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Chance to reset debate on university funding

The announcement on October 1 by the new Minister for Education, Simon Birmingham, that higher education funding for 2016 will not be cut and that the government will consult on future funding options is a much needed circuit-breaker, says Universities Australia.

"The debate must now focus on how we deliver strong and sustainable funding that enables our universities to continue the world class education and research that Australia needs," said Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson.

"In citing fair access, quality and sustainable funding, the Minister has put his finger firmly on the key challenges confronting universities in positioning Australia for future prosperity.

The confirmation that next year's funding will be unchanged gives the sector optimism that the proposed 20 per cent funding cut (\$1.9 billion) for university education in future years could be scrapped.

There can be no justification for a cut of this magnitude, particularly when Australia currently sits in second last place amongst advanced economies for the level of public investment in tertiary education as a proportion of GDP."

Diary Dates

October 7 ANUEF's Collegiate lunch will be a Celebratory Unveiling of ANUEF Founder's Bust with short talks in recognition of the special contributions of the subject, the artist and the designer. A light lunch will be provided.

October 6 The ANU Tomorrow inaugural lecture series, Llewellyn Hall, 5.30pm

October 8 Launch of Centre for Classical Studies, Classics Museum, AD Hope Building at 6pm

Check the Events box on the ANUEF website, and report any errors to adrian_j_gibbs@hotmail.com.

More dates & details on pages 15-18

"We really need to lift the level of investment in universities if we are to succeed in meeting the challenges that our Minister has so clearly articulated in assuring a world class university system."

The Government's announcement coincides with the release of *The Times* Higher Education World Universities Rankings and comments by rankings editor Phil Baty that Australia will need to lift higher education funding if its universities are to sustain the sector's strong performance.

"Mr Baty is correct. Our global competitors are looking the future squarely in the eyes with major investments in higher education, research and innovation. We must do the same or we will be left behind," Ms Robinson said.

"Universities Australia is ready to work with the government, opposition, minor parties and crossbenchers to shape a coherent policy package that allows our universities to deliver the innovation and skills needed to keep Australia competitive."

Universities Australia will outline its vision for the sector in its major policy statement at the [National Press Club of Australia](#) on 7 October.

Universities welcome collaboration in education and innovation

Universities Australia congratulates Simon Birmingham on his appointment as Minister for Education and Training, and Christopher Pyne on his appointment as Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, and calls on the government to immediately dump the proposed 20 per cent cut to university funding and reverse the decline in public investment in research and innovation.

Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson said: "the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, has already articulated a clear and optimistic vision for an agile, innovative and creative Australia.

This is a vision shared by our universities and requires a partnership to leverage our intellectual infrastructure and human capital to position Australia for long-term national success.

It is our universities that will produce the graduates to create and fill the jobs of the future.

It is also our universities, through their research programs, that will deliver the products, the breakthroughs and new industries needed to secure our long-term prosperity.

Education, innovation, ideas and entrepreneurialism are the 'new wave' commodities desperately needed to drive the transition to a knowledge economy. They are essential if we are to seize the opportunities of the future," said Ms Robinson.

Realising the full potential of our universities requires predictable public investment in teaching and learning that has us closer to the top of the OECD than the bottom.

And it requires an investment in science and research that enables us to compete with our peers and hold our own on the international stage for the contribution we make to the global research and innovation effort," Ms Robinson said.

Over the past decade both major parties, when in government, have sought to cut funding to the very sector responsible for equipping Australia to meet the challenges of change.

Universities stand ready to help shape a new national and innovation agenda. It is possible to maximise the opportunities for all Australians if we make smart decisions to invest in the drivers of our future prosperity.

A successful and optimistic future relies on strong universities to equip graduates with the skills and knowledge to thrive and drive the new economy; and to produce the research and innovation needed to generate our new sources of national income.

We welcome the early commitment from Minister Birmingham to work collaboratively with education stakeholders to develop policy and to build broad support for any future reforms," Ms Robinson said.

As the peak body for universities, Universities Australia will be seeking early meetings with Minister Birmingham and Minister Pyne to progress the revitalised education and innovation agenda.

Universities congratulate incoming Prime Minister

Universities Australia has congratulated Malcolm Turnbull and Julie Bishop on their election as Leader and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party—and urged the new leadership team to back their optimistic vision for the future with a strong investment in universities.

Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson said she was pleased to hear the incoming Prime Minister acknowledge the dramatic changes that technology and global competition were unleashing across the Australian economy.

"The key to adapting and thriving in the face of those global changes will be a clever investment in Australia's universities. This is vital to ensure our country isn't left behind," Ms Robinson said.

Ms Robinson said Mr Turnbull has long championed the links between university education and research and national economic success. She said his first public comments as incoming Prime Minister had been well received by the sector. She went on:

"As Mr Turnbull said... as the world becomes more competitive, and new opportunities arise, Australia must be able to take advantage of them. We agree that we need to be a nation that is agile, that is innovative, that is creative. That's always been our own vision for the country," Ms Robinson said.

