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Australian
National
University

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Research and funding for universities

The [Review of Research Policy and Funding Arrangements](#), published on December 4, will create a stronger, fitter university research system that translates more high quality university research into economic and social benefits, Universities Australia says.

Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson said the report's 28 recommendations, which deal with the "supply-side" of the university research collaboration equation, will help stimulate greater engagement, create policy coherence and simplify research funding.

The review recommends the development in 2016 of an 'impact and engagement framework' to align research funding more closely to impact and engagement.

"If accepted by Government, this proposal will require ongoing consultation with the sector to ensure the outcomes are consistent with the policy objective and that unintended consequences are avoided," Ms Robinson said.

Simplifying the research block grants and refashioning the funding formula to reward engagement will drive stronger collaboration. A proposed \$50 million increase to research support from 2018 will also assist in this goal.

A transition to these new arrangements would be smoothed by a number of well-considered measures. For the first four years of implementation, for example, no university will receive less than 95 per cent of its research support funding for the prior year.

The report also proposes making research collaboration Linkage grants continuously accessible (rather than a single application round once a year), and axing the cash contribution required of small business partners - recommendations strongly supported by Universities Australia.

The integration between our universities and business will be further strengthened by funding for an extra 700 industry placements for research students each year.

In acknowledging Australia's notoriously poor performance for the proportion of businesses collaborating with university researchers, the report reinforces the need for business to play its part in building and maintaining productive relationships.

"It is as important for business to reach in to universities as it is for universities to reach out in this 'contact sport' of business-university engagement," Ms Robinson said. "While the review gets the direction right for universities, getting the lift in collaboration that is needed will require further measures that address the 'demand' side of the equation."

She congratulated Dr Ian Watt AO and the reference panel on an astute set of proposals. "It is a clear and insightful plan to strengthen the national economic drivers of university research and innovation," she said. "Dr Watt should be commended for the constructive and comprehensive consultation he has undertaken with the sector.

"We would welcome the broad thrust of these recommendations being reflected in the Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda...

Full details of the report are in several Department of Education websites including <https://docs.education.gov.au/node/38976> or use the link in the first paragraph above.

ANU Emeritus Faculty AGM

The Constitution of the ANU Emeritus Faculty provides that members elect a Committee of from five to 12 of its members at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee then elects its office bearers. The 16th Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 16 December 2015 at 5pm and will be followed by the ANUEF Christmas Party.

The agenda and voting forms have been circulated by email to all members. The Annual Report from the Chair will be circulated to members by email before the meeting. The Treasurer's Report and the audited financial statements for the year 1 December 2014 to 30 November 2015 will be tabled at the meeting.

Diary Dates Pages 18-19

Of numbers and bullets

Emeritus Professor Richard Mulgan, at the Crawford School of Public Policy, is campaigning against what he calls "irritating stylistic fads" which include counting the points to be made in an article "then proclaiming the number in the title".

He writes in the December edition of *The Public Sector Informant*, published in *The Canberra Times* on December 2, that the practice is rampant among management gurus and gives a few examples such as: "Five ways to improve your chances of promotion", "Four problems for Turnbull to solve on the way to tax reform", and "Three lessons from the Wallabies' defeat".

He writes, also, that public servants are particularly addicted to bullet points as a standard means of communication; and goes on, "Too often, however, the intended 'bullets' are like 'pellets', aimed in the general direction of the topic but many missing the target" He bans the

use of bullet points and requires students to write paragraphs of connected prose “Only then will they be forced to construct arguments rather than fire off disconnected thoughts,” he says.

Professor Mulgan ends his article with “...I therefore end with a plea to our excellent editor: please resist the temptation to use a title such as ‘Three whinges about writing style’”.

The article, on page 5 of *The Informant* carries the headline, “Top three whinges about writing styles”

National strategy for diabetes

The Government has released a new national strategy to tackle diabetes, which is emerging as a major chronic illness for patients – and threat to the health of the economy – in Australia.

To coincide with World Diabetes Day, Health Minister Sussan Ley said the *Australian National Diabetes Strategy* was a blueprint for improving the prevention, care and management of diabetes to the end of the decade. “It is likely that more than one million Australians, that is five per cent of adults, are living with diabetes,” she said.

“In Australia Type 2 diabetes accounts for approximately 85 per cent of people with diabetes; with approximately 12 per cent with diabetes diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Around 12-14 per cent of pregnant women will develop Gestational Diabetes Mellitus which usually disappears following the birth of the baby, but puts women at risk of subsequently developing diabetes.

“Diabetes related complications including heart attack, stroke, amputation, blindness, kidney failure, depression and nerve disease but in many cases the disease is preventable.

“For this reason the emphasis of the strategy is on prevention, early diagnosis, intervention, management and treatment, centred on the role of primary care.”

Minister Ley said a growing number of people with diabetes also had other chronic diseases – known as co-morbidities – and therefore a key theme of the strategy was to provide a seamless partnership between people with diabetes and their health and community care providers.

“This will be enhanced by the work being undertaken by the Government’s Primary Healthcare Advisory Group and broader National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions,” Ms Ley said.

