide advice and recommendations on the challenges and opportunities facing international education in Australia.

The Chaney report was developed in close consultation with leaders across the international education community. It set out recommendations against seven key issues identified as critical to the future of Australia's international education efforts.

**Coordination:** The first key issue identified by the Advisory Council was coordination. The Government agrees with the recommendations of the Chaney report about the need for better coordination of government policy and programs in international education. It also agrees that there is a need for improved consultation with stakeholders, without creating additional red tape and reporting requirements. The draft National Strategy on International Education will guide a coordinated effort and vision for Australia to grow as a world leader in international education into the future.

To help drive the national strategy and provide the coordination needed for effective national action, a consultation draft invites comment. Two Round Tables on International Education each year will include representatives from the international education community, including IEAA, Universities Australia and other peak bodies, business leaders, community leaders and, of course, governments.

The Government will be taking a broad view of international education. It will provide a strategy for sustainable growth in the long term. It will recognise international education as a key economic driver for Australia into the future. It will not lose sight of the unbreakable link between our domestic and our international aspirations, nor domestic and international education policy.

The divide between Australian students and students overseas seeking an education in Australia is not as wide as people think. All students want the same things - a high quality education and an enriching educational experience that leads to good employment prospects.

**Quality:** The second issue identified by the Advisory Council is further enhancing the quality of the education provided to our international students. As a recent analysis suggests: *perception of quality is the most important factor in student choice. Cost, safety, post-graduation work rights and student visa policies are all considered but the majority of students say quality is what matters most.*

Australia's position as one of the world's top three English-speaking study destinations has been squarely built on, and rests upon, our reputation for quality. It is vital that quality be at the heart of Australia's approach.

The Advisory Council highlighted that Australia should be positioned as a provider of the highest quality education, while reducing over-regulation, duplication and overlap. The Government's higher education reforms have been designed to promote opportunity and quality in Australia's higher education and research system. They also reduce regulation, reporting and red tape. The Government wants to free education institutions from unnecessary burdens so they can get on with doing what they do best.

The review of the Education Services for Overseas Students arrangements is underway. The Government has released a discussion paper on *Reforms to the ESOS framework*. The discussion paper sets out proposals for improving ESOS in key areas identified by stakeholders through consultations. The Government will work through all changes with the international education community, to ensure ESOS is contemporary and to ensure that it meets the needs and expectations of institutions and students.

**A positive student experience:** The Advisory Council also made a number of recommendations to ensure that international students have a positive experience while they are our guests. They stressed we must maintain and build on Australia's reputation as an open and friendly learning environment, where international students are valued members of the community and are supported to achieve their goals.

There were also recommendations about accommodation for international students, and their access to public services and to work experiences. The Government is acutely aware of how *not* having the right accommodation available for students could dissuade them from coming to Australia. It is looking at ways to improve the availability, affordability and quality of international student accommodation. The Government will also continue to work with state, territory and local governments to ensure that students from overseas continue to have a welcoming study and living experience, in addition to a world-class education.

**Partnerships:** Another key issue identified by the Advisory Council was the need to encourage Australian institutions and governments to develop strong and diverse international and multinational partnerships. These partnerships encourage student, researcher and teacher exchanges and draw strengths from across the international education community and across the world. We will not lose sight of the potential for developing new partnerships with regions such as Latin America. This is why the Government has established an education and science counsellor in Brasilia to build closer research and science linkages to promote Australia as a high-quality study destination. At the same time as we diversify, Australia's partnerships with the Asia-Pacific region will, of course, continue to be absolutely critical to our future prosperity in the region. The New Colombo Plan is building on these successful relationships. The 2014 pilot phase of the New Colombo Plan has supported around 1,300 Australian undergraduate students and 40 scholarship holders to study and work as interns in the four pilot locations. These locations are Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong. In 2015 we will expand the programme so Australian students continue to develop skills and knowledge through study, mentoring and professional development experiences in over 30 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Student visa program:** Ensuring the integrity of Australia's student visa program is another key issue identified by the Advisory Council. Australia's student visa settings must be competitive and attractive in all education sectors. Streamlined visa processing arrangements and post-study work visas are creating opportunities for students to develop the work skills they need to compete in the global employment market.