"Universities are part of the strong foundations to ensure Australia's prosperity in the years ahead. Universities are vital to our next wave of economic growth - as the incubators of new industries and ground breaking innovations, as the generators of the nation's research, and as the institutions that must produce the highly skilled workers needed in this new economy".

"As the peak body for universities, Universities Australia looks forward to working with the Turnbull Government to make the case for the smartest possible investment in the future prosperity of all Australians. The sector has acknowledged the contribution of outgoing Prime Minister Tony Abbott, particularly his commitment to reducing university red tape and the promotion of global engagement in higher education.

Legislation will cut red tape and strengthen international education

Two new bills introduced to Parliament in mid-September would cut red tape and boost the competitiveness of one of Australia's largest export industries - the education of international students, according to Universities Australia.

The *Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2015* and the *Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration Charges) Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2015* were introduced by former Education Minister Christopher Pyne.

Universities Australia Deputy Chief Executive Anne-Marie Lansdown said that the legislation would slash red tape, enabling universities to better focus resources on their core mission of education and research.

"These bills retain strong consumer protections while cutting down on the volume of overly onerous reporting obligations on universities. This will free up funds currently spent on report writing and form filling, so they can be redeployed into teaching and learning. We urge Parliament to pass them without delay," Ms Lansdown said.

"The ESOS framework is a vital pillar of the quality assurance regime for Australian international education. Though it is the envy of many competitor nations and a hallmark of good practice for consumer protection, the associated regulatory burden has been growing ever larger.

Unfortunately, compliance is now at a point where certain provisions are actually limiting student choice and the capacity of education providers to provide the best options for their students. These bills address the concerns head on and will allow universities to focus on what they do best, delivering an international education experience of uncompromising quality," Ms Lansdown said.

The changes include:

- Reducing a number of duplicative and expensive reporting and registration requirements; and
- Streamlining quality assurance processes.

Universities welcome pledge for 'student funding guarantee'

Universities support Labor's commitment to guarantee funding for teaching and learning, as announced by the Leader of the Opposition on September 21, Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson said. She continued:

"Policy stability and adequate funding are critical for universities to deliver the quality of education expected by students, employers and the broader community, we agree with Mr Shorten's emphatic statement that university funding is an investment in the future.

By not proceeding with the government's proposed 20 per cent cut to higher education or Labor's previously announced efficiency dividend, the status quo level of funding would be retained. Universities Australia has noted, however, that the rate of growth over time must keep pace with the true cost of delivery, rather than the general inflation rate."

"Universities would be concerned if Labor supports the Government's proposal to peg growth in funding to CPI rather than the true cost of delivery," said Ms Robinson. "That would mean that, over time, universities would need to find alternative sources of revenue to avoid eroding the quality of their teaching programs."

Universities have welcomed the commitment by Labor to support the demand-driven system and its emphasis on equity of access.

"This makes strong economic sense. Indeed, as Mr Shorten noted today, modelling by the former Australian Workplace Productivity Agency in 2013 confirmed that every dollar invested in tertiary education grows the economy by \$26. It also boosts tax revenue by \$8," said Ms Robinson. While there are a number of positives announced today by Labor, we will be interested in better understanding the detail that sits behind these announcements, particularly in relation to plans for a Labor Government to accurately predict, and have universities meet, future labour market needs. Labor's reversal of cuts to student funding that it unveiled prior to the last election has been well received by the sector and we look forward to further announcements on long-term sustainable funding for research and innovation," said Ms Robinson.

Labor's plan

In announcing Labor's plan for higher education, the Leader of the Opposition, Bill Shorten, said, "If you work hard and get good marks you should have the opportunity to go to university — no matter what your bank balance is. With two in every three jobs of the future expected to require a degree, I want to see more Australians go to university. And importantly, finish university with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed, not a debt sentence. That's why I've announced Labor's positive plan for more graduates, not \$100,000 degrees — because that's the investment our economy needs for the future."

He said that investing in education was the single most important thing we can do to maintain and grow Australia's prosperity, and secure the jobs of the future.

"That's why we will introduce a new Student Funding Guarantee that will see a greater investment in every student - \$11,800 per student in 2018 compared with \$9,300 under the Liberals."

[You can read the full detail of Labor's plan here.](#)

New Crime and Justice Research Centre

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) will be placed within the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) to boost research capability at the nation's criminal intelligence agency. Legislative changes to be introduced to Parliament within weeks will bring two of the nation's leading authorities on crime and justice together under one banner.

The AIC will be incorporated into the ACC as an independent research branch known as the Crime and Justice Research Centre (CJRC).

According to the government's media release, this is not about cutting costs or personnel of either agency; it's about creating a unified workforce incorporating staff of both agencies.

The Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Counter Terrorism Michael Keenan said:

Combining the expertise, capabilities and data and information holdings of the AIC and the ACC will significantly enhance support for law enforcement in counter terrorism efforts and in bolstering Australia's response to serious and organised crime.

Our law enforcement and protection agencies are increasingly dependent on accurate research, information and intelligence to ensure that police on the ground, at our borders and in our intelligence agencies can do their job.

The more we strengthen our research capabilities, the better evidence base we have for our agencies to identify the patterns and associations that can help detect, disrupt and undermine those who seek to do our communities harm.

In July this year, the Government appointed ACC CEO Chris Dawson as the acting Director of the AIC to work towards expanding the two agencies' existing relationships. Mr Dawson will continue to lead the new Crime and Justice Research Centre.

\$18.5 million biometrics tool to put a face to crime

Terrorists and other criminals that steal, exploit or hide their identities to commit offences will soon be subject to Australia's newest national security weapon – the National Facial Biometric Matching Capability.

The Coalition Government – as part of the \$1.3 billion invested in the last 12 months to support Australia's efforts to combat terrorism – is spending \$18.5 million to establish the capability.

From mid-next year law enforcement and government agencies will share and match photographs on identity documents to strengthen identity-checking processes, while maintaining strong privacy safeguards.

The new capability will initially provide one-to-one image-based verification service among Commonwealth agencies, with other agencies expected to join over time.

A one-to-many image-based identification service will follow to allow law enforcement and security agencies to match one photograph of an unknown person against many photographs contained in government records to help establish their identity.

The government says this process will expedite putting a name to the face of terror suspects, murderers, and armed robbers, and will also help to detect fraud cases involving criminals that use multiple identities. The capability is being established with strong privacy safeguards, informed by independent privacy impact assessments.

This initiative does not involve new powers for the Commonwealth; it is a mechanism to share existing information already held by jurisdictions. The new capability will operate within the protections provided under the Privacy Act 1988, and agencies using the capability will need to have legislative authority to collect and use facial images. The capability will not be a centralised biometric database and will not retain or store any images that are shared between agencies.

The Government is also working with the states and territories to explore the scope for their police and road agencies to participate in the new capability

The *Identity Crime and Misuse in Australia 2013-14* report, released last month, draws on the findings of a survey of 5,000 Australians conducted by the Australian Institute of Criminology. The report by the Attorney-General's Department and the AIC estimates that

identity crime costs Australia around \$2 billion per year, and supports findings from the Australian Crime Commission that identity crime is one of the key enablers of terrorism and organised crime.

The report reinforces the importance of organisations using the government's recently-introduced Document Verification Service (DVS) to help prevent the use of fake identities. The DVS already provides authorised organisations with a means to electronically match identifying information or credentials — but not photographs — on certain government-issued identity documents.

These checks are conducted in real time to inform decisions that rely upon the confirmation of a person's identity. It provides a key tool for organisations that are seeking to prevent the enrolment or registration of customers, clients and even staff who may be using fraudulent identities. Building on the DVS, the new capability will allow agencies to match a person's photograph against an image on one of their government records. The government believes this will help prevent more insidious forms of identity fraud —where criminals create fake documents using their own photos, with personal information stolen from innocent victims. It will also assist victims more easily restore their compromised identities.

The *Identity Crime and Misuse in Australia 2013-14* report and information on protecting identity can be found at www.ag.gov.au/identitysecurity

Organisations with a need to verify identity documents are being asked to consider using the DVS. Information on how to access the system can be found at www.dvs.gov.au

National Museum of Australia gets borrowing tick

The National Museum of Australia has been approved by the Minister for the Arts for five years as an approved borrowing institution under the Australian Government's Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan Scheme.

The National Museum of Australia is only the second institution to be approved under the Australian scheme which provides legal protection from seizure and suit for cultural objects on loan for temporary public exhibition in Australia. The scheme also ensures Australia continues to benefit from the significant social, cultural and economic benefits that international exhibitions deliver.

The announcement says the National Museum of Australia “has demonstrated it possesses the capacity, expertise and resources to uphold the ethical and legal responsibilities established by the scheme, including consultation with Australian communities on cultural objects proposed for loan and the capacity to undertake provenance checking and due diligence research to the highest international standards.”

The National Museum of Australia will now be able to offer to international lenders the legal protection provided by the scheme including for its forthcoming exhibition *Encounters: Revealing stories behind Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander objects* from the British Museum, the first collaboration with the British Museum.

The exhibition will offer a rare opportunity to view more than 150 Indigenous objects most of which have not been seen in Australia since they were first acquired in contacts between early settlers and first Australians. The exhibition will also provide an important opportunity for cultural exchange.

For more information about the scheme and how to apply for approval under the Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan Act 2013 visit the [Ministry for the Arts website](http://www.ministerforarts.gov.au).

