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Higher Education Infrastructure Working Group

The Higher Education Infrastructure Working Group has been established by the government to assist universities in supporting their teaching and research infrastructure needs. Its members have been named as Mr Philip Marcus Clark AM and Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AC.

The Higher Education Infrastructure Working Group will identify:

- the actions required to support institutions in creating high quality infrastructure;
- any impediments there might be to more strategic management of infrastructure; and
- opportunities for better employment of internal reserves and all available financing mechanisms, including capital markets, to support development of infrastructure.

To inform the activities of the Working Group, the Department has appointed PhillipsKPA to review the finances of Australia's 37 public universities and provide advice on their current infrastructure investment and management practices, as well as their capacity to develop new infrastructure.

Diary Dates

Feb 4 - noon for 12.30. - Short discussion on 2015 talks/speakers, followed by a TED talk discussing "*The Recycling Economy*".

Feb 24, Tuesday - Peter Collignon "*On Health and Superbugs. The ever growing threat from foods and water.*" NOTE this is on Tuesday afternoon.

March 11, 12 & 13 The Universities Australia Higher Education Conference at the National Convention Centre, Canberra.

March 18, Wednesday - Bill Gammage. "*The Biggest Estate on Earth*" Details page 13

More diary dates on page 13

To inform its work to date, the Working Group has consulted with experts in the fields of university philanthropy and fundraising, and representatives from the finance sector. On 15 December 2014, the Working Group wrote to university vice-chancellors seeking to meet with them to hold consultations in early 2015. The Working Group will provide a report to the Minister for Education and Training in the second half of 2015.

Inquiries should be directed to HEIWG@education.gov.au.

Chief Commissioner and Commissioner appointed to TEQSA

The Minister for Education and Training, Christopher Pyne MP, announced on January 30 the appointment of Professor Nicholas Saunders AO as ongoing part-time Chief Commissioner of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) and Ms Linley Martin as an additional part-time Commissioner.

TEQSA is Australia's independent national quality agency for the higher education sector responsible for registering and assessing higher education providers against the Higher Education Standards Framework.

Professor Saunders is former Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Newcastle and has been acting as TEQSA's Chief Commissioner since September 2014. He will commence his three year term from 1 March 2015.

Ms Martin will commence her three year term from 1 February 2015.

Mr Pyne said Ms Martin has an impressive knowledge of and extensive experience in higher education. Her past roles include the Head of University Services and Academic Registrar at the University of Melbourne and Vice President at Deakin University, in addition to other senior positions at the University of New South Wales, RMIT University, Flinders University and the University of South Australia. Ms Martin was also a senior advisor to the *Bradley Review of Higher Education*.

Mr Pyne thanked outgoing Commissioner Michael Wells, who left TEQSA on 31 January 2015.

Professor Saunders and Ms Martin will serve with the continuing part-time Commissioner, Professor Cliff Walsh, as the TEQSA Commissioners.

A recruitment process to fill the position of TEQSA's Chief Executive Officer is currently underway.

Support for streamlined regulation of universities

Universities Australia commends the Parliament for passing legislation to streamline university regulation under the sector regulator, the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA).

Chief Executive of Universities Australia Belinda Robinson said many of the measures in the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Amendment Bill 2014, passed by Parliament in December*, reflected concerns raised by the peak body to the 2013 Review of Higher Education Regulation and during the Senate inquiry into the Bill.

"The legislation is important for enabling TEQSA (the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency) to regulate the sector with greater efficiency and focus while at the same time curtailing the cost of unnecessary regulation on universities", Ms Robinson said.

"Minimising unnecessary university regulation will reduce costs for universities and allow them to focus resources on their core activities - delivering the highest quality teaching, learning and research."

The final legislation was negotiated by the Government through the Senate with the Opposition.

Senators urged to amend and pass reforms early in 2015

With the Government indicating that the higher education legislation will be a top priority when Parliament resumes, the university sector urges the Senate to seize this fresh opportunity to amend and pass a new fairer package.

Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Belinda Robinson, said that opting for the status quo, is neither an answer nor a solution to the need for a strong and sustainable higher education system that gives our students the best possible education.

"Our appeal to Senators as they return to Canberra is not to ignore the opportunity they have to negotiate with the Government in amending and passing a legislative package that will position Australia's universities to compete with the world's best," Ms Robinson said.