**Data analysis and research in international education:** The Advisory Council identified the need for better information, through improved data analysis and research, to support effective Australian international education policy. The Government will work with peak bodies and education leaders to determine research priorities for international education in the medium to longer term, including working with IEAA on ways to expand the International Education Research Network.

**Competition, promotion and marketing:** Finally, the Chaney report underlined the importance of Australia being competitive and innovative as global competition for international students intensifies. For instance, the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand have all released international education strategies in the past 18 months. And China and Japan are setting ambitious targets for foreign students to study at their institutions. The Government will continue to draw on Australia's competitive advantages and actively promote Australian education, including through the Study in Australia website and the Future Unlimited brand.

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The Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne, released two reports on October 20 - highlighting the need to improve teacher training and classroom readiness and lift the status of the teaching profession. Releasing the *National Teaching Workforce Dataset* and the results of the *Staff in Australia's Schools 2013* survey Mr Pyne said the reports illustrated areas that need urgent attention if Australian students are to get a world-class education. The *Staff in Australia's Schools* survey shows that only about half of new primary school teachers think their initial teacher training was helpful in teaching students with a wide range of backgrounds and abilities, Mr Pyne said.

<http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/surveys-show-urgent-need-improved-teacher-training>

## **Universities Australia**

### **Standards in jeopardy**

Belinda Robinson, Chief Executive, Universities Australia, made an opening statement *to the Senate Committee Inquiry into the Higher Education and Research Reform Amendment Bill 2014*

She said, in part, "Against a backdrop of ongoing public budget restraint, intensifying global competition, technological evolution and increasing student expectations and demand, it is incumbent on all of us to work in the best interests of our students, employers and the country in shaping and positioning our university sector for meeting, not just today's challenges, but tomorrow's as well.

"If we fail in that task, we risk paying the price, over time, of an erosion in the quality of teaching, of research and, inevitably of our graduates. This won't happen immediately but the system simply cannot sustain ongoing cuts to revenue without there being a consequential impact on performance.

“We don't believe that it is possible to maintain the standards that students expect or the international reputation that the sector enjoys without a new approach that has at its core long-term financial sustainability and less university exposure to policy instability, political whim and idiosyncratic approaches to funding that are impossible to predict from one six month period to the next....

“We cannot escape the fact that the meritorious increase in access to university education has left both major parties, when in Government, struggling to defend the cost that the system imposes on the taxpayer.

Government funding per student has dropped by 14.4 per cent in real terms since 1994. Despite some correcting up-ticks through this period, particularly from 2003, these have been insufficient to offset the long-term decline. With both major parties announcing further reductions when in Government, it has become very clear to the sector that a new approach is needed to provide bottom-line insurance against frequently changing policy and budget priorities and to assure the quality and performance expectations of our students.

“The sector has looked carefully and closely at the Government's proposals and come to the consensus view that fee deregulation, the next logical step in higher education policy, should not be opposed. But we do believe that substantial improvements to the package are required.

“In applying the principles that sit at the heart of good higher education policy - affordability, accessibility, equity and sustainability - we would like to see the Senate amend the package in three key ways:

1. By providing relief to the proposed 20 per cent cut to Commonwealth supported places;
2. By reducing the regressive impact of the proposed changes to the student loans scheme; and
3. By providing a structural adjustment package to assist institutions make the transition to the new market-based environment.

Ms Robinson also addressed concerns raised by students, their families and others about affordability. She said, “The amendments to the legislation proposed by Universities Australia are intended to ensure that no one is deterred from enrolling at university because of price. We also believe that competitive pressures and the desire not to be priced out of the market will serve to put downward pressure on university fees.