Less cultural red tape

From September 11 new classification rules were introduced to streamline application processes for cultural institutions, film festivals and computer game expos to show unclassified films, computer games or publications.

Under the changes organisers of festivals, special events and cultural institutions, which may include art galleries and museums, will no longer have to apply for permission from the Director of the Classification Board to show unclassified material. Instead, event operators will now register the details of their events online and will self-assess unclassified material in their program to decide whether it needs to be restricted to adults or is suitable for a broader audience.

The government says that the previous film festival scheme was complex and required event organisers to apply for exemptions from classification for each event. This made it difficult for organisers to screen late entries, amend event programs or to add or change venues.

Safeguards remain in place to ensure that material that would likely be classified 'Refused Classification' cannot generally be shown. Event organisers will also be responsible for protecting children from exposure to age-inappropriate material.

These reforms follow changes which commenced in July that simplified the classification requirements for films and computer games that are modified, enabling faster delivery of content updates to the market.

More information is available at www.classification.gov.au.

Book Council appointment

Ms Louise Adler AM has been appointed the inaugural Chair of the Book Council of Australia,

The Book Council provides advice to the Government on strategies to strengthen the profile of Australian literature and literary non-fiction. Its aim is to bring important focus and attention towards promoting Australian writing nationally and overseas; developing and extending audience engagement with Australian literature; and nurturing a vibrant reading and writing culture.

\$6 million over three years has been committed to the Council and the funding of initiatives it recommends.

Ms Adler will be joined on the Council by representatives appointed from a wide range of literary and industry organisations including the Australian Society of Authors, the Australian Publishers Association, the Australian Booksellers Association, the Australian Literary Agents' Association and the Australian Library and Information Association.

Academic and author **Professor David Throsby AO**; Mr Steve Cox, Managing Director of Dymocks and of Dymock's Children's Charities, and Mr Jon Page, General Manager of independent bookstore Pages & Pages Booksellers and former President of the Australian Booksellers Association, to join the Book Council.

Australia Council Board appointment

Ms Rebecca Weisser has been appointed to the Australia Council Board for a three year term. Ms Weisser is a journalist, editor, television commentator and communications consultant, and holds a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours). She has previously held various senior positions at *The Australian* newspaper, including Opinion Editor.

Ms Weisser joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 1990 and had postings in Vanuatu and Mexico. During this time she also gained a Graduate Diploma in Foreign Affairs and Trade. In 1998 she joined QANTAS's public affairs department. She then moved to the Australian Catholic University, where she managed the communications section.

More information can be found at the [Australia Council website](#).

Schools and radicalisation to violent extremism

The Radicalisation Awareness Information Kit is now available online and the Commonwealth Government has been in touch with all State and Territory Education Ministers encouraging them to share and promote the information kit in their schools.

The information kit is intended to help all Australians understand the radicalisation process and how to respond if they are concerned about someone they know. The government says that the potential radicalisation of young Australians to violent extremism, including those in schools, is something all Australian governments are deeply concerned about.

According to the announcement, the first step is to help schools understand what radicalisation is and what it is not.

The Government says it continues to work with all states and territories to support young people in schools and assess what further work is needed to ensure they are kept safe from the influence of violent extremism.

More information is available at www.livingsafetogether.gov.au.

[Have your say](#)

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

Helping developing nations to farm better and feed themselves

Australia has expertise in arid, tropical and temperate zone agriculture. Partnerships between Australians, the aid budget and others working in agriculture can reduce poverty and promote health in the Indo-Pacific region.

How well Australia is utilising these partnerships and opportunities will be the next inquiry by the Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee of the Federal Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

The sub-committee invites submissions addressing the terms of reference for the inquiry by **4 November 2015**. Further details about the inquiry, including the full terms of reference, copies of submissions, and how to contribute can be obtained from the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/DevAg.

The sub-committee will review the Australian Government's [Strategy for Australia's aid investments in agriculture, fisheries and water](#) and look at how governments, NGOs and business can produce innovative solutions to the growing demand for higher quality, nutritious and sustainably produced food.

Sub-Committee Chair Dr Sharman Stone said chronic malnutrition and stunting not only affects the child's development, but impacts on the capacity of communities to be self-sufficient. Non-communicable disease, like diabetes and heart disease are also on the rise, often related to healthy food access.

She went on, "Countries with strong agriculture sectors, particularly related to the production of food, can have better health outcomes than when stores are filled with cheap, imported fast foods and snacks.

"Sustainable local production is not only good for people's health, it's good for the economy and the environment. The business of agriculture and aquaculture: breeding, sowing, farming, harvesting, processing and distributing food, also means more jobs and higher incomes."

"The sub-committee's last inquiry found that the best way to promote economic development and reduce poverty was through the combined efforts of governments, NGO's and private enterprise. This new inquiry will focus on how we can leverage Australia's world class agricultural and aquaculture expertise to help our regional partners prosper." Dr Stone said.