"Universities Australia is committed to continuing to work with all Senators in achieving an outcome that delivers the quality of education that students and parents expect," said Ms Robinson.

Ms Robinson called on Senators to support the bill with amendments that would:

- reduce the proposed 20 per cent cut (\$1.9 billion) to university funding to reduce upward pressure on price;
- provide for a \$500 million structural adjustment package for universities operating in financially disadvantaged regions; and
- establish an independent, expert panel to oversee the changes.

Ms Robinson also pointed out the necessity for a political consensus in acknowledging the crucial importance of university research and innovation for Australia's future prosperity.

"To cease funding Australia's National Collaboration Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) and the Future Fellowships program cannot be justified on any grounds," said Ms Robinson.

"These programs are the platform upon which Australia's existing and future research capability and national prosperity is built.

"Our national infrastructure supports research that could not be undertaken otherwise. Spending \$9 billion on science, research and innovation without funding the infrastructure that supports it, is inconceivable.

"The impact this would have on research conducted by industry, especially in the Government's Industry Growth centres, should not be underestimated.

"Research programs such as the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) and the Future Fellowships program are far too important to the nation's future to be caught in the political crossfire sparked by debate over the higher education legislation," Ms Robinson said.

Reducing cut will take upward pressure off student fees

Universities Australia strongly supports comments by the Education Minister Christopher Pyne that a reduction in the 20 per cent cut to university funding is part of the negotiations with crossbench Senators to pass a fairer and more affordable higher education package.

Deputy Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Ms Anne-Marie Lansdown, said that the peak body has long argued for a reduction to the \$1.9 billion cut which would put significant upward pressure on student fees, making them higher than they need to be, if university fees are deregulated.

"Universities Australia believes that without any movement on the cut, it will be difficult to win the support of the university sector or the crossbench for the package," Ms Lansdown said.

"If the negotiations can scale back the \$1.9 billion cut, it would be a very positive step, one that goes directly to the issue of addressing fairness and affordability for students and parents."

Ms Lansdown said that the reintroduction of an amended higher education reform bill into the lower house in the final sitting week of 2014 showed that the Government was serious when it said it was prepared to listen and negotiate with the crossbenchers - but the new bill still did not go far enough.

"When Parliament resumes, we call on the crossbench to further amend and shape a stronger, fairer higher education package and pass it as a matter of priority," Ms Lansdown said.

"With key changes, such as a reduction to the 20 per cent cut, a larger structural adjustment package and an expert review panel, the package will provide universities with the financial certainty to continue to provide high quality education and research for students.

"A further review into higher education will only delay taking vital action needed to keep the sector strong and sustainable, especially since there have already been a number of major reviews into university funding over the past few years.

"Universities have been faced with the challenge of under-investment by governments at the very time that the sector requires funding certainty to properly plan the delivery of a high quality education and research system for students," Ms Lansdown said.

Universities Australia remains ready to continue to negotiate with the crossbench Senators and the Government so that Parliament can shape a package that strengthens our universities while keeping it fair for all.

Cash grants for graduate artists

The Commonwealth Government has announced career development funding of \$981,595 to support 99 recent arts graduates to kick-start their careers.

A statement from the Minister for the Arts, George Brandis, says the graduates will be supported through the Australia Council's ArtStart program which provides funding for skills development, training and access to resources to build a sustainable arts career.

"The Australian Government is committed to supporting young artists, to help them lay the foundation for long-term sustainable careers through training, mentorship and cultural exchange. The 99 ArtStart grant recipients range from visual artists, to dancers, classical and contemporary musicians, writers and theatre practitioners.

“Clementine Barnes, a visual artist from New South Wales will undertake artistic residencies in Iceland and Paris, and conduct research in the Netherlands to further develop her arts practice. South Australian artist Liam Flemming will use his grant to purchase tools and establish a studio space to further develop his glassblowing practice.

“ArtStart grants assist with covering the costs for services, resources, skills development and equipment for individual artists who have completed an accredited creative arts course in the last three years.”

