

EMERITUS

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ANU smoke free from July 20

ANU announced on World No Tobacco Day 2015 that it will go smoke free from the middle of July.

The new policy will cover the entire ANU campus in Canberra as well as remote ANU campuses such as the Mt Stromlo Observatory and Kioloa coastal campus near Batemans Bay. Following extensive consultation with staff and students, ANU will go smoke free from the start of the second semester on July 20, but with a strong focus on support to help staff and students quit the habit.

ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Young AO said, "The University is announcing our decision to go smoke-free on World No Tobacco Day because we believe it sends a strong message to staff and students about being healthy."

"The University is committed to providing a safe and healthy campus environment for staff, students, contractors and visitors. We feel this will help to address that."

To help staff and students adjust to the new policy, ANU will also provide support to staff and students who wish to quit smoking. ANU will pay for QUIT courses for staff and PhD students. Undergraduate students can contact ANUSA for details of how to access QUIT courses. Information on support programs can be

Diary Dates

June 17 Wednesday Public Lecture Patrick de Deckker, Research School of Earth Sciences. "Tracking airborne dust in Australia and its impact on environmental health."

June 30 — ANUEF Annual Lecture. 4pm Finkel Theatre, JCSMR. Professor John Mattick, Director Garvin Institute. "Challenging the dogma."

July 1, 9am-12.30pm "Symposium on the Projects and Research of ANUEF Members" The renamed mid-year members' symposium is an opportunity for all members to talk about their retirement 'work', not just those doing academic research. Speakers have 20-30 minutes for talks before collegiate lunch. To be one of the speakers' contacts Adrian Gibbs adrian_j_gibbs@hotmail.com

More diary dates on
pages 18 - 19

found at <http://hr.anu.edu.au/smoke-free> or by emailing smokefree@anu.edu.au.

Smoking is already prohibited inside ANU buildings and within 10 metres of building entrances. The new policy prohibits all smoking, including electronic cigarettes, in or around any of the University's campuses.

However, smoking will be allowed in special designated smoking areas around licensed venues and residential colleges.

University applications rise

The *Undergraduate Applications and Offers, February 2015* report shows 314,918 applications were lodged for university places in 2015.

Year 12 applications through Tertiary Admissions Centres have increased by 1.3 per cent and more non-Year 12 applicants are applying directly to universities. Direct applications to university are up 6.8 per cent on last year, 96 per cent of which are non-Year 12 applicants.

The Minister for Education and Training, Christopher Pyne, has welcomed the announcement of the record number of university applicants in 2015. "There are now, more than ever before, more and more Australian's seeking to enrich their lives by pursuing a university education," Mr Pyne said.

"Universities are more accessible to a range of students than they have ever been. If you want to study but don't fit the usual application process, our system has options for you to enter higher education."

A copy of the *Undergraduate Applications and Offers, February 2015* report can be found at: <http://www.education.gov.au/undergraduate-applications-offers-and-acceptances-publications>.

Just in case you missed the education budget

The Education and Training Portfolio Budget portfolio budget statements provide information on the proposed allocation of funds to achieve government outcomes. They include budget statements for the department as well as entities working under the portfolio.

The statements provide information to assist parliament to understand the purpose of each proposed outcome.

Access to statements:

- [2015-16 Portfolio Budget Statements \(full version\)](#)
- Entity resources and planned performance
- [Department of Education and Training](#)
- [Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority](#)
- [Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies](#)
- [Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership](#)
- [Australian Research Council](#)
- [Australian Skills Quality Authority](#)

- [Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency](#)

Budget comment

Research programs hit as universities and students 'left in policy limbo'

Universities have welcomed a number of positive measures announced in the federal budget but have expressed deep disappointment at cuts to research programs and the level of progress made in providing much needed higher education funding and policy certainty.

Belinda Robinson, Chief Executive of Universities Australia, commented, "An additional year's funding for the **National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy** (NCRIS) (\$150 million), one year's funding of the **Australian Synchrotron**, and \$16.9 million over four years to improve **initial teacher education** are the brightest budget beacons for universities,"

Further, reports that the Minister for Education and Training intends to announce a 'half round' of funding for **Future Fellowships** in coming weeks has been well-received by the sector.

However, the \$263 million cut to the **Sustainable Research Excellence (SRE) programme** that assists in meeting the indirect costs of research, identified to pay for two years of NCRIS, has come as a severe blow to the sector.

"Given the magnitude of the contribution to fiscal rectitude already made by the sector in recent years, and the number of non-university users of NCRIS facilities (including business and state governments), there can be no justification for the financial burden to be borne exclusively by universities," said Ms Robinson.

This reduction came on top of previous and substantial cuts made to research block grants over the past three years. In 2012, \$500 million over four years was stripped from the SRE program. This was followed by a further reduction of \$150 million through the application of the efficiency dividend to all research block grant programmes announced in the 2013-14 Budget and a cut of \$170 million to the Research Training Scheme in 2014-15.

"These cuts not only negatively affect universities with established research profiles but also those who depend on this funding to continue to build their research capability," said Ms Robinson.

"Against the backdrop of low commodity prices and the downturn in traditional industries, a prudent approach to stimulating economic renewal is to invest in, not cut, wealth-generating activities like higher education, research and innovation," said Ms Robinson.