This inquiry will examine ways to better support agricultural development, greater gender equity, improved nutrition outcomes and economic growth in the Indo-Pacific region, including:

- Australia's contributions and achievements to date;
- options for agricultural innovation;
- actions to improve health and promote greater gender equity and women's economic empowerment, given that women are traditionally the main food producers in the region;
- ways to include small developing-country entrepreneurs with larger Australian and international business, both in agriculture and food value chains.

For background: Contact the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Secretariat on (02) 6277 2313 or visit jscfadt@aph.gov.au

Banking on infrastructure investment

Fifty seven countries, including Australia, have agreed to create the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The bank will enable member countries to work in partnership to provide funding for infrastructure projects that will be targeted to the least-developed countries in Asia, leading to economic growth.

The Articles of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank were examined recently at a hearing of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

Committee Chair, Mr Wyatt Roy MP, said that the current infrastructure gap in Asia is a significant impediment to economic development.

“By allowing countries to work together, and encouraging private sector investment, the bank will be a major driver in improving infrastructure in Asia. However we want to ensure that Australia is able to have a voice in the bank’s operations,” he said.

Australia will be the sixth largest shareholder in the bank, with 3.7 per cent of the overall shares and will be able to appoint a Governor to the Board and vote to elect a Director.

Regional members will contribute 75 per cent of the shareholding, with non-regional members –including Germany, France and the United Kingdom – contributing the remaining 25 per cent. The bank will be controlled by a Board of Governors and a Board of Directors.

Denunciation

The committee also looked at Australia’s proposed denunciation of the Convention on International Exhibitions. The Convention, originally signed in 1935, allowed for international exhibitions known as World Expos. Despite paying annual membership fees, Australia has not hosted a world expo. A themed special exhibition was held in Brisbane in 1988.

“If Australia wants to hold a world expo in the future, it can re-join. In the meantime, we may not be getting much benefit from ongoing membership,” Mr Roy said.

Hearing programs, copies of the treaties and submissions received can be found at www.aph.gov.au/jsct alternatively, email jsct@aph.gov.au or phone (02) 6277 4002.

Land management in the Indian Ocean Territories

The National Capital and External Territories Committee will continue to examine Crown land management, local planning processes and the prospects for economic development on Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands, as part of its inquiry into governance in the Indian Ocean Territories.

Calmy Planning and Design has extensive consultancy and project management experience in the Indian Ocean Territories, including development of the 2009 Crown land management plans.

Committee Chair, Mr Luke Simpkins MP, says land access is a priority for stakeholders.

“We’re hearing that people want clear policy and regulatory processes that support economic development. We need to see progress on these matters if we are going to increase development opportunities and grow investor confidence into the future,” he said.

For inquiry information: Contact the secretariat for the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories on (02) 6277 4355 or jscncet@aph.gov.au or visit aph.gov.au/ncet

Taking a byte out of (or into) infrastructure

The Infrastructure and Communications Committee has held public hearings in Brisbane and Melbourne as part of its Inquiry into the role of Smart ICT in the design and planning of infrastructure.

These hearings let the committee canvass the views of a broad range of expert witnesses from industry, universities and government.

Among those giving evidence in Brisbane were: Urban Circus (Submission 3), Queensland University of Technology (Submission 19), AECOM (Submission 21), Associate Professor Tan Yigitcanlar (QUT), and Bentley Systems (Submission 29).

Giving evidence at the Brisbane hearing, Associate Professor Tan Yigitcanlar, commented on bringing “ubiquitous urban infrastructure” technologies into the real world to improve the quality of city living and achieve sustainable urban development. He said:

“Ubiquitous urban infrastructure brings information and communications Ubiquitous technology—embedding smart ICT in every aspect of the urban environment and making it universally accessible—is one of the keys to developing smart infrastructure in the 21st Century. South Korea is one of the leading exponents of this new ‘ubiquitous infrastructure’—sometimes described as the Internet of Things—which is transforming the urban landscape into U-Cities.

“In Korea, U-infrastructure is used in transport, health emergency services, fire fighting, security, urban amenities, and urban management and ICT portals to monitor environmental protection, water and power grids, and sewerage and waste treatment and so on. Some of the U-infrastructure services also provide an early warning system, for instance, meteorology service, earthquake data collection, and alarm and video monitoring services.”

Committee Chairman Jane Prentice MP (Ryan, Qld) said, “Overseas experience reveals the potential and the challenges in developing smart infrastructure, and provides useful lessons for Australia. One thing is certain, however—a strong and productive economy needs smart infrastructure.”

The Melbourne hearing on September 25 took evidence from:

Victorian Government (Submission 24), Australian Academy of Science (Submission 5), Victorian Spatial Council (Submission 6), Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (Submission 13), City of Melbourne (Submission 35), Independent Project Analysis (Submission 11), Professor Keith Hampson, Sustainable Built Environment National Research Centre (by teleconference), Swinburne University of Technology (Submission 36), University of Melbourne (Submissions 17, 31 & 32) and IBM (Submission 2).