The next round of ArtStart funding closes on 3 March 2015
<http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/funding/new-grants-model/artstart/>

For a full list of recipients, see <http://2014.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grant-decisions/reports/ecapp/pages/artstart-assessment-meeting-report-september-2014>

ANU graduate appointed to High Court

The Honourable Geoffrey Arthur Akeroyd Nettle QC, a member of the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Victoria, as the next Justice of the High Court of Australia. Justice Nettle will replace the Honourable Justice Susan Crennan AC, who leaves the Court on 3 February 2015.

He holds the degrees of Bachelor of Economics from the Australian National University, Bachelor of Laws (with First Class Honours) from the University of Melbourne and Bachelor of Civil Law (with First Class Honours) from Magdalen College, Oxford.

Justice Nettle began his professional career as a solicitor at Mallesons Stephen Jaques in 1977, becoming a partner of that firm in 1981. He was then called to the bar in 1982 and developed a large practice, specialising in commercial law, equity, taxation, constitutional law and administrative law. He took silk, after only ten years, in 1992.

At the time of his appointment to the Supreme Court of Victoria in 2002, Justice Nettle was one of the leading Queen's Counsel at the Victorian bar. He was promoted to the Court of Appeal in 2004, in which jurisdiction he has since served.

Professor Croucher reappointed president of ALRC

Professor Rosalind Croucher has been reappointed as President of the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC).

Professor Croucher is currently leading the ALRC's Review of Commonwealth Laws for Consistency with Traditional Rights, Freedoms and Privileges (known as the Freedoms Inquiry), which concludes in December 2015. The Freedoms Inquiry will identify where traditional rights, freedoms and privileges are unnecessarily compromised within the legal structure of the Commonwealth and, where encroachments exist, the Inquiry will determine whether they are justified.

Professor Croucher's career has included

2007-2009	Commissioner, Australian Law Reform Commission
1999-2007	Professor and Dean of Law, Macquarie University
1995-1999	Associate Professor of Law; Acting Dean of Law; Deputy Chair, Academic Board; Head, Department of Law, University of Sydney

1990-1994	Senior Lecturer in Law; Director of Graduate and Professional Relations; Pro-Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Sydney
1984-1990	Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Law, UNSW
1982-1983	Tutor in Law, Macquarie University
1979-1981	Solicitor, Smithers, Warren & Tobias (now Phillips Fox)
Degrees	Doctorate of Philosophy, University of New South Wales [Bachelor of Laws, University of Sydney; Bachelor of Arts (Honours), University of Sydney]

ANU figures in appointments to Administrative Appeals Tribunal

The following reappointments and appointments have been announced for the Administrative Appeals Tribunal:

Mr Gary Humphries appointed as a full-time Deputy President for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2019. A graduate of the ANU, Mr Humphries is currently a Special Counsel for First State Government and Corporate Relations. He is a former Liberal Senator and a former Member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly, holding a number of positions including former Chief Minister and former Attorney General of the ACT.

Dr James Popple appointed as a full-time Senior Member for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017. A graduate of the ANU, Dr Popple is currently the Freedom of Information (FOI) Commissioner in the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner. He has extensive public service experience, having held senior management and legal/policy development positions in the Attorney-General's Department between 1998 and 2010. He has previously been the Deputy Registrar of the High Court of Australia and was Associate to Justice Gaudron of that Court in 1995.

Associate Professor Peter McDermott RFD reappointed as a full-time Senior Member for the period 15 February 2015 to 14 February 2018. Associate Professor McDermott was appointed to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal as a part time Senior Member in 2004. He has been a Reader in Law at the University of Queensland since 2003 and was a Senior Lecturer in Law at that University from 1993 to 2002.

Ms Geri Ettinger reappointed as a part-time Senior Member for the period 26 January 2015 to 25 January 2016. Ms Ettinger was appointed to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal as a part-time Senior Member in 2009. She is a presiding Member of the New South Wales Medical Board Hearing and a Mediator with New South Wales Workers Compensation Commission.

Mr Francis (Frank) O'Loughlin reappointed as a part-time Senior Member for the period 17 January 2015 to 16 January 2017. Mr O'Loughlin was appointed to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal as a part-time Senior Member in 2009. He has been at the Victorian Bar since 2003. Before this time, he was a partner, board member, practice group leader and senior associate at Corrs Chambers Westgarth. He is a senior fellow and has taught taxation subjects in the Masters' program in the Faculty of Law, Melbourne University, since 2004.