“Nevertheless, for additional assurance, there may also be merit in amending the legislation to provide for the establishment of an independent expert advisory panel to monitor the implementation of the reforms and provide advice to the Government on any policy adjustments that may be required. Such a panel could also be charged with the responsibility for more formally reviewing the system at the appropriate time and would be consistent with the recommendation of the Office of Best Practice Regulation (published on 1 October 2014) that a post implementation review be completed within five years of commencement....

“We have a choice. We can keep going as we are, where the demand for a quality university education continues to outstrip the capacity of the system to pay for it, or we do something different. The Senate is in a unique and privileged position to shape this key element of long-term structural reform and create a legacy. We encourage them to do so by amending the Bill as we suggest and passing it.”



To access the wide range of submissions to the committee, go to:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Education\\_and\\_Employment/Higher\\_Education/Submissions](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Education_and_Employment/Higher_Education/Submissions)

### **If music be the food of ... teaching!**

The Minister for the Arts, Senator Brandis, and the Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne, announced \$594,000 in funding for a new national music mentorship program that will bring “high quality music mentorship to classroom teachers across Australia”.

The National Music Teachers Mentorship Pilot Program has been developed in close consultation between the Australian Government, the Australian Youth Orchestra and Mr Richard Gill OAM. It will be hosted by the Australian Youth Orchestra who will utilise their well-established connections within the music and education sectors to deliver the programme.

Commencing in classrooms in February 2015, the program will run for three years and establish mentoring partnerships between professional music educators and generalist classroom teachers with the goal of enriching music education in primary schools and engaging students in a quality music education.

It is anticipated that within the first 12 months of the National Music Teachers Mentorship (NMTM) Program approximately 50 teachers across Australia will have participated with the number of teachers becoming involved growing over the ensuing two years of this pilot program.

Through the mentorship program, teachers, including those in regional and remote areas, will be equipped with additional tools for teaching music in their classrooms. The positive academic and social impact of a quality school-based arts education has long been recognised with many demonstrated positive impacts, including on academic achievement, school attendance and social cohesion.

The Department of Education will have invested more than \$14.4 million between 2007 and 2017 to support arts education initiatives that improve access to and participation in arts education, particularly in regional areas.

In thanking Mr Gill for his drive in bringing the program to fruition, the ministers acknowledged he is one of Australia’s pre-eminent music educators and a long term advocate for high quality music education for youth. He is also a conductor, music director of the Victorian Opera and artistic director of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra’s education program.

### **Science at centre of industry policy**

The Federal Government’s plan to place science at the centre of industry policy is necessary to lift national competitiveness, according to Universities Australia which commends the Federal Government’s *Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda* released by the Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane.

“The Agenda recognises the fundamental role of science and innovation in improving the international competitiveness of Australian industry which is central to securing future economic prosperity”, the Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Belinda Robinson said.



"The Government's announcement of \$12 million to improve the teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects in primary and secondary schools is important as Australia seeks to ensure it has students properly prepared for higher education and a modern technology based workforce", Ms Robinson said.

As part of the implementation of the Agenda, the Government has established a new Commonwealth Science Council to improve collaboration between business, universities, research organisations and government.

Ms Robinson congratulated the Science Council members who are: Professor Timothy Davis, Professor Ian Frazer, Professor Nalini Joshi, Professor Tanya Monro, Professor Brian Schmidt, Mr Ken Boal, Dr Michael Chaney, Dr Jackie Fairley, Mr David Knox and Ms Catherine Livingstone.

The Agenda earmarked five key sectors of the economy to establish industry growth centres to pursue global excellence and competitive advantage: food and agribusiness; mining equipment, technology and services; oil, gas and energy resources; medical technologies and pharmaceuticals and advanced manufacturing.

Ms Robinson said that Australia's universities are undertaking world-leading research in the key sectors identified by the Australian Government.

"Universities Australia has long been advocating for greater collaboration between universities and business and looks forward to working with the Government through the planned roundtables to deliver the Agenda.

"As the Prime Minister and Minister Macfarlane acknowledged today, less than five per cent of Australian businesses turn directly to the higher education sector's researchers for expertise and ideas.