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 and ic.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the [Committee’s webpage](#).

Victoria helps Chronic Disease Inquiry

The Victorian experience of prevention and management of chronic disease in primary health care was the focus of a House of Representatives Health Committee hearing to be held in Melbourne on October 1.

The committee heard from witnesses including the Victorian Health Department, chronic disease advocacy groups, bodies representing medical practitioners and allied health workers, research bodies, a health consumer group, private health insurers, and Primary Health Networks.

Discussion included methods used to treat chronic disease in primary health care, as well as ways in which patient care can be better coordinated, supported and improved.

Committee Chair Steve Irons MP said, "Hearing more about innovative models of care being delivered in Victoria, including the CarePoint partnership delivered by the Victorian

Department of Health and Medibank Private, [sic] will provide a perspective on the ways in which the challenges of chronic disease can be addressed on a local and state-wide scale.

"Collaborative partnerships, and information sharing between research bodies and primary health care organisations, including Primary Health Networks, may find efficiencies and lead to better implementation of best practice treatment for patients living with chronic disease."

A program and further information about the inquiry is available at:

www.aph.gov.au/chronicdisease The inquiry is ongoing and still receiving submissions. The preferred method of receiving submissions is by electronic format lodged online using a My Parliament account.

Inquiry information: contact the committee secretariat on: (02) 6277 4145 or visit the committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/health.

Submissions sought on anti-death penalty campaign

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop, has emphasised that abolition of the death penalty is one of the aims of Australia's bid to become a member of the United Nations' Human Rights Council.

Australia has a longstanding, bipartisan policy commitment to the abolition of the death penalty, and now the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade has been asked by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to review Australia's efforts to advocate for its worldwide abolition.

Australia has been an active participant in the protection and promotion of human rights, including through its support of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty.

While there has been a global trend toward abolition, more than half the world's countries are yet to sign up to the protocol and in some countries the use of capital punishment appears to be increasing. Some of Australia's biggest trading partners and closest allies still impose the death penalty, including China, India, Indonesia, Japan and the United States of America.

Sub-Committee Chair, Philip Ruddock MP, says that as a nation we must renew our opposition to capital punishment, and find new and effective ways to advocate for worldwide abolition.

In a recent statement he said, "We need to go beyond an approach where our voice is loudest immediately prior to a planned execution. We need to shift the focus to ending the death penalty worldwide and ensure that our advocacy for abolition is effective in bringing about this change."

The Human Rights Sub-Committee acknowledges that this is an issue of deep concern to the Australian public, particularly in light of cases of Australians facing capital punishment overseas. While the sub-committee is concerned for the welfare of these individuals, this inquiry is a chance to explore options for strengthening Australia's anti-death penalty engagement and advocacy, rather than examining specific cases.

The sub-committee invited submissions addressing the terms of reference for the inquiry by **October 2** but can be asked to make exceptions. The terms of reference ask the sub-committee to:

- review how Australia currently engages internationally to promote abolition of the death penalty;

- consider further steps Australia could take to advocate for worldwide abolition, including by:
- engaging with international institutions and like-minded countries;
- cooperating with non-government organisations;
- bilateral engagements and other diplomatic activities; and
- other appropriate means.

Further details about the inquiry and information on how to make a submission can be obtained from the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/deathpenalty or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2313 or emailing jscfadt@aph.gov.au.

More hearings into the Register of Environmental Organisations

The House of Representatives Environment Committee has held more public hearings as part of its inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations.

Representatives from environmental organisations on the Register and other interested parties to appear before the committee in Canberra included:

Law Council of Australia; Minerals Council of Australia and Whitehaven Coal; National Parks Association of the ACT; National Parks Australia Council; Australian Network for Plant Conservation; Dr Greg Ogle; Conservation Council ACT Region; Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens; Community Council for Australia; and WWF Australia

Organisations appearing before the committee in Bowen, Queensland, on September 30 included:

Reef Catchments Limited; Resource Industry Network; Mackay Conservation Group; Mr John Barnes; Abbot Point Expansion Supporters Group; Whitsundays Marketing and Development; Bowen Business Chamber; Bowen-Collinsville Enterprise Inc. and Bowen Tourism and Business

Submissions to the inquiry, including those from the organisations appearing at hearings, are available at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Environment/REO/Submissions.

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 more information call the secretariat on (02) 6277 4580, email environment.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/environment>.

Older Australians Willing to Work

Earlier this year, the Human Rights Commission launched *Willing to Work: National Inquiry into Employment Discrimination Against Older Australians and Australians with Disability*. The National Inquiry is now open for submissions and conducting consultations. The submissions period opened on 26 June and **closes on Friday, 4 December 2015**.