Universities continue to express strong opposition to the proposed 20 per cent cut to funding for teaching and learning announced in last year's budget. "Funding higher education is an investment in Australia's future productivity and prosperity. It makes no sense to reduce the level of public investment in university education when Australia already sits close to the bottom of the OECD for the level of public investment in tertiary education as a percentage of GDP," Ms Robinson said.

Universities Australia has also expressed disappointment at the \$5 million cut to the **Higher Education Participation Program (HEPP)** which assists disadvantaged students to realise their full potential.

Shifting successful and innovative programs that promote and reward excellence in learning and teaching from the Department of Education's **Office of Learning and Teaching** to the university sector will leave these programs worse off but will undoubtedly lead to new innovative ideas and approaches," said Ms Robinson.

"Transferring the responsibility for encouraging and promoting greater Indigenous participation in higher education from the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Advisory Council** to the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium, should not result in any erosion in commitment by the government to Indigenous higher education." said Ms Robinson.

In noting the lack of progress through the Parliament of the **Government's Higher Education Research and Reform Amendment Bill 2014**, Ms Robinson expressed concern about the ability of universities to advise those considering enrolling at university in 2016.

"For 12 months, universities and students have been in a holding pattern of policy uncertainty. In the interests of students having the information they need to make one of the most important decisions of their lives, the future of the bill must be addressed as a matter of urgency," Ms Robinson said.

"The ability of universities to drive much-needed national economic and industrial renewal is being hampered by the absence of a long-term plan for higher education and research.

"It is beyond time to stop treating higher education and research policy as a political punching bag and for the parliament to agree a consensus bipartisan approach that puts long-term student and national interest ahead of all else," Ms Robinson said.

Funding for 27 critical facilities announced

Minister for Education and Training Christopher Pyne has announced funding allocations to 27 critical facilities under the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS), funded for a further two years in the Federal Budget.

The Australian Government will allocate \$150 million in 2015-16 to NCRIS facilities, the first half of the Government's \$300 million commitment, including \$150 million for 2016-17.

"NCRIS delivers world class research facilities, providing access to precision instruments, world class data and analytical capacity as well as high quality technical and support staff, so that Australian researchers can solve complex problems both here in Australia and around the globe," Minister Pyne said.

The NCRIS facilities support a wide range of nationally significant research outcomes, including:

- better understanding of health outcomes by sharing information from patients,
- breakthroughs in cancer testing leading to more personalised treatment,
- deepening our understanding of the oceans, our fisheries, weather and climate,
- breakthroughs in quantum computing,
- improved crop productivity, and

- more detailed environmental monitoring for planning and remediation.

“A stronger research sector is vital to a prosperous future for Australia, and this renewed backing reflects how committed the government is to supporting their essential work.”

This will provide much needed growth in funding for NCRIS projects, which have been coping with the uncertainty created by the previous government’s failure to provide the ongoing funding for this scheme.

“This new injection of funding will also boost our ability to participate in international research initiatives like the Square Kilometre Array,” Minister Pyne said.

The extension of funding will allow NCRIS to continue while the Australian Government considers a sustainable long term funding strategy after the review of research infrastructure, chaired by Mr Philip Marcus Clark AM, which will report in mid-2015.

The 2015-16 NCRIS guidelines can be found at www.education.gov.au/ncris.

The 2015-16 allocations by project are listed at:

<http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/ncris-2015-16-funding-allocations-announced>

\$15.4m for tropical health research in NT

Australia’s position as a global leader in tropical health will be further bolstered by a \$15.4 million funding injection as part of the government’s plans to support the development of Northern Australia.

Trade and Investment Minister Andrew Robb – who is overseeing the finalisation of the government’s forthcoming White Paper on Developing Northern Australia – said Australia’s tropical researchers and research hubs were among the world’s best.

“Tropical medicine is one of our national strengths and we are only beginning to grasp the scale of opportunity of this and there is great untapped potential, now and into the future,” he said.

The Australian Tropical Medicine Commercialisation Grants Program will provide \$8.5 million to commercialise research in new tropical therapeutics and diagnostics undertaken in Australia. It will build connections between Australian research institutes and global players in the health sector including pharmaceutical companies and philanthropic organisations like the Gates Foundation and Wellcome Trust.

The Budget also invests \$6.9 million in a strategy to build Australia’s primary research capacity, funding collaborative projects focused on priority diseases including dengue, malaria, Hendra, multi-drug resistant tuberculosis and others.

The tropical zone currently produces around 20 per cent of global economic output but it is growing at a much faster rate than the rest of the world. By 2025, its combined output is projected to reach US\$40 trillion. By 2050, half the world’s population will live in the tropical zone, including 60 per cent of its children, and the region will be home to more middle class consumers than anywhere else.

Mr Robb said Australian medical research can help manage or eradicate many of the diseases specific to this region, including Australia’s own tropical zone. He said, “We can play a significant role in helping to increase the quality of life of hundreds-of-millions of people in our region, while at the same time aiding the development and capacity of our own Northern Australia tropical zone.”