"At the same time, as the Prime Minister also made clear today, there is a strong role for basic research to improve knowledge of the world around us, some of which leads to commercial applications, such as the outstanding discoveries of Wifi and the Cochlear implant", Ms Robinson said.

### **Too much in curriculum**

The Australian Government, in its initial response to the Review of the Australian Curriculum, supports the Review recommendations relating to overcrowding in the curriculum. The government's response says, "We must deal with the overcrowding of the curriculum as a matter of priority. Overcrowding means that teachers are finding it difficult to implement the Australian Curriculum and cover all the content in each subject. It also means that students are not necessarily getting the right amount of time devoted to the content in each subject that they really need – for example, literacy and numeracy in the early years of primary schooling.

"The structure of the Australian Curriculum should also be reconsidered. Two models have been presented by the reviewers for how to approach the Australian Curriculum in the early years of schooling (Foundation to Year 2).

"Dealing with overcrowding will require us looking carefully and dispassionately at when and how certain subjects are introduced to children, such as literacy and numeracy for children in the early years of primary school; or economics and business in later primary school. In

some instances, there may be a need for a greater integration within, or across some subjects in the primary years.

“The Australian Government supports the recommendation to reconceptualise the current cross-curriculum priorities and instead embed these only where educationally relevant in the mandatory context of the curriculum. The Review concluded that while the current cross-curriculum priorities are valid areas for consideration in the curriculum, this approach is not well communicated and may warrant reconceptualisation.

“The Review found support for the inclusion of the seven general capabilities – literacy, numeracy, ICT (information and communications technology) capability, critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability, ethical understanding, and intercultural understanding – in the Australian Curriculum. The Australian Government will seek further input from education ministers and ACARA before determining a final the current embedded approach in general capabilities....”

The Review of the Australian Curriculum found many stakeholders had been critical of the overcrowding of the Australian Curriculum and the content being excessive, unduly rigid and prescriptive in many of the learning areas.

The findings of the Review confirmed that this is a real concern, particularly in the primary school years. With implementation of the Australian Curriculum, this concern, if left unaddressed, will continue to have real and practical consequences for its delivery – far too much content than can be reasonably delivered by our schools and teachers, impacting on the quality of learning of our students.

The Review heard considerable evidence of overcrowding in the curriculum and it was the primary issue raised by principals, teachers and parents, and the broader education community. While overcrowding exists across much of the curriculum, it appears to be a particularly prevalent in the primary years.

Some stakeholders reported that there is too much focus on some subjects to the detriment of foundational skills, such as literacy and numeracy. Some stakeholders were concerned that the amount of time required to teach the Australian Curriculum did not leave enough time for the inclusion of local priorities. Some stakeholders saw tight timeframes during curriculum development and the isolated development of learning areas as contributing to a problem of an ‘overcrowded’ curriculum.

### **Cross-curriculum priorities**

The Australian Curriculum has a three-dimensional shape design: discipline-based learning areas; general capabilities; and cross-curriculum priorities. There is considerable support for this organisational structure; however, some view the cross-curriculum priorities and general capabilities as adding to the complexity of the delivery of the Australian Curriculum. Concerns have been expressed in the evidence provided to the reviewers about this current structure and whether the current cross-curriculum priorities and general capabilities need to be better communicated and reconceptualised.

### **Review of the Australian Curriculum – Government’s first response** <http://docs.education.gov.au/node/36267>

### **Toddlers queue up for languages**

More than 1000 preschool services across the country have put their hand up for the chance to be part of the Government’s Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) trial next year, according to the Assistant Minister for Education, Sussan Ley.

She announced that a total of 1118 preschool services had applied to be part of the \$9.8 million pilot, which will introduce pre-schoolers to a second language through play-based apps in 40 preschool trials in 2015.

Ms Ley said the interest in ELLA had been “huge” and showed that early childhood services and educators saw the potential developmental and social benefits of increasing a child’s exposure to a second language at an early age.

“We’re essentially talking about one in every seven preschool services across the country applying to participate in this trial – what a fantastic response!” Ms Ley said.