To make a submission, visit: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/willing-work-how-make-submission>.

The call for submissions follows the release of two Issues Papers.

- [Issues Paper: Employment discrimination against older Australians](#)
- [Issues Paper: Employment discrimination against Australians with disability](#)

Consultations are being conducted in every capital city and some regional centres. Consultations will take place from July to November 2015. For details access <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/willing-work-consultations> for a list of consultation locations and dates.

For further information visit the Willing website.

On the website

ANU Emeritus Faculty's Oral History entry for **Professor James Fox** is now available on the ANUEF website: www.anu.edu.au/emeritus- go to home page then to Oral History Project button.

The next entry will be for **Professor Anthony Low** (Vice Chancellor 1975-82), prepared by Belle Low and Anthony's children.

Make a date, or several

Diary Dates on the website

ANUEF now relies on the new 'Google Calendar' for events listing on the ANUEF website (<http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/>). We will only email information directly to you for special events, or when there is a late change. The Events Calendar on our website will be updated whenever new information becomes available. Thus, to summarise, all monthly collegiate lunches and public lectures (including abstracts) will be advertised on our website, the public lectures will also be advertised on the ANU Events billboard, and the most immediate events will appear in *Emeritus*. So, please, go check out the new Events box on the ANUEF website, and report any errors to adrian_j_gibbs@hotmail.com.

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.

The ANU Tomorrow Lecture Series

Postgraduate and Research Students' Association, Inc (PARSA) would like to invite you to attend our *ANU Tomorrow Lecture Series* featuring our soon to be Vice Chancellor Brian Schmidt AC on **Tuesday, October 6th**, 5:30 pm, Llewellyn Hall, School of Music, ANU.

ANU Tomorrow is an event showcasing the ground breaking research happening at ANU, Australia No.1 University. The research presented here will be the knowledge of tomorrow. *ANU Tomorrow* is an event to remind all of us, especially postgraduate students, why we came to the ANU to be mentored and taught by researchers who are creating tomorrow's knowledge.

This will be the first of many *ANU Tomorrows*. The inaugural *ANU Tomorrow* will feature:

1. The ANU's resident Nobel Laureate and soon to be Vice Chancellor, Brian Schmidt AC.
2. ANU Law College Lecturer and Editorial Board member, University House Fellow, and Rhodes Scholar, Ryan Goss.

3. ANU School of Music Senior Lecturer, sound recordist/performer and studio engineer, Samantha Bennett.

PARSA also invites suggestions for next semester's *ANU Tomorrow*.

PARSA's address is: Student Facilities, Level 1, Blg 17
Australian National University, Canberra ACT 2601

Website: <http://parsa.anu.edu.au/>

Calling all classicists and ancients

The Classics and Ancient History program has recently been set up as an ANU Centre, the Centre for Classical Studies, providing, it is hoped, a secure basis for prosperity and growth in the future. To mark this occasion a formal launch for the Centre is scheduled for 6 pm on Thursday, 8 October. The launch speaker will be Professor Brian Schmidt, who will become the ANU's Vice Chancellor in 2016.

The organisers apologise for the short notice, but very much hope that members will be able to join us for this significant event. In order to help with catering, please RSVP to: Fiona Sweet-Formiatti, who writes, "When sending you're RSVP to fiona.sweet-formiatti@anu.edu.au, could you please indicate the number of people on whose behalf you are responding? This will be very helpful for catering purposes.

Details: Launch of the Centre for Classical Studies by Professor Brian Schmidt AC, Thursday, 8 October 2015 at 6 pm–7.30 pm; venue: ANU Classics Museum, AD Hope Building

Have alumni for lunch

The ANU Alumni Office is organising a Reunion Long Lunch to be held at Albert Hall on Saturday, **10 October**. Details may be found at:
<http://www.anu.edu.au/alumni/get-involved/volunteer/2015-reunion-long-lunch>

Bookings closed on October 1 so if you were interested in joining an Emeritus Faculty table at the lunch, it would be best to contact Heidi Dreyer, Senior Alumni Relations Officer at heidi.dreyer@anu.edu.au or on (02) 6125 7483.

Kerry O'Brien on Keating

Friday October 30 University House, at 6.15pm Kerry O'Brien will be in conversation with Lenore Taylor, the Guardian Australia's political editor, talking about his long awaited book, *Keating*. For information contact ANU Events
<http://www.anu.edu.au/events/eat-drink-and-be-literary-with-kerry-o%E2%80%99brien>

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| Oct 21 | Stephen Bygraveson 'Zero Carbon Australia |
| Nov 18 | Nerilie Abram RSES 'Best Australian Science Writing for 2014' |
| Dec 2 | Nobels and IgNobels |
| Dec 3 | Poets' Lunch (noon until 5pm) |

Unless otherwise stated, all ANUEF events are in the Molony Room (Building1c
<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.