“Under this strategy people will be better informed about diabetes so they can make better decisions. In addition, research and evidence will strengthen prevention and care and, hopefully, move us that much closer to a cure for diabetes.”

The Australian government provides support to people with diabetes through Medicare and a range of programs and this new Strategy will not replace or override existing processes. This Strategy aims to better coordinate health resources across the sector to where they are needed most.

The *Australian National Diabetes Strategy* is available from the [Department of Health’s website](#).

Chronic disease funding alert

Serious concerns have been raised about the misuse of taxpayer-funded chronic disease management plans by 'less scrupulous' medical practices for personal financial gain, as millions of dollars in incorrect Medicare claims are ordered to be repaid, according to the Government's independent Professional Services Review (PSR) Agency's 2014-15 Annual

Report on Medicare compliance activities against health practitioners.

The report shows referrals to the PSR for investigation increased 40 per cent in 2014-15, resulting in further action being taken in 70 per cent of cases. Outcomes included ordering \$4.17 million worth of repayments and various reprimands and restrictions on the practitioner's access to Medicare benefits. In particular, the report raises growing concerns around the exploitation of 'grey areas' and ambiguities in the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) that are allowing Chronic Disease Management (CDM) items to be misused, after they featured in about half of all PSR compliance cases in 2014-15:

"PSR committees frequently find that some practitioners in large practices provide CDM services opportunistically despite the lack of clinical relevance. This is particularly evident in practices that do not take appointments," the PSR Annual Report finds.

Minister for Health Sussan Ley said the warnings around the misuse of Chronic Disease Management items demonstrated the importance of all three elements of the Government's integrated approach to building a healthier Medicare:

A review of all 5700 items on the Medicare Benefits Schedule and the rules governing their use to ensure they reflect contemporary clinical practice for doctors and their patients and are not misused;

A review of primary care service delivery, and funding, models, particularly around chronic disease and whether fee-for-service remains the most-appropriate model; and

The strengthening of compliance and education around the use of Medicare items by health practitioners and practices.

The Government's Professional Services Review is made up of independent committees of respected medical professionals who peer review serious allegations of Medicare non-compliance against health practitioners that are detected by the Department of Human Services. As part of investigations the PSR uncovered examples where some individual practitioners had ordered between 600 and 1000 Chronic Disease Management (CDM) items each last year alone. The PSR also found evidence of some practices pressuring their doctors to undertake higher numbers of CDM items to increase earnings.

Water, energy and food: CSIRO reports on National Outlook

The *Australian National Outlook*, published by the CSIRO in November, is the most comprehensive quantitative analysis yet of the interactions between economic growth, water-energy-food use, environmental outcomes and living standards in Australia.

CSIRO Executive Director Dr Alex Wonhas said *National Outlook* focused on the 'physical economy' that contributes to about 75 per cent of natural resource use and produces about 25 per cent of Australia's GDP.

"The *National Outlook* is a first attempt to understand and analyse the connections in

Australia's physical environment many decades into the future," Dr Wonhas said.

"It has a particular focus on understanding two aspects: The 'water- energy-food nexus' and the prospects for Australia's materials- and energy-intensive industries."

National Outlook finds a number of key insights and potential opportunities across the Australian economy. "For example, we find strong growth prospects for Australia's agri-food production, which are forecast to increase at least 50 per cent by 2050, provided long term productivity improvements can be maintained in line with historical rates," Dr Wonhas said. "There's also the possibility of a win-win for farmers with potential growth in agri-food exports and new income sources for rural landholders through carbon farming on less productive land."

National Outlook also finds as Australia's population grows, so too does water demand. "Despite projections of a doubling of our water use, Australia could meet this growth as well as enhance urban water security and avoid increased environmental pressures through increased water recycling, desalination and integrated catchment management," Dr Wonhas said.

The results of CSIRO's first *National Outlook* show that energy and other resources could remain a pillar of the Australian economy well into the future, and that energy intensive industries could be well positioned to continue to grow, even in scenarios where the world is taking global action to significantly limit greenhouse gas emissions.

The *National Outlook* explores over 20 possible futures for Australia out to 2050 against the backdrop of the past 40 years. The work was undertaken by a team of 40 CSIRO experts and university collaborators, and draws extensively on observed data and analysis.

National Outlook is underpinned by more than 10 journal papers including a Nature paper. The report is available at www.CSIRO.au/nationaloutlook

NHMRC grants for ANU researchers

The Federal Government will invest more than \$600 million to support Australia's world-leading researchers to find the next prevention of disease or cure as it continues to drive innovation in Australia, Minister for Health Sussan Ley announced last month.

Ms Ley said over 2,000 researchers would share in the \$630 million for projects including: obesity prevention; cancer genomics and hereditary diseases; a new medication to help treat severe ice addiction; new treatment for drug-resistant depression; different treatments for PTSD and the impact shift working has on pregnancy outcomes.

Ms Ley said the announcement includes \$122 million for cancer research, \$50 million for mental health research and \$25 million for dementia research, amongst other diseases and conditions. The funding will support 836 projects and the work of approximately 2200 researchers.

National Health and Medical Research Council CEO Professor Anne Kelso said the announcement also included the second largest grant in NHMRC history, worth \$25 million over five years.