Dr Gordon Hughes reappointed as a part-time Member for the period 17 January 2015 to 16 January 2017. He was appointed to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal as a part-time Member in 2004. He has been a partner of Blake Dawson Waldron since 1997 and adjunct professor at RMIT University since 2005. Dr Hughes has a PhD in law and is a qualified arbitrator.

Dr Ion Alexander reappointed as a part-time Member for the period 26 January 2015 to 25 January 2017. He was appointed to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal as a part-time Member in 2004. He is a Senior Staff Specialist at the Sydney Children's Hospital and is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and a Member of the Medico-Legal Society of New South Wales. Dr Alexander is legally qualified having completed a Bachelor of Laws at the University of New South Wales in 1995.

Appointments to cultural institutions

Five new appointments to the councils of the Australian National Maritime Museum, National Museum of Australia, National Library of Australia and the National Film and Sound Archive were announced by the government in December. They are:

The Hon Ian Campbell will join the Council of the Australian National Maritime Museum. Mr Campbell is currently director of the global investment bank, Brookfield Financial. He served as Minister for Human Services in 2007, Minister for Environment and Heritage from 2004 to 2007, and Minister for Roads, Territories and Local Government from 2003 to 2004. He initiated the Duyfken's voyage around Australia to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the 1606 mapping of Cape York.

The Hon Peter Collins AM, RFD, QC will also join the Council of the Australian National Maritime Museum. Mr Collins was in active military service in 2007, and served in the Army and Naval Reserves. Mr Collins was also a member in NSW Parliament and is currently chairman of a number of organisations. He is also a noted naval historian.

Dr Janet Albrechtsen has accepted appointment to the Council of the National Museum of Australia. Dr Albrechtsen is an opinion columnist with *The Australian* and has written for a number of well-known newspapers locally and internationally. In addition to her media background, Dr Albrechtsen has legal, finance and leadership experience.

Mr Thomas Bradley QC will join the Council of the National Library of Australia, providing valuable high-level legal expertise to the Council. Mr Bradley is currently a barrister in private practice at the Queensland Bar and is President of Access Arts.

Mr Paul Neville will join the Board of the National Film and Sound Archive. He has a keen interest in Australian cinema and experience in the governance of a collecting institution. Prior to his National Party Parliamentary career, Mr Neville worked in arts administration in Queensland. Mr Neville is currently on the Board of Hinkler House Memorial Museum and Research Centre.

Young researchers to take on dementia challenge

Minister for Education and Training, Christopher Pyne, has announced the opening of a new fellowship scheme to support research into dementia. The joint fellowships will be funded by the country's two peak research bodies – the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Research Council – as part of the government's \$200 million Boosting Dementia Research budget initiative.

"Dementia is an incredibly complex disease and one that requires knowledge from all walks of research – neuroscience, bioinformatics, cultural, social and economic research to name only a few," Mr Pyne said.

"These NHMRC-ARC fellowships ensure we are attracting researchers from all fields, each with an important piece of the puzzle to add," he said.

Importantly, the fellowships are targeted to researchers who are still early in their careers.

“Despite the rising prevalence of this disease, our understanding of dementia and our diagnostic tools are still in their infancy. To make a real dent in this we need new thinking and creative ideas. I believe Australia’s up and coming researchers have the drive and the enthusiasm to make an enormous contribution,” Mr Pyne said.

“These fellowships are an exciting opportunity for researchers to look beyond their current work and make a difference to the future lives of hundreds of thousands of Australians,” he said.

Up to \$46 million of ARC-NHMRC funding is allocated to build the future research workforce by dramatically expanding capacity in dementia research.

The Australian Government has already announced other elements of its dementia initiative including NHMRC Dementia Research Team Grants and the establishment of the NHMRC National Institute for Dementia Research.

The Institute will target and co-ordinate the national research effort and ensure translation into better treatments, care and services to dementia sufferers, carers and their communities.

Researchers can now apply for the grants through NHMRC. Further information is available on the NHMRC website.

National research plan needed

A major new paper released in December by Universities Australia calls for a long term plan to promote national research priorities, support for researchers and deep university-industry collaboration.