The Australian Tropical Medicine Commercialisation Grants Program will be administered under an arrangement between Austrade and the Department of Industry and Science. The research grants will be funded the National Health and Medical Research Council under the direction of a Scientific Advisory Panel including scientific experts, health policy officials, health practitioners and consumers

Addressing enterprise leadership in Australia

Universities Australia commends the Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) for highlighting the need for greater collaboration between business, government and the education and training sector in the launch of the organisation's new leadership policy report "[Addressing Enterprise Leadership in Australia](#)".

In introducing the paper, Ai Group Chief Executive, Innes Willox, called for a major change in the management culture if Australia is to transform and secure an innovative, competitive and sustainable economic, employment and industry base.

Ai Group sentiment was echoed by the Minister for Industry and Science, Ian Macfarlane, who remarked that leadership and collaboration involving industry, education, research and innovation is crucial if Australia is to realise the opportunities presented by our changing global situation.

In supporting the comments of the Ai Group and Government, Deputy Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Anne-Marie Lansdown, said that "it is important for our future economic prosperity and productivity to have greater collaboration between business, government and higher education institutions at all levels. We cannot be complacent about our position in the world, or take our relative strengths in industry, education or research for granted".

Universities Australia is already working extensively with Ai Group, and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Business Council of Australia, and the Australian Collaborative Education Network to improve workforce capability and graduate employability.

For all the latest from and about Australia's universities visit www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au Follow Universities Australia on Twitter [@uniaus](#)

Australia's university system efficient but underfunded

The latest [Universitas 21](#) Report ranks Australia as one of the top countries for the efficiency of its higher education system despite disturbingly low levels of public investment compared with other countries.

Overall Australia's ranking declined from 8th position in 2013 to 9th position in 2014 and now to 10th position (out of 50 countries) in 2015.

"This ranking confirms a concerning downward trend which reflects low levels of government funding compared with other countries", said Universities Australia's Chief Executive Belinda Robinson.

On the measure of resources invested in higher education, Australia is ranked at 18th position and 44th for government expenditure. Yet Australia's higher education system is ranked 7th for output which measures student participation rates and research performance.

"The ranking shows we have one of the most efficient higher education systems in the world, but it should come as a warning that we cannot continue to under-fund our universities", Ms Robinson said.

"Any fall in the international ranking of the higher education system is disappointing and underlines the necessity of having a properly resourced higher education and research system.

"It is our universities which will drive the productivity, innovation and prosperity of our economy and meet the future expectations of students and the community. We cannot keep cutting back on funding for university education and research with our fingers crossed that Australia's quality university system can be maintained at the level demanded and expected by our students and our community.

"Public investment in universities is an investment in our future, not a drag on the public purse", Ms Robinson said.

Coordinating Council for International Education sets strategy

The Federal Government's announcement of the membership of the Coordinating Council for International Education lays a strong foundation for effective finalisation of the Government's National Strategy for International Education, according to Universities Australia which has been strongly advocating for the establishment of a whole-of-government ministerially-led Council as an immediate priority to support the development of the strategy.

Deputy Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Ms Anne-Marie Lansdown, said that coordination, consistency and collaboration are the keys to ensuring the Strategy is a success.

"By bringing all relevant government ministers together and sitting the experts around the table, we now have the firepower needed to strengthen and expand the sector as well as deepening international collaboration," she said.

"This whole-of-government and whole-of-sector approach is essential to ensure the continued success of our international education services and the ongoing internationalisation of our education and research agenda. Universities Australia is delighted to have a seat on the Council, and is very supportive of the broad mix of membership that goes beyond the education sector to also incorporate business." •

The external membership of the council consists of:

- The Hon Phil Honeywood, CEO, International Education Association of Australia.
- Ms Kate Carnell AO, CEO, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Ms Belinda Robinson, Chief Executive, Universities Australia.
- Ms Sue Blundell, Executive Director, English Australia.
- Mr Bill Spurr AO, Chair, Education Adelaide.
- Mr Malcolm White, Acting CEO, TAFE Directors Australia.

"The next vital step is the announcement of concrete actions supported by adequate funding for the implementation of the various aspects of the plan to ensure momentum is maintained," • Ms Lansdown said. "The two Council roundtables, on 18 June and 13 August, will be pivotal in delivering on this action plan." •

"We have no time to waste, as the Draft Strategy clearly outlines, the market in international education services is ever more competitive". •

Universities Australia's response to the Draft National Strategy for International Education can be [accessed here](#).

Skills talks with Indian minister

Assistant Minister for Education and Training, Senator Simon Birmingham, has met with the Indian Government Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, to discuss skills priorities for both countries.

Senator Birmingham says the meeting has helped build bilateral skills relationship with India so both countries can seize emerging opportunities.

"International education is Australia's most successful services export, worth \$16.3 billion in 2013 14 and supporting around 130,000 jobs across Australia. In 2013 14, education related services with India made up \$1.5 billion of our services exports," he said.

"India has a goal to 'upskill' 500 million of its people by 2022, requiring an estimated 70,000 highly skilled trainers now and 20,000 additional trainers each year.

"To achieve this, India must address significant challenges, particularly in ensuring that training produces skills that are globally relevant, and that there is a sufficient supply of highly skilled trainers to deliver this.