"Drawing together a national network of more than 80 team members, this potentially transformative project will examine how to use the extraordinary recent advances in human

genetics to improve patient care in Australia,” Professor Kelso said. “The research funded today is at the forefront of our knowledge of health and disease. These grants will support Australia’s best new and established researchers working throughout the health and medical research sector – in universities, institutes, hospitals and primary health care. They support discovery and innovation, development and clinical trials of new therapies and public health interventions, and improvements in healthcare delivery.”

The grants were selected by independent panels which drew on the expertise of thousands of researchers to assess applications across 12 different NHMRC schemes.

ANU grant recipients

Professor Kaarin Anstey - Centre of Research Excellence in Cognitive Health; evidence, Intervention and population modelling - \$2,499,872; also for research into reducing cognitive decline and optimise ageing - \$ 753,300.

Dr Brian Billups - Dynamic trafficking of amino acid transporters at synapses and their role in regulating neurotransmission. - \$421,219

Dr Kathryn Bowen - climate change adaption relating to avoidable deaths from heat stress - \$175,303.

Adjunct Professor Peter Butterworth - for research into mental health in midlife - \$707,832

Dr Gemma Carey – Pursuing health equity through the implementation of public policy; making the National Disability Scheme equitable - \$314,644.

Professor Matthew Cook – How does NF-κB2 regulate thymic selection to prevent organ-specific autoimmune disease? - \$787,600.

Dr Vincent Daria – Understanding the roles of dendritic domains in neural function - \$491,509

Professor Ross Hannan – regulation of ribosomal RNA gene chromatin during malignant transformation - \$882,486

Adjunct Professor Marty Kirk – Compare: collaborative management platform for detection and analysis of (re-)emerging and foodborne outbreaks in Europe - \$427,959

Ms Kathrin Kulhanek – Equipment grant - \$79,394

Professor Robyn Lucas – sun exposure, vitamin-D and photohealth over lifetime - \$622,655

Dr Mitchell O’Connell – gene research; understanding the role of circular RNA-targeting - \$393,972

Dr Mehdi Adibi Sede – the role of corticothalamic feedback on the response dynamic of thalamic neurons - \$351,850

Professor David Tremethick – the special role of historic variants in regulating the inheritance of three-dimensional organisation of the epigenome - \$962,716

Adjunct Professor David Tschärke – A proteome-wide approach to anti-viral immunity and vaccine development - \$622,655

And at the **University of Canberra:**

Adjunct Professor Sudha Rao – uncovering the epigenetic landscape that regulates human transcriptional memory - \$708,208; plus epigenetic regulation by PKC-θ in human breast cancer stem cells - \$818,132

For specific information relating to individual grants visit the NHMRC website at:
<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants-funding/outcomes-funding-rounds>

Australian university research quality soars

The *State of Australian University Research 2015-16* report confirms Australia's university research performance is amongst the best in the world. The 2015 Excellence for Research in Australia (ERA) assessment released on December 4 reveals strong growth in the proportion of Australian-produced research classified as world standard.

In 2015, 89 per cent of the assessed research areas in Australian universities is rated as world class, up from 68 per cent in 2010. The number of research fields deemed "national research strengths" for Australia also doubled - up from 20 in 2012 to 43 this year.

To qualify for that status, 10 or more institutions must be producing "above world standard" research, with four or more of them contributing work rated "well-above" world-standard.

Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson, says, "This latest data reveals the full depth and strength of the research done by our universities. It also confirms the very high quality of the research from our universities - a national imperative to drive economic transformation."

The 2015 Excellence for Research in Australia (ERA) assessment finds:

89 per cent of university research areas assessed were rated as "at or above world standard";

Australia has 43 areas of national strength in diverse areas of research - including health and medical, science, engineering, history and culture research;

The number of patents has grown by 20 per cent and the number of research "outputs" has risen by 5 per cent since 2012; and

Commercialisation income declined in this assessment period, but primarily due to large, one-off sales including the Gardasil vaccine in the previous reporting period.

ERA is a comprehensive evaluation of Australian university research against national and international benchmarks. It can also assist businesses and entrepreneurs to identify potential research partners who are working at the top of their field.

Submissions wanted on Australia's future in research and innovation – Page 11

Regional Meeting of Global Research Council in Canberra

Research leaders from across the Asia-Pacific met in Canberra on December 3 and 4 for the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of the Global Research Council (GRC). The Australian Research Council (ARC) and Papua New Guinea (PNG) Research, Science and Technology Secretariat, hosted the GRC regional meeting where leaders discussed developments, issues and challenges in research across the Asia-Pacific.

Other countries participating in the meeting include: China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Innovation success needs scale and consistency: new report

Universities Australia congratulates the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) on a powerful and timely contribution to an intensifying national focus on innovation.

This report, [Translating research for economic and social benefit: country comparisons](#) distils lessons that Australia can learn from our global competitors on national performance in innovation. Chief among them is the reality that comprehensive national innovation policy and strong investments can play decisive roles in lifting economic prosperity.

"We are on the cusp of a golden moment for innovation in Australia," said Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson. "We need to harness the current enthusiasm and work together on our shared goal of greater innovation-driven prosperity for Australia.

