



AUSTRALIAN 2020 SUMMIT SUBMISSION FORM

Nominations must be received **by 5.00pm Wednesday 9 April 2008** to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet at:

Australia 2020 Summit Secretariat
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
1 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

Please Note: fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory

denotes information that will be made publicly available

PUBLICATION DETAILS #

So that your submission can be published on the www.australia2020.gov.au website before the Summit, we need you to provide a 'Name for Publication' that you are happy to have appear with your submission. If you are submitting on behalf of a group, this may be your group's name.

<p>Individual Name/Group Name for Publication on the website*</p>	<p>Business/Higher Education Round Table (B-HERT)</p> <p>The purpose of the Business/Higher Education Round Table (B-HERT) is to pursue initiatives that will advance the goals and improve the performance of both business and higher education for the benefit of Australian society. B-HERT is the only body where leaders of Australia's business, research, professional and academic communities come together to address important issues of common concern, to improve the interaction between Australian business and higher education institutions, and to help guide the future directions of higher education.</p> <p>In pursuing this mission BHERT aims to influence public opinion and government policy on selected issues of importance. B-HERT believes that a prerequisite for a more prosperous and equitable society in Australia is a more highly-educated community. In material terms it fosters economic growth and improved living standards - through improved productivity and competitiveness with other countries. In terms of equity, individual Australians should have the opportunity to realise their full social, cultural, political and economic potential.</p> <p>Membership of B-HERT comprises Australian universities, corporations, professional associations, the major public research organisations (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation).</p> <p>B-HERT pursues a number of activities through its Working Groups and active alliances with relevant organisations both domestically and internationally. It publishes a regular newsletter (B-HERT NEWS), reporting on its activities and current issues of concern relevant to its Mission.</p>
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SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS # (please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

Future Directions for the Australian Economy - Education, skills, training, innovation and productivity

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. After a long period of sustained economic growth and with the added benefits of the global mining boom, how do we best invest the proceeds of this prosperity to lay the foundations for future economic growth
- b. How we best prepare for a global economy that will increasingly be based upon advanced skills, advanced technology, low carbon energy sources and integration with global supply chains
- c. How we take advantage of Australia's proximity to the fast growing economies in the world
- d. How Australia attracts and retains the most talented, creative and highly skilled people, including researchers and scientists, entrepreneurs, and professional and skilled workers
- e. How we ensure that our children have the highest quality teachers, whether in early childhood, school, TAFE or university, including dealing with the crisis in maths and science related disciplines across the education system
- f. How we foster innovation in the workplace; encouraging the transfer of ideas across businesses and economies.

1. B-HERT emphasises education and innovation as the key components of the next round of Australia's broad productivity improvement and is fundamental to international competitiveness. B-HERT favours a mixture of public and private (local and overseas) institutions with diverse Government, student, private sector and philanthropic funding and investment.

B-HERT

2. Supports institutional mission diversity with funding based on institutional plans on a minimum four year cycle.
3. Regards quality as a fundamental issue and supports quality assurance mechanisms aimed at giving confidence that Australian courses meet Australia's needs and are internationally competitive. A market which provides student choice is an important element of driving quality
4. Sees philanthropy as an essential ingredient in the long-term development of Australia's universities. (visit www.bhert.com for more recommendations)
5. Believes CRC's potentially could make a more significant role and contribution to Australia's economy, and recommends long term funding certainty based on rigorous commercial assessment processes, but believes there should be a place for some CRC's to have all or some of their mission to be directed at the public good.
6. Believes there is a need in Australia for far more effective mechanisms for knowledge transfer between universities and business, particularly SME's.
7. Considers that funding for Community Engagement activities should be provided for two main purposes: Institutional capacity building and Specific projects and initiatives.
8. Maintains that Community Engagement funding should not be seen to duplicate or replace competitive funding for cooperative and collaborative research provided by granting agencies.
9. Believes students should have government supported access to both publicly funded and privately funded institutions.

10. Supports the urgent need to improve graduation rates for indigenous students, and professional development and capacity building for indigenous staff, by providing appropriate incentives for institutions. It also supports increased incentives and pastoral support for indigenous students.
11. Supports encouragement of students into particular courses and universities with lower HECS replaced by higher government funding.
12. Believes that unless a funding model is implemented which does away with up-front fees, universities should be able to enrol domestic full-fee paying students.
13. Supports a significant Commonwealth government funding injection, funding indexation, more targeted HECS at levels somewhat lower than now prevails, a significant increase in philanthropy, reduction in the reliance on both overseas and local full-fee paying students, and income derived from sensible commercialising of intellectual property.
14. Urges that consideration be given to reducing HECS rates for full-time, undergraduate Students who attend universities which are headquartered in regional Australia as a mechanism for redressing the net migration flow of people, especially younger Australians, from regional and rural areas to the capital cities.
15. Recommends that the Government set itself the target of reaching 1% of GDP no later than 2020 and preferably by 2015. This means that Government grants would have to increase by some 60% in the next 12 years. Government commitment to higher education income has fallen from 60% of the totals in 1996 to 40% in 2006 and this is now one of the lowest percentages in the OECD.