"We are negotiating a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with India and piloting international training and assessment courses to upskill Indian trainers and assessors. We are also working to sign a Free Trade Agreement with India by the end of this year, with particular opportunities for service industries.

"In partnership with industry, our government has developed internationally relevant training courses, benchmarked to an Australian standard. These have the potential to be used so Australian training providers can help meet India's skill challenges.

"We have announced the 2016 Endeavour Mobility Grants that will provide around \$8.3 million to support at least 2500 Australian VET, undergraduate and postgraduate students in having an international study experience.

"We have also created international work opportunities for Australian undergraduate students through the government's signature initiative, the New Colombo Plan.

"We understand the importance of skills and training to give people opportunity, secure prosperity for both nations and will continue to work to build these opportunities," Senator Birmingham said.

New teaching and leadership board named

The Minister for Education and Training, Christopher Pyne, has welcomed new appointments to the Board of the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL).

The new AITSL Board, as of 2 June, is:

Professor John Hattie, reappointed chair; Mr John Fleming, Deputy Chair; Dr Michele Bruniges, Leadership and management of government school systems; Mr Rob Nairn, School leadership; Dr Geoff Newcombe, Leadership and management of non- government

school systems; Mr Stephen Elder, Governance, including audit, risk and finance; Ms Melanie Saba, Regulation and accreditation of initial teacher education courses; Professor Tania Aspland, Initial teacher education; Mr Trevor Fletcher, Teacher practitioner; Dr Jennifer Buckingham, Public policy; Mr Tony Cook, Government liaison.

National Gallery of Victoria approved for cultural loan scheme

The Minister for the Arts, Senator George Brandis, has approved the National Gallery of Victoria for five years as an approved borrowing institution under the Australian Government's Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan Scheme.

The National Gallery of Victoria is the first institution to be approved under the new Australian scheme. As an approved borrowing institution the gallery is able to offer legal protection for cultural objects on loan from overseas for temporary public exhibition in Australia.

The minister says that by reassuring overseas lenders that Australia is a secure destination for loans the scheme ensures greater opportunities for Australian audiences to experience significant international exhibitions.

"In providing this important support to the sector the scheme also ensures Australia continues to benefit from the significant social, cultural and economic benefits that international exhibitions deliver.

"The National Gallery of Victoria has demonstrated it possesses the necessary frameworks, expertise, experience and resources to meet the high ethical and legal requirements established by the scheme, including demonstrating the capacity to undertake provenance checking and due diligence research to the highest international standards..."

The National Gallery of Victoria is now able to offer to international lenders the significant legal protection provided by the scheme including for its forthcoming Masterpieces from the Hermitage: The Legacy of Catherine the Great exhibition.

Senator Brandis wants more institutions to participate in the Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan scheme.

Information about the scheme and how to apply for approval under the Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan Act 2013 can be found at the [Ministry for the Arts website](#).

\$1.28m introduces the Bard to schools

The Minister for the Arts, Senator George Brandis, has announced \$1.28 million in continued funding for the Bell Shakespeare's education program. Since 2008, this program has introduced more than half a million students across Australia, including in regional and remote areas, to "the joy of theatre and, in particular, to the incomparable glories of William Shakespeare as well as other great dramatists".

Senator Brandis said, "I have re-committed \$320,000 a year over the next four years to support Bell Shakespeare in continuing to deliver its unique education program. This contribution will help Bell Shakespeare to leverage additional philanthropic and corporate support.

“The funding is supported through existing appropriations to the Ministry for the Arts. It will assist with hiring arts educators, conducting school performance tours and student master classes, providing subsidised theatre tickets to disadvantaged schools, developing high quality digital and online resources and implementing a new teacher mentorship program.

“Students participating in Bell Shakespeare’s education program have demonstrated increased innovation, higher levels of self-expression and creativity, improved behaviour and better attitudes towards studying English.

Visit the [Bell Shakespeare Company](#) website for more information on the education program.

Have your say

Parliamentary Committees welcome submissions from members of the public, parliamentary inquiries. Committees set deadlines for submissions but are flexible, especially for those with knowledge of the wide range of topics being investigated.

Submissions wanted on better prevention and management of chronic disease

Chronic disease is defined as illness that is prolonged in duration, does not often resolve spontaneously, and is rarely cured completely. The House of Representatives Health Committee is seeking submissions on how chronic disease is managed through general practitioners, allied health professionals, and other primary health care providers.

In announcing the inquiry, Chair of the House of Representatives Health Committee, Steve Irons MP said chronic disease has been identified as Australia’s biggest ongoing health challenge, incurring significant and increasing costs.

“However, many chronic diseases can be efficiently managed in primary health care settings, reducing costs and taking pressure off the specialist and hospital systems. This inquiry seeks to find examples of best practice in chronic disease prevention and management, leading to possible improvements in care and ensuring a better spend of taxpayer money,” Mr Irons said.

The committee will examine opportunities for Primary Health Networks to coordinate and support the prevention and management of chronic disease in primary health care, and will look at the roles of State and Territory Governments as well as private health insurers, in preventing and managing chronic disease.