"... the programs and approaches that have worked overseas to lift national performance in innovation - and looks at why they have been so effective.

"It reinforces a point that Universities Australia has also been making for some time now - we need a comprehensive national plan rather than piecemeal initiatives if we are to clear the current roadblocks in the innovation pathway.

Empowering women and girls in the Indo-Pacific region

Improving women's health and education, and promoting women's economic empowerment and their leadership in the Indo-Pacific region are topics covered in a [report](#) released on December 4 by the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT).

The committee tabled its report [Empowering Women and Girls—the Human Rights Issues confronting Women and Girls in the Indo-Pacific Region](#).

Chair of the JSCFADT's Human Rights Sub-Committee, Philip Ruddock, stated that the inquiry was a timely review of the obstacles impeding women and girls from realising their full potential as human beings—as social, economic and political participants—in a very diverse region.

Mr Ruddock said that high rates of violence against women and girls in parts of the region are indicative of their broader disempowerment within their families and communities.

"Tragically, violence perpetrated against women appears to be endemic in our neighbouring nations in South Asia and the Pacific region," he said.

However, despite there being many laudable initiatives focussed on women's empowerment, the committee found a paucity of reliable evidence on what works and what doesn't work in addressing the many challenges confronting women in the region.

"For this reason, the committee has made a number of recommendations concerning the need for further research to underpin future policy and development assistance programs," Mr Ruddock said.

The committee's inquiry attracted 94 [submissions](#) from governments, organisations, businesses and academics from across the Indo-Pacific region. Evidence from faith-based organisations, particularly those working in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific region, provided invaluable insight into the potential to promote gender equality in these communities.

The [report](#) contains 33 recommendations which address the key areas of inequality discussed in the report: women's legal empowerment; the incidence of violence against women and girls; improving women's health; education as a right for girls; promoting women into leadership roles; and women's economic empowerment.

The final two chapters of the report focus on the inquiry's fourth term of reference, providing

an overview of the 'gender effectiveness' of current Australian aid programs and making core recommendations on aid funding, monitoring, program planning and longevity.

The full report, information about the inquiry, including copies of submissions and public hearing transcripts, can be found on the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jfact.

Education appears to be working

Australians are more educated than ever before, according to new data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on November 27.

Education and Work, Australia, May 2015 (cat no. 6227.0) indicates that nearly six out of ten Australians have a qualification, and over one quarter have a degree. The 2015 figures illustrate a substantial increase in education levels – especially for women – in contrast to those of the previous generation.

Michelle Marquardt of the ABS said, "Since 1990, the proportion of working aged women (15-64 years) with a degree has increased four-fold from around 7 per cent to 29 per cent, while the proportion of men has increased more slowly from 10 per cent to 24 per cent.

"In those 25 years, the proportion of women of this age group with a qualification rose from 34 per cent to 60 per cent while the proportion of men with a qualification increased from 45 per cent to 61 per cent."

Further details are available in Education and Work, Australia, May 2015 (cat no. 6227.0), available for free download from the ABS website www.abs.gov.au.

New Chancellor of the University of Queensland

Outgoing Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Varghese will stand down from his role next July to take up a new role as Chancellor of the University of Queensland.

Long-term NZ students to get loans

The Parliament has passed legislation to extend access to student loans to eligible New Zealand citizens who have been long-term residents of Australia since childhood.

Minister for Education and Training Senator Simon Birmingham said it made "perfect sense" for New Zealanders who grew up as children in Australia to receive the same higher education support as other Australians. The Bill gives effect to Prime Minister Turnbull's commitment last month to extend access to student loans for eligible long-term New Zealand residents extended from 1 January 2016.

"This sensible reform helps support the higher education and training needs of the many New Zealanders who have made Australia their home, and builds on the close relationship between our two countries," Minister Birmingham said.

"Around 2,600 New Zealanders will become eligible to access loans to help them study at university, or higher level vocational education and training qualifications in Australia.

Student loans will be extended to Special Category Visa holders from New Zealand who first entered Australia as a dependent child and who have lived in Australia for at least 10 years."

Research funds

Minister Birmingham said passage of the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2015 also confirmed funding caps for future high-quality research projects supported through the Australian Research Council.

"The Bill provides more than \$3 billion in funding over the next four years for the vital research programmes administered by the Australian Research Council," Minister Birmingham said.

"This allows for additional spending on research projects of up to \$1.5 billion over the next four years, and will enable us to build on the high-quality research already being undertaken in Australia, including the 899 new research projects I announced last month in which the Australian Government has invested more than \$357 million."

Minister Birmingham said today's higher education legislative reforms follows the passing of legislation earlier in November to ensure student loan debt can be recovered from students living overseas.

Universities go online to seek their perfect match in business

A new website will allow companies to search all the intellectual property patents held by Australia's universities and public research organisations. Universities Australia welcomes the launch of Source IP by the Assistant Minister for Innovation Wyatt Roy.

The Source IP digital marketplace will be an online match-making service for industry-university collaboration. It will enable businesses to look through all the intellectual property patents held by universities that could help to improve their products, services or productivity.

Every Australian university has listed their patents on the new Source IP site, making it a comprehensive searchable source of Australia's university-held patents. It also notes which ones can be licensed.

Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson said universities were keen to ensure the widest possible access to their ground-breaking research. "Every single one of our member universities has signed up to share their information on this site. This highlights the fact that Australian university researchers are seizing opportunities to work with business," she said.

"Source IP is a great initiative by IP Australia. It removes a key barrier for business in collaborating with universities, ending the problem of not knowing what IP is available and who to contact about a patent. Of course, this is only the beginning. We all have a part to play in making the site a success. We need to get the word out to businesses across Australia not only about this site, but also about the great benefits from partnering on research and innovation," she said.

The website can be searched at: <http://sourceip.ipaustralia.gov.au>

Indonesia-Australia university partnerships scale new heights

Ties between Australian and Indonesian universities are at a record high, with the number of formal agreements for research partnerships, staff and student exchanges and study abroad programs climbing to 254 by the end of last year, Universities Australia states.

There are also early signs of a tentative recovery in the number of Indonesian students coming to Australia to study - with September figures revealing 3,022 Indonesian students began a university course this year in Australia - up 5.5 per cent from the same time last year (2,865).

Recent talks at a two-day meeting in Jakarta brought together senior university leadership and Departments of Education from both countries. The forum considered how to expand opportunities even further for joint research (particularly in health, tropical medicine and agricultural sciences), the exchange of students and staff, study abroad opportunities such as the New Colombo Plan, and forging closer ties between researchers and industry.

It builds on two highly-regarded executive training programs run in the past two years, which have enabled senior administrators from Indonesian universities to shadow the jobs of their counterparts in Australian institutions. The executive program is modelled on one run between Australia and China, which counts China's Vice-Minister for Education, Dr Hao Ping, amongst its alumni.

Universities Australia Deputy Chief Executive Anne-Marie Lansdown said the deepening ties between Australia and Indonesia in higher education bode well for the prosperity of our nations and their people.

The number of formal agreements between Australian and Indonesian universities rose from 118 in 2007 to 254 in 2014

[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.

Submissions wanted on Australia's future in research and innovation

The Australian Parliament's Trade and Investment Growth Committee has commenced an inquiry into Australia's Future in Research and Innovation.

In announcing the inquiry, the Chair of the Committee, Mr Ken O'Dowd MP stated, 'research and innovation is central to Australia's international competitiveness. The Chief Scientist, Professor Ian Chubb, recently described innovation as the *core business of the entire country* and suggested it should be *pursued strategically and creatively through every part of public policy*'.

The Committee will investigate how the research and innovation sector can better assist in overcoming Australia's geographic, economic, and labour challenges, with a focus on commercialisation including, how technology imports and exports could be further facilitated.

'Australia has world-class universities and research organisations but is ranked last in the OECD in research-business collaboration. Strengthening the relationship between our innovative businesses and our research organisations will be crucial to Australia's economic success in the coming decades.' Mr O'Dowd said.

Written submissions from interested individuals and organisations are invited by **11 February 2016**. The preferred method of receiving submissions is by electronic format

lodged online using a My Parliament account. Please do not 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/jsctiq

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

Input wanted on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education

What works? What's important? What can we do better? These are some of the questions being asked by the House Indigenous Affairs Committee in its inquiry into educational opportunities and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The Committee is examining the access to, participation in and outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at different types of schools – from remote to regional, boarding, scholarship, community, independent and city schools.

As part of the inquiry, the Committee wants to hear the experiences of students, educators, families and communities and has launched an online questionnaire. A link to the questionnaire can be found on the Committee's website. The questionnaire gives people all around Australia the chance to tell their story and make a personal contribution to the inquiry.

Dr Sharman Stone, Chair of the Committee, said that addressing the gap in educational outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students is a critical part of improving quality of life for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"I would encourage anyone who would like to share their experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education to fill out the questionnaire. We want to hear from students and their families about their school experience, and from the teachers and school administrators who have worked with them, from pre-school level right through to the transition to tertiary education," said Dr Stone.

In a video launched as part of the inquiry, Dr Stone asks all those involved in education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to 'tell us what you think: what has worked in your part of Australia, and what hasn't.'

The video, a link to the questionnaire and further information on the inquiry can be found at www.aph.gov.au/educationalopportunities. The questionnaire will be online from now until March 2016.

The Committee will also accept submissions to the inquiry until February 2016.

For background information, and advice on making submissions, please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4559 or indigenousaffairs.reps@aph.gov.au

Inquiry into surrogacy wants input

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs has commenced a new inquiry into surrogacy arrangements for Australians, as requested by the Attorney-General Senator the Hon George Brandis QC. The Committee is calling for submissions from any organisation or individual with an interest in domestic or international surrogacy.

The inquiry will focus on a broad set of social and legal issues relating to both international and domestic surrogacy, including:

- how the States and Territories regulate surrogacy,
- the medical and welfare issues involved in surrogacy, including issues of exploitation and informed consent,
- Commonwealth laws and policies relevant to surrogacy, including whether changes are needed to better protect children and others involved in surrogacy, and
- surrogacy laws and practices in other countries, and the effect of Australia's international obligations.

Committee chair George Christensen MP noted that surrogacy can have substantial social, ethical and psychological impacts on donors, intending parents, surrogates and surrogate children.