“We announced this policy because we see the potential benefits introducing a second language to youngsters has for the future of our children, economy and, ultimately, our nation.

“The massive response from preschool services and the community to the trial clearly shows many others share this view. It’s certainly set tongues wagging and it’s been exciting to see the trial continue the growing revival of discussion about the importance of language studies for our children.

“While there’s a tough job ahead narrowing down the final trial sites from such a large group of high-calibre applicants, it also ensures we can deliver a truly representative and high-quality trial.”

Ms Ley said this was supported by fair selection criteria to ensure a diverse range of trials sites across the states and territories and metropolitan, regional and remote communities, as well as a combination of small and large preschool services spanning long day care, standalone preschools and school-based preschools.

Languages for the trial are Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, Indonesian, Arabic and French. The proportion of Year 12 students studying a second language has dropped from about 40 per cent in the 1960s to about 12 per cent today.

## **New head of CSIRO**

The appointment of Dr Larry Marshall as the new Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) was announced recently by the Chairman of the CSIRO Board, Simon McKeon.

Mr McKeon said, "The Chief Executive of CSIRO is probably the most important position in national science administration, so we conducted an extensive global search for an innovative scientist with strong business leadership qualities, and more than 70 candidates were considered.

"Dr Marshall combines commercial and scientific credentials with extensive global experience, making him the world class leader we were seeking for CSIRO. The Board is confident that Dr Marshall will lead CSIRO in a manner which ensures that it continues to provide advice of the highest quality to Government as well as provide best practice collaboration with the private sector."

Mr McKeon also thanked current Chief Executive Dr Megan Clark for her leadership of CSIRO for the past six years. Dr Clark will leave CSIRO at the end of December this year.

"Dr Clark leaves CSIRO with a legacy to be proud of, most notably for her long term commitment to the global competitiveness of Australian science through the establishment of research precincts; and to major knowledge infrastructure projects such as the new research vessel," Mr McKeon said.

Dr Marshall will join CSIRO in January 2015. He is currently Managing Director of Southern Cross Venture Partners, an early stage venture capital firm specialising in creating Australian technology companies and growing them globally in Asia and the United States.

Dr Marshall was educated at Macquarie University (Sydney) where he took a doctorate in physics. He began his career in the Defence Science and Technology Organisation and has 25 years experience as an international technology entrepreneur and holds 20 patents protecting commercial products. He has founded six successful United States companies in biotechnology, photonics, telecommunications and semiconductors.

## **Dementia research at Melbourne**

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Senator Scott Ryan, says researchers looking for treatments for dementia, Parkinson's disease, strokes and other neurodegenerative disease will be assisted by the launch of a 7 Tesla Magnetic Resonance Imaging (7T MRI) scanner at the University of Melbourne.

The 7T MRI scanner was made possible through a \$40.23 million investment by the Australian Government. The purchase and installation of the machine at the Melbourne Brain Centre was also supported by contributions from the University of Melbourne and the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health. As well as the new 7T MRI scanner, \$200 million has been provided over the next five years to boost Australia's dementia research capacity.

Senator Ryan said, "The 7T whole-body MRI machine strengthens the University of Melbourne's place on the leading edge of scientific research. This machine will reinforce our knowledge of many neurodegenerative diseases including stroke, epilepsy, motor neurone disease, brain tumours, post-traumatic stress, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's."

## **Major funding for biomedical research**

Australian biomedical research and businesses that utilise in-house research will receive a major boost thanks to \$17.9 million in funding from the Science and Industry Endowment Fund, for two major collaborative efforts that will connect SMEs with researchers, Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane has announced.

The first brings together CSIRO, Monash University and 20 industry players in a consortia worth approximately \$46m to focus on developing biomedical products from the bench to prototype, and through industry partners to market.

The Biomedical Materials Transformation Facility will be led by Monash University and CSIRO based at their joint Clayton precinct in Melbourne with partners MIMR-PHI and ANSTO.