The committee will also examine ways in which multidisciplinary teams prevent and manage chronic disease and look at models of healthcare that improve outcomes for high end frequent users of medical and health services.

Submissions addressing the terms of reference are invited by Friday 31 July 2015. The preferred method of receiving submissions is by electronic format lodged online using a My Parliament account. For information contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the committee's webpage: www.aph.gov.au/health.

Super and housing need watchdog attention

The House Economics Committee has tabled its second report on the Review of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority Annual Report 2014.

The Chair of the committee, Mr John Alexander, said that although it was pleasing to learn from APRA that the Australian financial sector is showing overall stability, there is evidence of emerging risks in the housing market which must be carefully monitored.

"An increased scrutiny of mortgage portfolios is an appropriate response to this issue and we will be requesting updates from APRA in this regard at future hearings," Mr Alexander said.

In the superannuation industry, the management of conflicts of interest needs improvement and new and more detailed disclosure requirements are not yet fully implemented. APRA has given undertakings that it is continuing to oversee and promote better governance in this sector.

The prudential responsibilities of the Private Health Insurance Administration Council will be transferring to APRA in July of this year. The committee is monitoring this transition with interest.

The outcomes of the recent Financial System Inquiry (FSI) and the current work of the Basel Committee may well impact future capital requirements for Australian banks. The committee will continue to discuss this with APRA at future hearings.

The next APRA hearing will be held on October 23 in Canberra.

The report is available on the committee's website at: <http://www.apr.gov.au/economics>.

For background information: Please contact the committee secretariat:

Phone: (02) 6277 4587 Email: economics.reps@apr.gov.au

Website: www.apr.gov.au/economics

Have a say on Australia's Free Trade Agreements

The Australian Parliament's newly appointed Trade and Investment Growth Committee has begun its inquiry into the business experience in utilising Australia's existing free trade agreements (FTAs) including New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, Chile, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (along with New Zealand) and Malaysia.

In announcing the inquiry, the Chair of the committee, Mr Ken O'Dowd MP said, "Australia is the world's 12th largest economy with its major trading partners being China, Japan, and the United States. Australia has a number of long-standing FTAs with other countries including with ASEAN-New Zealand, Chile, Malaysia, United States, Singapore, and Thailand. These FTAs provide an important opportunity for Australia to boost its trade with these countries and benefit the future growth of Australian business."

The committee is examining the opportunities and challenges faced by Australian business arising from Australia's existing FTAs with a view to identifying how Australia might best benefit from the recent and proposed North Asia FTAs.

"While FTAs create a framework for increased trade and investment it is important to address any barriers preventing realisation of these benefits and address them in future agreements," Mr O'Dowd said.

The committee was established to examine measures to further boost Australia's trade and investment performance, including barriers to trade, reduction of red tape, and structural challenges and opportunities for the Australian community. As part of its remit, the committee will focus its examination on the experience of business in using Australia's

existing FTAs.

Written submissions from interested individuals and organisations are invited by **June 26**. The preferred method of receiving submissions is by electronic format lodged online using a My Parliament account. The committee secretariat asks people not to send submissions directly to the committee's email inbox.

Guidance on preparing a submission is available on the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jsctig

For background information: Please contact the committee secretariat:
Phone: (02) 6277 2233 Email: jsctig@aph.gov.au

Anything to contribute on home ownership?

The House of Representatives Economics Committee is inquiring into home ownership and has invited submissions to the inquiry by **June 26**.

The Chair of the Committee, John Alexander, said that 'home ownership is an issue that lies at the core of the Australian dream and represents the largest investment that most taxpayers will make during their lifetime. The importance of this issue throughout our nation makes it worthy of a detailed inquiry.'

The committee will inquire into and report on:

- current rates of home ownership;
- demand and supply drivers in the housing market;
- the proportion of investment housing relative to owner-occupied housing;
- the impact of current tax policy at all levels; and
- opportunities for reform.

For further information on the inquiry or advice on making submissions see the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/HomeOwnership or contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4587. Email: economics.reps@aph.gov.au
Website: www.aph.gov.au/economics

How to get smarter about infrastructure

The role of smart information and communication technology (ICT) in the design and planning of infrastructure will be investigated in a new inquiry by the House Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications.

The committee invites interested persons and organisations to make submissions to the inquiry addressing the above terms of reference. Submissions close on Friday, July 10.

Smart ICT has the capacity to vastly improve the design and planning of new infrastructure and the use of existing infrastructure by allowing for the fast and accurate mapping and modelling of proposed and existing infrastructure. This has profound implications for planning, development, management and maintenance of infrastructure, with significant productivity benefits for governments and the community.

In particular, the inquiry will:

- Identify innovative technology for the mapping, modelling, design and operation of infrastructure;
- Identify the new capabilities smart ICT will provide;
- Examine the productivity benefits of smart ICT;
- Investigate harmonising data formats and creating nationally consistent arrangements for data storage and access;
- Identify international best practice in the use of smart ICT in the design and planning of infrastructure;
- Consider the use of smart ICT in related fields, such as disaster planning and remediation; and
- Consider means, including legislative and administrative action, by which government can promote this technology to increase economic productivity.

Committee Chairman Jane Prentice (Ryan, Qld) said the committee believes that smart ICT will revolutionise the planning and design of infrastructure.