'We want to make sure that Australia's laws and policies on this issue make sense, and that we are doing all we can to make sure that the welfare of all parties involved is being protected,' Mr Christensen said.

The broad terms of reference will ensure all of the relevant issues relating to domestic and international surrogacy arrangements will be examined by the Committee. The inquiry will also enable the Committee to consider questions relating to surrogacy raised by the Family Law Council's *Parentage and the Family Law Act* report.

The Committee has been asked to report by 30 June 2016.

The Government has also nominated Chief Judge John Pascoe AO CVO of the Federal Circuit Court to the Hague Conference on Private International Law's Experts' Group on parentage and surrogacy. The Experts' Group will consider the feasibility of establishing an international framework for regulating surrogacy arrangements.

Submissions will remain open until **11 February 2016**. Please notify the Committee secretariat at spla.reps@aph.gov.au if you intend to make a submission.

Further information on the inquiry, including the full [terms of reference](#), is available on the Committee website at www.aph.gov.au/spla.

It's that train again

A new parliamentary inquiry has been called into the development of transport infrastructure and increased transport connectivity involving value-capture and high speed rail.

As part of the inquiry into economic activity both in major urban areas, and in regional Australia, the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities will examine the means of promoting and funding new transport infrastructure, with a particular focus on value-capture as a funding mechanism for infrastructure development.

Value-capture refers to the impact that transport infrastructure – such as high speed rail – has on property values and how governments can harness this improved value to sustainably fund transport infrastructure.

Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities Chairman, Mr John Alexander OAM MP, said he is looking forward to hearing about how the value-capture model has been used in other countries to deliver high speed rail projects.

“Given the positive impact increased transport connectivity usually has on property values, mechanisms such as value-capture can help to make major projects focused on increasing transport connectivity more feasible. Value-capture has not been widely used in Australia, and this inquiry is an excellent opportunity to examine the ways in which it has been applied internationally, and how it could best be applied in Australia,” Mr Alexander said.

The committee invites interested persons and organisations to make submissions to the inquiry addressing the terms of reference. Submissions close on **Friday 12 February 2016**. 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 or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 2352.

Hearings for inquiry into the abolition of the death penalty

Australia has a longstanding, bipartisan policy commitment to the abolition of the death penalty. Earlier this year the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop, issued terms of reference to the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade for an inquiry into how Australia can play a greater role toward global abolition of the death penalty.

Following scores of submissions to the inquiry, the Sub-Committee is holding a series of public hearings to augment the range of evidence received and meetings held to date.

Sub-Committee Chair, Philip Ruddock, says that the Sub-Committee will hold discussions with leading abolition advocates from Australia and around the world, which will help inform recommendations for Australia’s future advocacy strategy.

“Australia, as an abolitionist country, has an obligation to work towards the global abolition of the death penalty. I’m pleased to see a range of submissions have been made to this inquiry as to how Australia can assist other nations to move toward ending this practice,” he said.

The Sub-Committee has so far held three public hearings in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra. Witnesses at the Canberra hearing included: Dr Bharat Malkani; Civil Liberties Australia; Dr Amy Maguire; Australian Catholic Bishops Conference; Aussies Against Capital Punishment; Professor Don Rothwell; Australian Federal Police & Attorney General's Department; Mr Gary Humphries; and Dr Daniel Pascoe. At another hearing in Sydney on December 9 evidence will be given by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Professor Andrew Byrnes of the Diplomacy Training Program; Professor Greg Craven of the Australian Catholic University; and by Human Rights Watch

Submissions to the inquiry are available at: www.aph.gov.au/deathpenalty. Programs will be made available before hearings on the committee’s website.

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National Capital Authority talks future plans for Canberra

The review of the National Capital Plan, the Capital Metro light rail project and the future of Floriade were discussed when the National Capital Authority (NCA) appeared before the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories Committee, on November 26.

The NCA manages the Commonwealth’s interest in the planning and development of Canberra by administering the National Capital Plan. The Committee holds biannual hearings with the NCA to enhance transparency and parliamentary

accountability applying to the organisation.

Committee Chair, Mr Luke Simpkins MP, said the NCA has been undertaking the first comprehensive review of the National Capital Plan since the plan came into effect in the 1990s.

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

Fenner is ACT's renamed electorate

The augmented Electoral Commission for the Australian Capital Territory has announced the renaming of the ACT electorate of Fraser. The renamed electorate is Fenner, in honour of the distinguished scientist Professor Frank Fenner AC, CMG, MBE, FAA, FRS, FRACP, FRCP. The augmented Electoral Commission proposes to locate the Jervis Bay Territory in this electoral division.

The Hon. Dennis Cowdroy OAM QC, the presiding member, thanked the individuals and organisations who contributed to the redistribution of the ACT by contributing written submissions throughout the redistribution process or participating in the inquiry on November 2.

"After a thorough consideration of these contributions, the augmented Electoral Commission has adopted the redistribution proposed by the Redistribution Committee for the ACT without change," Mr Cowdroy said.

