Disclaimer

This report is intended to provide a record of the Australia 2020 Summit and recommendations on each of the discussion areas for consideration by the Australian Government. It is based on ideas put forward by participants during the Summit discussion sessions, outcomes from preliminary Summit events and ideas generated from public submissions received prior to the Summit.

The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government.

Please be aware that this report may contain images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may have passed away.

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28 May 2008

The Hon Kevin Rudd MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

It was a privilege to work with you and more than 1000 Australians, from all parts of the community, on the Australia 2020 Summit, the largest genuine community consultative forum held in Australia to date.

As you know, the Summit covered a range of topics and the 10 Summit streams approached their discussions in different ways. The ambitions, themes and ideas that emerged reflect the backgrounds and passions of individual participants, the unique dynamics of each stream, and the varying challenges relating to each of the 10 discussion areas.

Your Department has now compiled the work of the scribes from the Summit into a Final Summit Report.

The work of some 95 volunteer scribes, whose collective role was to record the many hundreds of ideas generated and debated by 10 discussion streams, often split into smaller working groups, has made this report possible. I thank them all for their hard work.

This report goes beyond simply documenting the ideas and outcomes of discussions. It also seeks to capture the context of the generation and debate of ideas, and wherever possible, to demonstrate how the flow of discussion and debate led to specific ideas being raised.

As the final record of a vibrant, engaging, and uniquely Australian discussion, I trust that readers will treat this report as a living document, which itself will provide an impetus for further discussion, conversation and action on our longer-term policy challenges.

I hope also that this report is a useful policy development tool for government. On behalf of the 11 members of the independent Steering Committee, I am pleased to commend this report to you.

Yours,

Professor Glyn Davis AC
Co-Convenor
Australia 2020 Summit

www.australia2020.gov.au
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INTRODUCTION

On the weekend of 19 and 20 April 2008 more than 1000 Australians responded to an invitation from the Prime Minister, the Hon. Kevin Rudd MP, and came to Parliament House in Canberra for the 2020 Summit, a gathering with the purpose of discussing the agenda for the nation. The challenge was to help shape a long-term strategy for the nation’s future, to tackle the long-term challenges confronting Australia by thinking in new ways.

The people who attended came from diverse backgrounds—some eminent in a specialised field; others ordinary Australians. Among them were farmers, scientists, health professionals, artists and actors, community leaders and lawyers. Common to all of them was a genuine interest in and commitment to shaping the future of the nation. They came together to talk about 10 major policy challenges facing the country:

1. the productivity agenda—education, skills, training, science and innovation
2. the future of the Australian economy
3. population, sustainability, climate change, water and the future of our cities
4. future directions for rural industries and rural communities
5. a long-term national health strategy
6. strengthening communities, supporting families and social inclusion
7. options for the future of Indigenous Australia
8. towards a creative Australia—the future of the arts, film and design
9. the future of Australian governance—renewed democracy, a more open government (including the role of the media), the structure of the federation, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens
10. Australia’s future security and prosperity in a rapidly changing region and world.

The participants were chosen by the 11 community and 10 ministerial co-chairs, each responsible for an agenda stream. They came together to bring forward new ideas and new directions for the nation’s future, to build a new way of working together.

This gathering of 1000 Australians was part of a broader national conversation held in the lead-up to the summit. The summit participants continued the conversation started at the Youth Summit, held at Parliament House in Canberra on 12 and 13 April 2008, and at more than 500 school summits across the country. Reports from these events are available on the Australia 2020 website, www.australia2020.gov.au.

Many other communities also joined the conversation, there being local summits in many regions, an African Summit in Melbourne, and a Jewish Symposium in Sydney. Additionally, valuable contributions were made by some 3600 individuals or groups who presented 8800 public submissions before the main summit. The submissions can be viewed on the Australia 2020 website. A summary of submissions presented before the summit for each of the 10 major policy challenges was available to summit participants.
All the ideas and ideals from this national conversation informed discussions at the Australia 2020 Summit. The ‘summiteers’ were divided into 10 streams, each focused on one of the major policy challenges. A list of all the summit participants is available on the Australia 2020 website.

The Australia 2020 Summit Initial Report, produced on the final day of the summit, and the associated PowerPoint presentations used at the closing plenary session, aimed to capture the main results of discussions, including the top ambitions, goals, priority themes and ‘big ideas’ in each of the 10 discussion streams. The initial report and the PowerPoint slides are available on the Australia 2020 website.