The paper argues that the plan is needed to ignite cultural change and lift Australia's research and innovation performance in the face of intensifying global competition. Entitled "*University Research: policy considerations to drive Australia's competitiveness*", the paper warns Australia should adopt such a strategy to remain a high wage, high growth economy.

"In view of accelerating investment in research and innovation by our Asian neighbours and traditional competitors, Australia could be close to the proverbial 'tipping point' whereby we are not able to achieve our goal of a high wage, high growth economy", the report states.

Universities Australia's Chief Executive Belinda Robinson called for a wide ranging debate on how to achieve deeper and more productive collaboration between university research and industry in line with the Government's industry, innovation and competitiveness agenda.

"Australia's research performance compares extremely favourably with that of other similar nations around the world, but we do need to focus on how that research translates into benefits for the broader economy and community", she said.

"Australian firms are among the lowest collaborators with public research or higher education institutions among OECD countries and we must find ways of improving this. Without improvement, Australia risks being left behind in the face of ever increasing global competition", Ms Robinson said.

The paper examines the policy settings and performance of a range of comparator nations and concludes that although the approaches taken vary, a unifying feature is a strong commitment to continued public support for university research and recognition of the significant role it plays in underscoring a nation's prosperity.

The Universities Australia paper comes as a submission by the peak body to the Government's Boosting the Commercial Returns from Research discussion paper recommends stronger incentives for research-industry collaboration as part of a balanced approach that continues to value high quality fundamental research.

Enhancing university cooperation with Japan

Universities Australia is working with its counterpart organisation in Japan to pave the way for signing a Memorandum of Understanding this year to develop closer cooperation on higher education, research and work-integrated learning for students.

A series of high level university, business and government meetings were held in Tokyo in December. The meetings were attended by representatives of 19 Australian universities as well as the peak body, Universities Australia, 34 Japanese universities, the Japan Association of National Universities (JANU), the Consortium of Universities in Kyoto, major Japanese companies and representatives of the Australian and Japanese governments.

The program of meetings follows the visit to Australia by Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Tony Abbott's trip to Japan with a trade delegation which included Universities Australia's Chief Executive Belinda Robinson.

Those visits set the scene for furthering closer cooperation between the two university peak bodies especially to promote student and staff mobility, collaboration between academics and researchers and removing barriers to joint degree programs.

The discussions with Japanese companies focused on providing Australian and Japanese students with a high quality international study experience that includes an internship or mentoring component.

Representatives of 31 major companies including Rio Tinto, Mitsubishi, NEC, Toyota, Japan Airlines, KPMG, PwC, Kawasaki, Fujitsu and Chiyoda were involved in the discussions.

Speaking after the meetings, Universities Australia Deputy Chief Executive Anne-Marie Lansdown said that Universities Australia and JANU will continue to work towards a Memorandum of Understanding.

"We will continue to work on an agreement to frame future cooperation between universities in Australia and Japan which will look specifically at qualifications recognition, joint degree models and university engagement with business to provide meaningful work experience for students", Ms Lansdown said.

Literacy skills support for remote schools

Schools in remote locations in the Northern Territory, WA and Queensland will receive extra support to teach foundation literacy skills with the announcement in December that 34 remote schools will participate in the flexible literacy for remote primary schools program in 2015.

The Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne, said the program would provide extra support to schools in remote Australia to introduce two teaching approaches: Direct Instruction and Explicit Direct Instruction. These schools will commence at the start of the 2015 school year.

“These approaches have proven successful in early pilots and will expand the reach of Direct Instruction and Explicit Direct Instruction to other remote schools that have struggled to achieve minimum national standards for many of their students,” Mr Pyne said.

“We know that Direct Instruction and Explicit Direct Instruction teaching methods work. Teachers in these remote primary schools will receive professional development and support to gain the specific knowledge and skills they need to use these approaches with their students.”

Boost for little-known aspects of Australian history

The National Archives of Australia and the Australian Historical Association (AHA) are continuing to encourage postgraduate archival research into little-known aspects of Australia's history.

The organisations have announced the latest winners of their twice-yearly joint scholarships: PhD candidates Isobelle Barrett Meyering from UNSW and Michael Kilmister from the University of Newcastle.