The SIEF investment has leveraged \$10 million respectively from CSIRO and Monash, and the rest invested from emerging industry partners, and has a particular focus on the '3Ds' - materials and IP for delivery, diagnostics and devices - applied to the diagnosis and treatment of key chronic diseases - cardiovascular, cancer and ophthalmic diseases.

Minister Macfarlane also announced a further \$7.9 million over five years for a SIEF STEM+ Business Fellowship Program, which places science, technology, engineering and mathematics early career researchers as researchers-in-residence in Australian business and industry.

The program aims to build deeper connections and collaboration between researchers and SMEs, accelerating the adoption of new ideas and technology, and helping SMEs grow into larger and more profitable organisations. It will also create a cohort of developing researchers capable of addressing national challenges.

With co-investment from participating organisations this program has the capacity to deliver \$17 million of research projects with Australian SMEs.

The funds have been awarded from the Science and Industry Endowment Fund (SIEF), founded in 1926 to fund innovation in Australian research. SIEF was reinvigorated with a \$150 million gift in 2009 from CSIRO out of the proceeds of fast wireless LAN licensing.

### Conferring of Awards

The Australian National University will be conducting *Conferring of Awards* ceremonies on December 16, 17, 18 and 19 at Llewellyn Hall.

ANU Emeritus Faculty members are cordially 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 **Thursday 11 December 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 Graduand Registration Room; there will be signs on the day providing directions. Registered participants are asked to assemble in this location, at least half an hour prior to the commencement of the ceremony.

Please feel free to contact the Senior Graduations Officer – Emilia Ciampa (x54648) (02) 6125 4648 or at [graduation.officer@anu.edu.au](mailto:graduation.officer@anu.edu.au) – if you require any further information (or if you are unable to complete the registration form).

## **Have your say**

### **Public hearing into Space Surveillance Telescope**

The Public Works Committee is conducting a public hearing into the facilities and supporting infrastructure required for the Space Surveillance Telescope at the Harold E Holt Naval Communications Station, near Exmouth, Western Australia.

The project will develop an Australian Defence Force space surveillance capability, enhance the global surveillance capability, and provide an increased ability to track space debris.

The proposed facility to accommodate the telescope will comprise the dome enclosure structure (the observatory), an operations support centre and equipment buildings. Other project elements include an access track, a communications link, an uninterrupted back-up power supply, connection to existing services, security fencing and car parking.

Works are expected to begin by early 2015, with completion of all major works expected by mid-2016. The estimated cost of the project is \$63.0 million, excluding GST.

Full details on the project are available on the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc)

**For further information**, including how to make a submission, the public hearing times, and copies of submissions when they become available, please visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4636.

### **Extension to the reporting deadline for foreign investment inquiry**

The Treasurer has granted the House of Representatives Economics Committee an extension to the reporting deadline for its inquiry into foreign investment in residential real estate. The committee will now report by no later than **28 November 2014**. The Committee was originally required to report by 10 October 2014.

The Chair of the Committee, Ms Kelly O'Dwyer, said that the committee had written to the Treasurer requesting this extension due to a number of outstanding issues central to its deliberations in preparing a final report. These include pending answers to questions from a number of witnesses, consultations with the States and Territories regarding their transfer of property registers and legal advice on Australia's international obligations.

For background information: Please contact the committee secretariat:

Phone: (02) 6277 4587 Email: [economics.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:economics.reps@aph.gov.au)

Website: [www.aph.gov.au/economics](http://www.aph.gov.au/economics)

### **Foreign Fighters Bill report**

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) has presented its report on the Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Foreign Fighters) Bill 2014. This bipartisan report follows an intensive inquiry, in which the Committee received 46 submissions and conducted three public hearings. The Government has accepted all of the Committee's recommendations made in its unanimous bipartisan report. The Parliament passed the Counter-Terrorism



## Legislation Amendment (Foreign Fighters) Bill on October 30.

In conducting its inquiry the Committee acknowledged that the Bill responds to a request by security and law enforcement agencies to enhance their ability to respond to an increased threat from terrorism. In this context, the committee fully supported the intent of the Bill.