“As part of its recent inquiry into infrastructure planning and procurement, the Committee took evidence on technological advances in survey and imaging techniques which have the capacity to significantly increase the speed and accuracy of data collection for the mapping and modelling of infrastructure, making it much more efficient and cost effective, with huge benefits to the community as a whole.”

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.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chairman, (07) 3378 1599 or (02) 6277 4426

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2352, email ic.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at www.aph.gov.au/ic

New inquiry into Seasonal Worker Program

Individuals or organisations who have participated in the Seasonal Worker Program are BEING encouraged to share their experiences in a new inquiry into the employment scheme.

The Seasonal Worker Program contributes to the economic development of Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste by assisting Australian employers to access overseas seasonal workers to satisfy labour shortages.

Established in 2012, the program now provides over 3,000 seasonal workers to horticulture sector employers including growers, contractors, labourers and accommodation providers.

Through this new inquiry, the Federal Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Migration will examine the Seasonal Worker Program and its scope for expansion.

Committee Chair, Louise Markus MP, said the Seasonal Worker Program was an important mechanism that supported development in the Pacific while also meeting identified labour shortages.

"The Seasonal Worker Program benefits Australia's horticulture industry, increasing productivity in areas of labour shortages. It also provides potential benefits to the participants of the program through skills development, knowledge transfer, and poverty alleviation," she said.

"As part of the inquiry, we will be focusing on the role of seasonal workers in the horticulture industry and investigate whether the program should be expanded to include other countries and sectors."

The committee will also focus on:

- how new sectors can benefit from the program;
- how the program affects Australian jobs;
- increasing access for overseas women and youth workers;
- how the program supports development in the Pacific; and
- issues with attracting seasonal workers, including the granting of visas.

The committee would like to hear from all individuals or organisations interested in the inquiry. Submissions will be accepted until **Friday, July 10**.

Further details about the inquiry, including the full terms of reference and how to make a submission, can be obtained from the committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/mig> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4560 or emailing jscm@aph.gov.au or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/mig>

Commonwealth performance framework

Parliament's Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) held a public hearing on 4 June for its inquiry into the Commonwealth performance framework.

All Commonwealth entities are required to measure and assess their performance in accordance with the Commonwealth performance framework. Under the Public Management Reform Agenda, the Commonwealth performance framework will be enhanced by, among other things, the requirement that entities produce corporate plans and annual performance statements.

Committee Chair Dr Andrew Southcott MP said, "The Committee's inquiry is an opportunity to ensure that the new Commonwealth performance framework will be effective in enhancing accountability for public resources."

"The Committee's inquiry will ensure that stakeholders in the public sector are able to have

their say on these changes. Importantly, it will also ensure that expert advice, from within and beyond the public service, contributes to the reform agenda,” Dr Southcott said.

At the June 4 hearing, the committee heard from Professor Kerry Jacobs, a Professor of Accounting at UNSW Canberra. Professor Jacobs is an expert in public sector accountability and reform and recently stated that “existing approaches to the Commonwealth Performance Framework are inadequately integrated with issues of risk and uncertainty” and that they have “become dominated by compliance and a financial reporting mentality where reporting high level quantitative measures to external stakeholders is more important than reducing risk and improving performance within the public entities.”

Further information about the committee's inquiry, including the terms of reference and details on how to lodge a submission, are available on the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa.

For information about the inquiry: please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4615, email jcpaa@aph.gov.au, or visit the committee website.

Getting smarter about infrastructure

The role of smart information and communication technology (ICT) in the design and planning of infrastructure will be investigated in an inquiry by the House Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications.

Smart ICT has the capacity to vastly improve the design and planning of new infrastructure and the use of existing infrastructure by allowing for the fast and accurate mapping and modelling of proposed and existing infrastructure. This has profound implications for planning, development, management and maintenance of infrastructure, with significant productivity benefits for governments and the community.

In particular, the inquiry will:

- Identify innovative technology for the mapping, modelling, design and operation of infrastructure;
- Identify the new capabilities smart ICT will provide;
Examine the productivity benefits of smart ICT;
- Investigate harmonising data formats and creating nationally consistent arrangements for data storage and access;
- Identify international best practice in the use of smart ICT in the design and planning of infrastructure;
- Consider the use of smart ICT in related fields, such as disaster planning and remediation; and
- Consider means, including legislative and administrative action, by which government can promote this technology to increase economic productivity.

Committee Chairman Jane Prentice (Ryan, Qld) said the committee believes that smart ICT will revolutionise the planning and design of infrastructure.

“As part of its recent inquiry into infrastructure planning and procurement, the Committee took evidence on technological advances in survey and imaging techniques which have the capacity to significantly increase the speed and accuracy of data collection for the mapping and modelling of infrastructure, making

it much more efficient and cost effective, with huge benefits to the community as a whole.”

The committee invites interested persons and organisations to make submissions to the inquiry addressing the above terms of reference. Submissions close on **Friday 10 July 2015**.

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.

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2352, email ic.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee’s webpage at www.aph.gov.au/ic

Inquiry into environmental register to hold public hearings

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment will conduct public hearings in the week of June 15 as part of its inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations.