Writers and their writings wanted

Richard Fox, editor of the *ANU Reporter*, writes:

I know it's a bit early but we're starting the February edition of *ANU Reporter* now. We're aiming for it to be published on the first week of Semester 1 in mid-February, so all content must be completed before everyone disappears for Christmas.

We're particularly looking for strong feature pieces that demonstrate links between research and industry/commercialisation. This is a major focus for the university and it's important we show off these strengths in *ANU Reporter*.

If you can't attend, you can send through your ideas to me, with as much detail as you can, by 19 October. Feel free to send this meeting on to anyone else.

Richard Fox, *ANU Reporter* Editor/Corporate Communications Officer
Strategic Communications and Public Affairs
Chancelry Building 10
The Australian National University
T 02 6125 4171 e: richard.fox@anu.edu.au e: reporter@anu.edu.au

Independent scholars met in Canberra

The Annual Conference of the Independent Scholars Association of Australia (ISAA), *Celebrating Independent Thought: ISAA Twenty Years On*, was held at the National Library on **October 1 & 2**.

The conference included the ISAA Annual Lecture, by Julian Disney. His title is *Independent and Integrity in the Public Domain*, which focused on the importance of constructive independence applying to presenting facts, expressing opinions, casting votes and many other actions that affect public discussion and outcomes in the community.

The Independent Scholars Association of Australia (ISAA) was founded in 1995 through the initiative of science historian Dr Ann Moyal AM with the involvement of scholars and public intellectuals such as David Headon, Patricia Clarke, Doug Cocks, Humphrey McQueen and others, and with the generous and continuing support of the National Library of Australia. Incoming ISAA President Christine Jennett in 2014 described it as 'a community of scholars who discuss ideas and issues of importance, and who support each other in our research and writing'. It provides a productive forum for what Ann Moyal has termed the '*hidden intelligentsia*'—men and women pursuing research and writing independently of academic or other paid employment, and who make a vital contribution to the intellectual and cultural life of Australia.

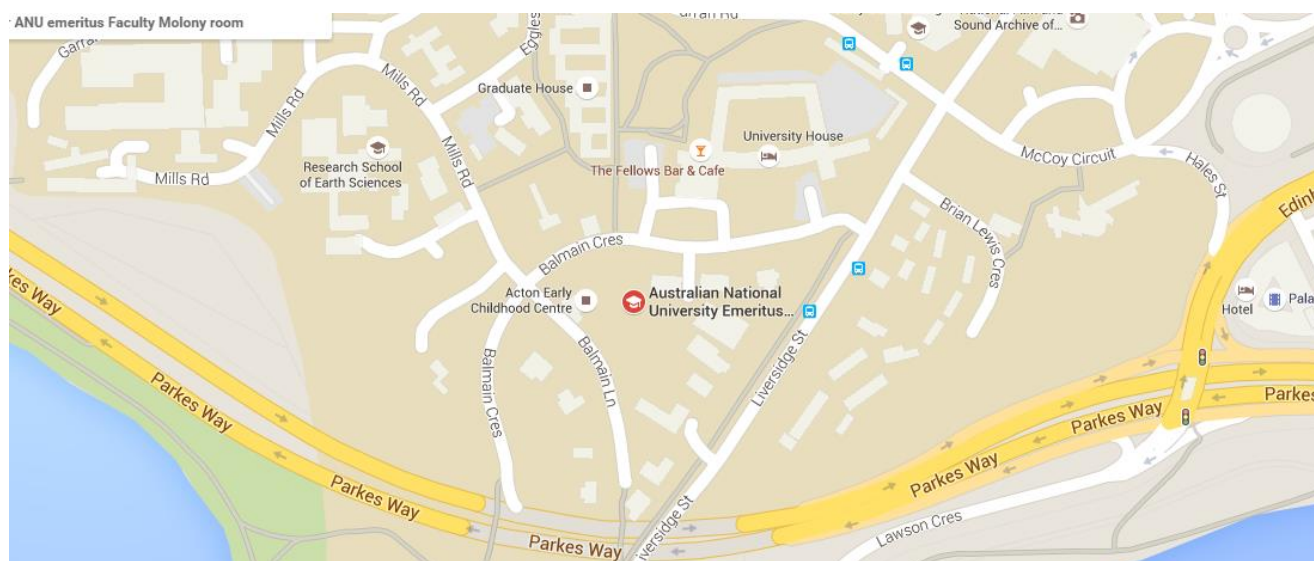
For more information about the conference and the association, access isaa.org.au/conference/

Finding the Molony Room

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 Molony room location is marked here:



Meet the authors

October 30 University House literary dinner Kerry O'Brien

November 3. Peter Garrett

November 5, University House literary dinner with Matthew Evans

November 23, University House literary dinner with Annabel Crabb

Other authors to be scheduled include Andrew Leigh, Peter Doherty

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.

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