Both the Director-General of Intelligence and Security and the Commonwealth Ombudsman appeared before the Committee and gave evidence that they have sufficient authority to oversight the new powers in the Bill.

The Committee, which recommended that the Bill be passed by the Parliament, also made 36 recommendations aimed at further strengthening the Bill's safeguards, transparency and oversight mechanisms.

.These recommendations include:

- Further clarification of the terms 'encourage', 'promotion' and 'advocacy' with regard to the proposed 'advocacy of terrorism' offences (Recommendations 5 and 6)
- Reducing the proposed extension of sunset clauses for a range of ASIO and AFP powers from 10 years to two years after the next Federal election, with mandatory reviews by the Committee and the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor (Recommendation 13)
- Replacing the definition of 'subverting society' by a cross-reference to the conduct contained in the definition of 'terrorist act' in the criminal code (Recommendation 15)
- Amending the definition of 'engaging in a hostile activity' to constrain it to conduct that would be considered a 'serious offence' in Australia (Recommendation 16)
- Changing the 'declared area' provisions to reduce the sunset clause to two years after the next Federal election, with mandatory reviews; to remove an explicit provision for the Foreign Minister to declare an entire country; and to enable the Committee to review all declarations (Recommendations 18 to 21)
- To require that any additional changes (such as fingerprints and iris scans) to the types of biometric information collected be made by legislative amendment and that any amendments be referred to the PJCIS (Recommendation 35).

Additionally, the Committee has recommended that its oversight functions be expanded to include the AFP's counter-terrorism activities (Recommendation 14).

"The Committee has conducted its inquiry in a short timeframe due to the direct relevance of the Bill to keeping the community safe from an increased threat of terrorism. A major reason for this increased threat level is due to Australians traveling overseas to train with, fight for or otherwise support extremist groups," Committee Chair, Mr Dan Tehan, said.

"The report recommends a number of ways to improve safeguards around the new and extended powers that agencies have requested."

A full copy of the report and further information about the inquiry can be accessed via the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/pjcis>. For more information, contact the Committee Secretariat on 02 6277 2360 or email [pjcis@aph.gov.au](mailto:pjcis@aph.gov.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>

## More Diary Dates

**Nov 15** Saturday Dinner to honour the memory of Richard (Dick) Essex Barwick in The Hall, University House 6.00 pm for 6.45 pm

**Nov 19** Wednesday 4.00 pm "The Need for Degrowth of Population" Jenny Goldie (Member and National President of Sustainable Population Australia)  
[http://billboard.anu.edu.au/event\\_view.asp?id=110208](http://billboard.anu.edu.au/event_view.asp?id=110208)

**Nov 25**, University House Literary Dinner with William Macinnes - see ANU Events

**Dec 3** Wednesday Collegiate lunch discussion "The Nobels and IgNobels 2014" Fyfe Bygrave and Adrian Gibbs

**Dec 4** Thursday Poet's Lunch. 12.30 to 4pm. David Walker (Lunch Leader) welcomes anyone who wants to come and listen. Everyone brings food and wine to share, but contact David in advance ([dwalker@netspeed.com.au](mailto:dwalker@netspeed.com.au)) to ensure that there are enough books.

**Dec 15** Dinner with Shaun Micallef on *Eat, Drink and be Literary*, University House, 6.30pm to 9.30pm. Inquiries ANU Events on 02 6125 4144

**Dec 17** Wednesday 'AGM and Christmas Party'.

## ANZACS at National Archives

The National Archives of Australia has expanded the range of records beyond that available on *Mapping our Anzacs*. Postcards about love and war, photographs of internees and cultural aspects of the time provide a detailed picture of life beyond the official war history. *Discovering Anzacs* was launched at the National Archives of Australia on 28 October by the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove.  
<http://www.naa.gov.au/about-us/media/media-releases/2014/46.aspx>

Supporters of **ANU Archives** 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](mailto:judith.caton@anu.edu.au)

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