The scholarships, at \$650 each, help talented postgraduate scholars with the cost of 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.

Michael Kilmister's project investigates Australia's Eastern Mission in 1934, the nation's first overseas diplomatic mission. Described to the House of Representatives as 'a Mission of friendship to our neighbours', it investigated opportunities for expanding Australia's trade to Asia, and promoted Australia's interest in friendly relations with Asian nations, as well as tracking down facts on other countries' culture, economics and politics.

Isobelle Barrett Meyering's project traces the contested place of children and childhood in the Australian women's movement from 1969 to 1979. It examines the development of new feminist politics of children's rights, emphasising children's liberation as much as their protection.

'These projects were chosen for the scholarships because they will add significantly to our knowledge of Australian history,' said Louise Doyle, Acting Director-General, at the National Archives. 'The work of both researchers will also provide benefits to other archival researchers interested in similar topics.'

Joint partner, the Australian Historical Association is also committed to encouraging postgraduate research into Australian history.

'These scholarships provide significant boosts to the work of postgraduate historians,' said Professor Angela Woollacott, President of the AHA. 'The topics of these two winners reflect the health and vibrancy of research in fields as diverse as diplomatic and feminist history.'

Have your say

Tackling online copyright infringement

New measures to ensure Australians make informed choices when accessing online content and to strengthen the industry's ability to tackle online copyright infringement were announced by the government in December.

A joint statement by the Attorney-General and the Minister for Communications, stated that copyright protection provides an essential mechanism for ensuring the viability and success of creative industries by incentivising and rewarding creators. The rapid growth of the internet has brought significant challenges to the protection of copyright, due to the ease with which material can be digitally copied and shared, at little or no cost.

"The Government has sought the least burdensome and most flexible way of responding to concerns about online copyright infringement, while protecting the legitimate interests of the rights holders in the protection of their intellectual property.

"The Attorney-General and the Minister for Communications have written to industry leaders requiring them to immediately develop an industry code that will be registered with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) under Part 6 of the Telecommunications Act 1997. The code will include a process to notify consumers when a copyright breach has occurred and provide information on how they can gain access to legitimate content."

The Minister and the Attorney-General expect strong collaboration between rights holders, internet service providers (ISPs) and consumers on this issue. Failing agreement within 120 days, the Government will impose binding arrangements either by an industry code prescribed by the Attorney-General under the Copyright Act 1968 or an industry standard prescribed by the ACMA, at the direction of the Minister for Communications under the Telecommunications Act.

The Government will also amend the Copyright Act, to enable rights holders to apply for a court order requiring ISPs to block access to a website, operated outside of Australia, which provides access to infringing content.

"In a world of rapid changes in technology and human behaviour, there is no single measure that can eliminate online copyright infringement," the ministers' statement said. "In light of this the Government will review the measures, 18 months after they are implemented, to assess their effectiveness. The issue of affordability and accessibility of legitimate content is a key factor in reducing online copyright infringement. The Government welcomes recent action by content owners and expects industry to continue to respond to this demand from consumers in the digital market.

"These measures, to be introduced in early 2015, follow extensive consultation with industry and consumer groups and evaluation of submissions to the Online Copyright Infringement Discussion Paper."

Committee flags future inquiry into public sector performance

Parliament's Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) has agreed that it may determine to conduct a future inquiry into the draft rules for the Commonwealth performance framework under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).

Such an inquiry would build on the Committee's previous inquiry into the first set of PGPA rules, which together with the PGPA Act formed stage one of the Public Management Reform Agenda (PMRA) and established a single resource management framework for all Commonwealth bodies—some 190 agencies in total.

The Department of Finance is currently undertaking further public consultation with stakeholders on the draft rules for Corporate Plans and Annual Performance Statements and the draft guidance for these areas, with feedback to be provided to the department by end January 2015.

Committee Chair Dr Andrew Southcott MP said that improving the Commonwealth performance framework has been a long-term focus of the JCPAA. "Accordingly, the Committee will welcome receiving the final draft rules for Corporate Plans and Annual Performance Statements and the final draft guidance for these areas from the Department of Finance once it has concluded its consultation process early next year.