In the time available it was not possible for the initial report to capture the full content, richness and flow of the conversations that took place at the summit. This present report, the Australia 2020 Summit Final Report, aims to more comprehensively record the style and content of the conversations and the ideas generated on 19 and 20 April 2008. There is a chapter on each of the 10 streams, providing a consolidated record of discussions and ideas, based on note-taking by volunteer scribes. This report sits alongside the initial report, the slides of the stream presentations, and the public submissions.

The Australia 2020 Summit Final Report was prepared by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, using the scribes’ detailed notes. It seeks to reflect the discussions and ideas of summit participants; it does not represent government endorsement or otherwise of those discussions and ideas.

This introduction and each of the 10 stream chapters can be downloaded separately from the Australia 2020 website.

NEXT STEPS

As suggested, the purpose of the Australia 2020 Summit was to explore the challenges facing Australia in the next decade and beyond, to discuss ambitions for Australia as a nation, and to identify policy mechanisms to realise those ambitions.

This report will assist the policy development process by describing the discussions and outlining the many ideas generated at the summit. The depth and range of ideas in each chapter reflect the diversity of summit participants and the wider Australian community.

The final report seeks to capture all of the ideas and issues raised at the summit. This report also seeks to present the ideas in accordance with the priorities given to them by the stream participants in the discussion and debates at the summit. While the scribes have made every effort to include all ideas and properly reflect prioritisation and emphasis, inevitably we may have missed or misinterpreted some ideas.

Summit participants and all other interested parties are welcome to comment on this final report and to continue to provide submissions on the challenges facing the nation: use the Australia 2020 website, www.australia2020.gov.au, to do this.

Despite its title, the Australia 2020 Summit Final Report is not the end: the Australian Government wants the national conversation to continue. The summit should not be the end of the debate, and many more Australians are invited to contribute, to help shape our nation’s future. The government will endeavour to address all contributions made before, during and after the summit, in its policy development processes.

The Prime Minister has made a commitment that by the end of 2008 the government will have responded to the recommendations put forward by the 10 summit streams. On 19 April 2008, in his opening address to the summit, he said:
Some of these ideas we will be able to embrace. Others we will not. And some we will take in part and change. But, you know something? It is far better we ask the question and have the answers come forward, so that the whole process of national creativity in the ideas debate for our future occurs, rather than throttling it before it starts. There are no right and wrong answers when it comes to a discussion among people of good heart, good mind and good will.

The years ahead will undoubtedly throw up many unforeseen challenges and unimagined opportunities. Australians need to keep discussing, debating and generating new ideas and perspectives for formulating the national strategies and solutions of tomorrow.
The productivity agenda
education, skills, training, science and innovation

Co-chairs:
The Honourable Warwick Smith AM
The Honourable Julia Gillard MP

Lead Facilitator:
Mr Tony Mackay
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OVERVIEW

Members of the Productivity Agenda stream came together in the knowledge that Australia’s future depends on educational achievement and on using the talents and hard work of the entire population to create value and solve problems. Participants were asked to consider how we will reach this future and how we might, as a nation, accelerate our progress towards it.

The stream opened with brief comments from Sid Chakrabarti, Catherine Livingstone and Chris Sarra before breaking into four smaller discussion groups aligned with specific policy themes—early childhood and schooling; post-secondary education; workforce and innovation; and science, innovation and digital. During the two days of the summit, the four groups considered the following questions:

• What are our key challenges?
• What are our goals and ambitions?
• What are the main themes?
• What are the big ideas?

After each discussion session groups reported back to plenary sessions and presented their main outcomes for the stream to discuss, challenge and confirm.

AMBITIONS

In considering ambitions for 2020, the stream agreed to the following:

Higher levels of information and globalisation create unprecedented opportunities to increase productivity growth. This growth requires excellent social and physical infrastructure, flexible, fair and equitable labour markets, and a world-leading education and innovation system.

Material resources are finite, but intellectual capital has unlimited application. We therefore need a 2020 strategy to invest more in our capacity for knowledge and imagination and to ensure that we generate sustainable higher returns from that investment in the form of productivity growth. We also need to overcome entrenched disadvantage and ensure that all Australians are equipped to participate in and benefit from these changes.

The group agreed on three goals and ambitions:

• maximising wealth, excellence and equity by driving up productivity to the leading edge of developed countries
• focusing on human capital through early childhood development, world-class education, skills formation and innovation
• encouraging all Australians to realise their potential.