The full proposal was detailed in the Committee's report of 11 September 2015. In accepting the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution, the augmented Electoral Commission have proposed that the southern electoral division will be named the Division of Canberra. The proposed Division of Canberra will encompass: all of the ACT located to the south of the Murrumbidgee River, Lake Burley Griffin and the Molonglo River; Acton, Black Mountain Nature Reserve, Campbell, City, Reid and Russell; the parts of Barton and Parkes situated to the north of Lake Burley Griffin; the part of the District of Molonglo Valley situated to the north of the Molonglo River and Lake Burley Griffin; and parts of Braddon, Turner, Pialligo and the District of Majura.

The augmented Electoral Commission noted objections to the proposed name of the northern electoral division. Following consideration of these objections, the augmented Electoral Commission determined the name 'Fraser' should be retired in the ACT to provide the option of naming a Victorian electoral division after the former Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. John Malcolm Fraser AC CH, in the future; (The Guidelines for naming federal electoral divisions note that consideration should be given to naming electoral divisions after former Prime Ministers.). Members noted the achievements of James Fraser, after whom the electoral division has been named since 1974, which are reflected in the naming of an ACT suburb in his honour and his inclusion in the ACT Honour Walk; and determined it was not appropriate to co-name the electoral division. A full overview of the augmented Electoral Commission's conclusions on objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposed redistribution is available at www.aec.gov.au/ACT-redistribution.

The augmented Electoral Commission notes this proposal is not significantly different from the proposal of the Redistribution Committee. Therefore, the names and boundaries of the federal electoral divisions for the ACT will apply from 28 January, 2016 when a notice of determination is published in the Commonwealth Government Notices Gazette. Federal general elections for which the writ is issued after this date will be contested on the new boundaries.

Overview maps will be available on the AEC website on 28 January 2016. Detailed maps and a report outlining the augmented Electoral Commission's reasons for the formal determination will be tabled in the Federal Parliament and will subsequently be made publicly available.

More information about the Australian Capital Territory federal redistribution is available on the AEC website or you can contact the Redistribution Secretariat:

Email: FedRedistribution-ACT@aec.gov.au

Telephone: 02 6271 4672

Call for submissions on changes to chemical residue limits

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) wants submissions on proposed changes to the maximum residue limits (MRLs) for agricultural and veterinary chemicals.

Chief Executive Officer Steve McCutcheon said FSANZ has considered proposed changes to limits for chemicals that may legitimately occur in foods in Australia. "FSANZ considers changes to the relevant standard in the Food Standards Code at the request of applicants or because changes have been made by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority," Mr McCutcheon said. "Including these MRLs in the Code will permit the sale of foods containing legitimate residues at levels which dietary assessments have confirmed are safe for human consumption."

All FSANZ decisions on standards are notified to ministers responsible for food regulation. The ministers can decide to adopt, amend, or reject standards or they can ask for a review.

For more information access

- [M1011 – Maximum Residue Limits \(2015\)](#)
- [FSANZ information about Maximum Residue Limits](#)
- [How to make a submission](#)

Swiss investment in tropical disease research

Australian scientists, led by Professor James McCarthy at the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Brisbane will accelerate development of new anti-malarial drugs with the support of a \$10 million investment from the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Speaking from the Northern Australia Investment Forum in Darwin, Trade Minister Andrew Robb said investment in treatments for diseases such as dengue fever and malaria was a major development focus for the region. "The economic burden of malaria alone reaches into the hundreds of millions of dollars each year and the human cost, of course, can be much greater," Mr Robb said. "We have significant expertise in managing

tropical diseases in our north and Australian researchers and biotechnology companies can play a major role in solving health issues across the tropical zone.”

The MMV support will enable testing of candidate antimalarial drugs in healthy volunteers injected with a small number of malaria parasites, without putting them at risk.

Mr Robb also announced the \$8.5 million Australian Tropical Medicine Commercialisation Grants Program to help commercialise Australian research on new tropical therapeutics, vaccines and diagnostics. The program will support partnerships between Australian research institutes and global pharmaceutical companies and philanthropic organisations. **Applications close on 19 February 2016.**

Government accepts changes to citizenship law

The Australian Government has responded to the recommendations of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security and moved amendments to the Australian Citizenship Amendment (Allegiance to Australia) Bill 2015 now passed by Parliament.

The Government will implement the Committee’s recommendations made in its bipartisan report. The purpose of the Bill is to deal with the threat caused by dual citizens who act in a manner contrary to their allegiance to Australia.

The complexity of the challenges to Australia’s national security continues to increase with the evolution and influence of terrorist organisations such as ISIL.

Consistent with Australia’s international obligations, the law only provides for loss of citizenship for dual nationals engaged in or supporting terrorist activities. The new grounds for cessation of citizenship are where a person: engages in a terrorist act or other specified terrorism-related conduct; engages in hostile activity with a terrorist organisation overseas; or is convicted of a terrorist act or other terrorism-related offence.

The Committee made 27 recommendations in its report including that conviction based provisions of the Bill should be retrospective. In response, the amended Bill applies to dual citizens who have already been convicted of a specified offence with a sentence of ten years or more, handed down within the last ten years.