"Effective planning and performance reporting, and robust KPIs, enable the public, the Parliament and other stakeholders to assess whether resources are being used efficiently and programs and services are achieving their intended results. In a future inquiry, the Committee would therefore be interested in seeking stakeholder views on the final draft rules and guidance, and whether agencies are ready to implement the changes", Dr Southcott said.

For information about the inquiry and public hearing: contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4615, email jcpaa@aph.gov.au, or visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa>.

First public hearings for data retention inquiry

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security has held public hearings in December and January for its inquiry into the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Bill 2014. The hearings included representatives of government and industry involved in the data retention Implementation Working Group, including the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the Australian Crime Commission, and the Communications Alliance.

The Data Retention Bill seeks to implement a mandatory telecommunications data retention regime. It contains measures to require telecommunications suppliers in Australia to retain certain data for two years. The data would not include a person's web-browsing history, or the content of a communication, email or social media post. The Bill would also limit those able to access telecommunications and stored data to enforcement agencies with a demonstrated need and with appropriate internal procedures to protect privacy.

Further public hearings with a range of stakeholders were scheduled to take place on 28 and 29 January 2015. The Committee intends to report by 27 February 2015.

Further information about the inquiry, including the program for the hearing, can be accessed via the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/pjicis> or contact the Committee Secretariat on 02 6277 2360 or email dataretention@aph.gov.au

The Bill and Explanatory Memorandum can be accessed via http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation.

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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

Speakers already booked for later in the year include Adrian Horridge, Suzanne von Caemmerer, Chennupati Jagadish and Nerilie Abram.

February 10 Human Rights Commission, Sydney. Suri Ratnapala on the contested ideas of 'Right', 'liberty' and 'civilisation'. The nature of civilisation or its absence altogether in a given age depends critically on the kind of rights that prevails in that time. Many civilisations in the past were built on conquest, genocide, slavery and plunder. They produced wondrous monuments, great cities, immortal works of art and even profound philosophy but the condition of the ordinary person was one of abject poverty and servitude. One civilisation alone emancipated unprivileged persons politically and economically on a mass scale. That civilisation is our own. The author contends that liberty founded on a certain conception of right is what distinguishes this civilisation from those of the past. The defence of this achievement is a moral imperative.

June 30, Tuesday - The ANUEF Annual Lecturer will be Professor John Mattick, Director of the Garvan Institute.

August 19 The 'Research in Retirement Symposium 2015'.

Universities shaping the new era: Higher Education Conference 2015

March 11, 12 & 13 The Universities Australia Higher Education Conference is the sector's must-attend event held at a time when university education and research is more critical than ever to securing an innovative and prosperous future. The Conference will be held on **11 and 12 March 2015**, at the National Convention Centre, Canberra. Satellite events will be held on **13 March**.

Against a background of unprecedented change in the sector in Australia, the conference brings together national and international university leaders, policy makers, experts and influencers to discuss the opportunities and challenges in higher education.

Themed **Future Sense: Universities shaping the new era**, this year's Higher Education Conference will have a focus on the critical role of innovation in fostering international competitiveness for a prosperous economy and society.

The conference includes speakers from around the world and around Australia, including Professor Michael M Crow, President, Arizona State University; Professor Alain Fuchs, President, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France; Dame Julia Goodfellow, incoming President, Universities UK; Ms Catherine Livingstone AO, President, Business

Council of Australia; Professor Ian Chubb AC, Chief Scientist and Professor Sandra Harding, Chair, Universities Australia.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Universities: shape shifters
- Sense in our future: competitive advantage
- The new era: what do higher education reforms mean for students?
- Political sense: are there votes in higher education?
- Industry engagement and innovation
- International education and student mobility
- Work Integrated Learning

"The Conference includes sessions on how universities are engaging and collaborating with business to stimulate greater productivity, innovation and international competitiveness", said Anne-Marie Lansdown, Deputy Chief Executive of Universities Australia.

"It will examine policies to maximise the global reach of Australia's universities, academics, researchers and students as part of the accelerating world-wide integration of the higher education sector.

"The program will also focus on policies shaping the university sector as it seeks to meet the expectations of contemporary students and employers", Ms Lansdown said.

You can save by registering for the Conference before 23 January 2015. Register online now to enjoy the early bird rate of \$1850 (normally \$2100). You can register by clicking [here](#).

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

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