Public hearings will be held in Canberra, beginning with the Department of the Environment at 4 pm on 16 June and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission at 9.30 am on 18 June. Further information will be available from the committee’s website closer to the date. Submissions to the inquiry closed on May 21.

Committee Chair, Mr Alex Hawke MP, said, “The response to the inquiry is evidence of the strong level of public interest in the work of not-for-profit environmental organisations. We look forward to, in the first instance, hearing from the government agencies involved in the administration of the sector, and we anticipate gathering evidence in a range of communities around Australia as the inquiry progresses over the coming months”.

Further details about the inquiry, including submissions received and the terms of reference, can be found on the inquiry’s website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/reo>.

For further information contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 4580, email environment.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the committee’s webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/environment>

Agencies to retain s313 disruption powers

Government agencies need to have the power to disrupt illegal online services, according to the latest report by the House of Representatives Communications Committee.

The Committee examined the use of s.313 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* by government agencies in the disruption of illegal online services, including the widely-reported inadvertent blocking of 250,000 websites by ASIC in 2013. The report recommends the adoption of guidelines for use by government agencies, which will include:

- the development of agency-specific internal policies consistent with the guidelines;
- clearly defined authorisations for website disruption at a senior level;
- defining activities subject to disruption;
- industry and stakeholder consultation;

- use of stop pages to identify the requesting agency, reason for disruption, agency contact, and avenue for review;
- public announcements, where appropriate;
- review and appeal processes; and
- reporting arrangements.

The Committee has recommended that all agencies using s.313 have the necessary level of technical expertise to carry out such activity, or procedures for drawing on the expertise of other agencies.

Committee Chairman Jane Prentice MP said, “The internet has brought unprecedented opportunities—undoubtedly for the better. But there are some in our community who would seek to use it for corrupt purposes.

“How we deal with these threats is a question of balance. To do nothing is an abdication of duty; to go too far is to risk trampling on the rights and freedoms we seek to protect. The Committee believes it has struck the right balance.”

A copy of the report can be obtained from the committee’s website or from the secretariat on (02) 6277 2352.

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2352, email ic.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the [Committee’s webpage](#).

Australia seeks place in procurement agreement

Trade and Investment Minister Andrew Robb has announced that Australia will launch a bid to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA).

Mr Robb said, “The GPA covers the purchase of goods and services by 43 governments worth USD\$1.7 trillion. This number will grow with another ten countries negotiating to join including China with a government procurement market worth \$1.5 trillion,” he said.

Australian membership of the GPA will provide Australian businesses with greater certainty and transparency when competing in GPA markets including those in the EU, US, Japan and Korea.

“Membership of the GPA would mean our firms will be able to participate on an equal footing with local competitors in GPA member countries.

“The government will work closely with business and State and Territory governments during the negotiations to ensure the final outcome is the best possible for Australia.”

Seeking Pearls of Wisdom — in Broome

Opportunities to expand the aquaculture industry in Northern Australia will be investigated as part of an inquiry by Parliament’s Northern Australia Committee, which has been tasked to examine ways to develop the region.

Aquaculture is the farming of captive-bred stock or the grow-out of naturally occurring juveniles of wild caught stocks and it is Australia’s fastest growing primary industry,

accounting for 34 per cent of the total gross value of seafood production.

The inquiry follows findings and recommendations in the committee's Pivot North Report that the government facilitate the development of the aquaculture industry in Northern Australia.

Committee Chair, Warren Entsch MP, said that the Western Australian Government has recently announced the creation of the Kimberley Aquaculture Development Zone.

"This initiative has the potential to boost aquaculture in the north west of Australia, and improve employment opportunities in the Kimberley region," Mr Entsch said.

Pearl farmers, local shires and the Kimberley Training Institute's Aquaculture Centre will all give evidence at the hearings in Broome on June 9 and June 10.

"Expanding the aquaculture industry in the Kimberley by developing new product and launching new projects will assist in diversifying the local economy, which is traditionally reliant on the resources industry. Increased involvement of the local workforce in aquaculture will also ensure financial benefits are retained in the region," Mr Entsch said.

On Thursday, June 11 the committee will be in Perth to hear evidence from several companies and organisations with an interest in the Kimberley Aquaculture Development Zone.

Hearing programs are available at: www.aph.gov.au/jscna

For inquiry information: contact the committee secretariat: Ph (02) 6277 4162 Email: jscna@aph.gov.au Website: www.aph.gov.au/jscna

Conferring of degrees

The Australian National University will be conducting *Conferring of Awards* ceremonies on July 15, 16 and 17 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: https://anu.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_aW2LnYtXliEx99b

You will be asked to select the ceremony (or ceremonies) you wish to attend. Please note: Registration will close on Friday 10 July at 5pm.

It is the responsibility of each participant to provide their own academic dress. If a participant is unsure of the code of dress, the Examinations & Graduations Office (graduation.officer@anu.edu.au) 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 note: Deans, Directors and other members of the Chancellor's Party will be contacted separately about their participation.

For more information contact the Senior Graduations Officer – Emilia Ciampa (x54648) – if you require any further information (or if you are unable to complete the registration form).