Other amendments made to the Bill include:

- Clarifying the intention required to accompany the conduct that, if engaged in, leads to automatic loss of citizenship;
- Providing criteria for the Minister to consider when declaring an organisation to be a declared terrorist organisation for the purposes of this legislation;
- Providing that the Minister must consider exempting the effect of the legislation in each case where conduct has led to automatic loss of citizenship of a dual citizen, and providing for relevant factors in that consideration;
- Changing the loss of citizenship for a dual citizen following conviction to a discretionary decision of the Minister upon consideration of relevant factors, rather than an automatically occurring upon conviction;
- Limiting the application of the conduct-based provisions to persons 14 years of age or over; and removing the application of any potential discretionary loss of citizenship for children of persons to whom the provisions have otherwise applied;
- Providing for scrutiny and oversight of the how the legislation is operating by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security and the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor.

Older Australians Willing to Work: an inquiry

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

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

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

Consultations were conducted in every capital city and some regional centres from July to November 2015. For details access <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/willing-work-consultations>.

On the website

The ANU Emeritus Faculty's Oral History Project entry for the late **Professor Anthony Low** is now available on the Emeritus Faculty's website: www.anu.edu.au/emeritus

The Dismissal meet the author event on 11 November is now live on the ANU website. <http://www.anu.edu.au/events/anuthe-canberra-times-meet-the-author-event-the-dismissal>

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.

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.

Diary Dates

December 7-8. The "Homer Seminar in Honour of Professor Elizabeth Minchin" For more details, click on the link below:

<http://slll.anu.edu.au/news-events/events/homer-and-epic-tradition-homer-seminar-viii>

December 10 at 5pm. Professor Purves' public lecture on "Homer goes to Hollywood"
Follow the link below for more details:

http://hrc.anu.edu.au/sites/hrc.anu.edu.au/files/u78/Alex%20Purves%20Public%20Lecture_10%20Dec.pdf

or contact Dr Ioannis Ziogas, Lecturer in Classics, Centre for Classical Studies, School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences, A.D. Hope Building 14

December 15, 16 17 and 18 The Australian National University will be conducting *Conferring of Awards* ceremonies at Llewellyn Hall. Academic staff are cordially invited to participate in the academic processions for these ceremonies. Please register your intent to participate via the link below: [REGISTER FOR ACADEMIC PROCESSION](#)
Please select the ceremony (or ceremonies) you wish to attend; a schedule for each ceremony is included on the website. Registration will close on **Friday 11th December at 5pm.**

If you require Academic Dress our regalia supplier will be happy to assist; this hire service is free-of-charge. To access the service please register your requirements at <https://anu.reedgraduations.com.au/anu-academics> (please note, Academic Dress is mandatory for all staff participating in the procession).

Assembly for the 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.

if you require any further information or assistance, please contact the Senior Graduations Officer – Emilia Ciampa (x54648) or graduation.officer@anu.edu.au.

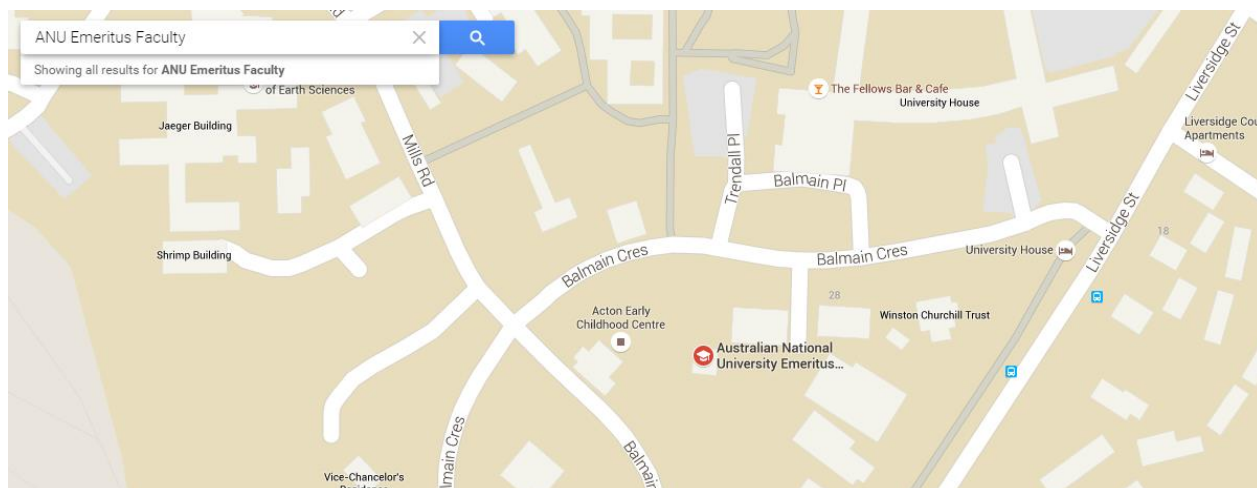
Unless otherwise stated, all ANUEF Events are in the Molony Room (Building 1c <http://www.anu.edu.au/maps#search=1c&show=11413>). Collegiate lunch discussions are on the first Wednesday of the month (noon for 12.30 start), and public lectures (4 - 5pm) on the third Wednesday of the month. All public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

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 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>



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 February, 2016. *Emeritus* is not published in January