Emilia Ciampa | Senior Graduations & Prizes Officer
Examinations Graduations and Prizes Office
Division of Student Administration

Melville Hall, Building 12
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
T: 6125 9862 E: Graduation.officer@anu.edu.au or Prizes@anu.edu.au

More Diary Dates

ANUEF Events Update - Unless otherwise stated, all are in the Molony Room (see directions below), and collegiate lunch discussions are on the first Wednesday of the month (noon for 12.30 start), and public lectures (4 - 5pm) on the third Wednesday of the month. The Annual Lecture which will be in the Finkel Theatre of JCSMR.

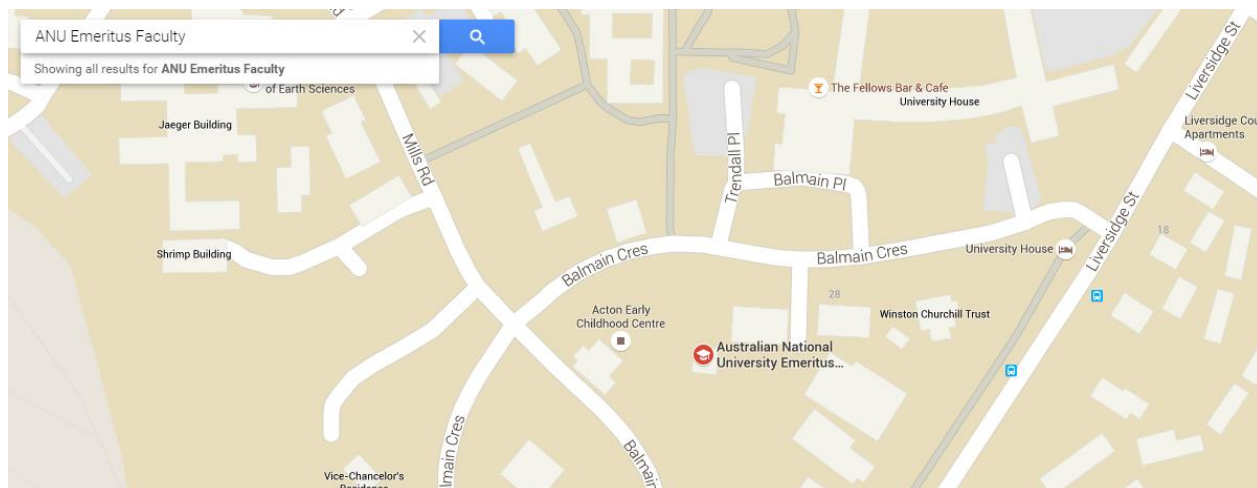
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| July 15 | 4pm Public Lecture Chennupati Jagadish on "Nanoparticles" |
| Aug 19 | Susanne von Caemmerer on plants — title TBA |
| Sept 2 | Caroline Ifeka on 'Boko Haram Verities' |
| Sept 16 | David Horner "Telling the Secrets: writing the history of ASIO" |
| Oct 21 | Stephen Bygraves on "Zero Carbon Australia" |
| Nov 18 | Nerilie Abram RSES ' Best Australian Science Writing for 2014'—title TBA |
| Dec 2 | Nobels and IgNobels |
| Dec 3 | Poets' Lunch (noon until 5pm) |

Unless otherwise stated, all ANUEF Events are in the Molony Room (Building 1c <http://www.anu.edu.au/maps#search=1c&show=11413>). Collegiate lunch discussions are on the first Wednesday of the month (noon for 12.30 start), and public lectures (4 - 5pm) on the third Wednesday of the month. All public lectures also advertised on the ANU Events board.

The Molony Room is on the south side of Balmain Crescent almost opposite University House. It is building 1c on <http://campusmap.anu.edu.au/displaymap.asp?grid=cd32>, set back between No 22 Balmain Crescent, which is the Acton Early Childhood Centre, and No 26 Balmain Crescent, which is the Academy of the Social Sciences. There are four free car parking spaces reserved for ANUEF members visiting the Molony Room, they are in the Balmain Lane Car Park immediately south of the Molony Room.

The room is marked on:

<https://maps.google.com.au/maps?q=ANU+Emeritus+Faculty&hl=en&ll=-35.284925,149.117078&spn=0.003402,0.006947&sll=-31.203405,135.703125&sspn=59.04012,113.818359&t=h&hq=ANU+Emeritus+Faculty&z=17>



Meet the authors

Bookings: ANU Events or 6125 8451

Supporters of **ANU Archives** can find updated news on the ANU website at <http://www.archives.anu.edu.au/news-and-events-1>

Arrangements for ANUEF Room Bookings

Requests for booking the Molony Room should be addressed to Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty Jan O'Connor at jantancress@gmail.com or Tel: 62473341

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.

What's On at the ANU?

What's On at ANU is a fortnightly email for staff and students that aims to highlight many of the interesting, enlightening and engaging public lectures, seminars and events happening around the university. All of these events are open to the public. Please check if reservations are needed. For more information on any of the events listed, or to see a calendar of upcoming events, go to <http://billboard.anu.edu.au/events.asp>

The next edition of *Emeritus*, the ANUEF Newsletter, will be published in July, 2015.