By 2020 Australia will position its citizens at the leading edge of productivity amongst developed countries.

We will know we are on the right track when productivity is maximised by:

• children’s development being at the heart of the productivity agenda
• all children achieving individual excellence and having their learning and social needs met
education, training and work being socially inclusive

people wanting to, and being able to, move in and out of good jobs, training and education throughout their lives, to suit their family commitments, and their talents and needs

people being able to gain access to the right learning and work opportunities for them in a diverse economy

creating an aspiration for continual innovation and learning by Australians

Australia internationalising its R&D effort and thereby harnessing the best minds, irrespective of geography or national boundaries

drawing together people and institutions across generations of Australians

research and development investment from all sources being sustained at more than double current levels (commensurate with the top economies in the OECD), with a commitment to effective transfer of knowledge to help create new jobs, wealth and improved quality of life

ensuring that policies and programs are informed by evidence and rigorous evaluation

establishing innovative, fair and productive workplaces.

THEMES

The group agreed that, to achieve the goals outlined above, Australia needs to focus on three priority themes:

Equip all Australians with the capacity to contribute and innovate through an education and training system that leads the world in excellence and inclusion.

Deploy Australia’s human capital efficiently and fairly including, by overcoming barriers that lock individuals and communities out of real opportunities.

Connect through collaborations in education, business, research and innovation.

Among other themes raised by the stream were the following:

Create new connections and collaborations across our education, business and innovation systems.

Boost the flow of ideas, imagination, people and capital, both within our own economy and internationally.

Invest more in knowledge, skills, imagination and learning capability.

Set new standards of excellence and inclusion for participation and learning outcomes.

Design new forms of institutions through collaboration to provide services and support.

Build infrastructure that integrates services and encourages shared community use.

Promote workplaces that value innovation and creativity, are attractive to employees, demonstrate fair workplace practices, and provide fulfilling careers.

Overall, it was agreed that all these activities must reflect a sense of fairness and values.
TOP IDEAS

The stream agreed on the following top ideas, shown here by theme.

### IDEAS

**Equip**

1.1 Support kids: overcome the public–private divide in education by, for example, funding students according to need and attracting more private investment.

1.2 Extend HELP: extend the Higher Education Loan Programs (HECS-HELP and FEE-HELP) to all students in post-secondary education.

1.3 Community corps: allow community service to reduce a person’s HELP debt.

1.4 2020 scholarships: deliver merit-based scholarships to vocational education and training and higher education institutions in skills shortage areas.

1.5 Thinking Big: accelerate Australian innovation by undertaking ambitious “megaprojects” and establishing associated post-graduate schools in excellence.

1.6 Investing in Ideas: commit to a long-term national R&D expenditure that is substantially above the OECD average as a fraction of GDP.

1.7 Science and maths connections: inspire student enthusiasm and improve science and maths education by connecting scientists and others with teachers, especially in our primary schools.

1.8 Reward excellence in teaching: focus on the connections between quality teaching and productivity.

1.9 Celebrate teaching: celebrate the vocation and contribution of teaching.

1.10 Teaching first: establish a national program to attract talented graduates and career-switchers into teaching, and reward teachers for working in national priority areas, including in disadvantaged communities, in remote areas and in subjects with teacher shortages.

1.11 Better evidence: education policies should be guided by the principle of ‘what works?’, and underpinned by rigorous and scientific evaluations.

1.12 Innovation Australia: establish a coherent National Innovation Agenda to drive Federal and State government policies on innovation and creativity.

**Deploy**

1.13 Windows on workplaces: encourage employers to provide good jobs in safe, healthy and productive workplaces, and empower employees to choose their preferred workplaces by facilitating the dissemination of information about employment experience—for example, work–life balance and family-friendliness.

1.14 Skills development: employers to take responsibility for developing the skills of their workforce and helping their staff realise the full potential of the digital economy. In return, they are able to have access to a flexible, demand-driven training system.

1.15 Work in the bush: provide incentives for people to work in rural and regional Australia by supporting people who relocate from areas where there are few jobs available to areas where there are labour shortages.
1.16 A mobile labour market: enable the free movement of labour from the Asia–Pacific region into Australia, underpinned by Australian workplace standards.

1.17 Learning for life account: Develop lifetime participation accounts for every Australian into which the government and others can make payments for education, training, parental leave, and superannuation contributions. The accounts would have the capacity to go into deficit with repayment being income-contingent and would therefore open up opportunity for individuals to access eligible services, particularly early childhood and learning services.

**Connect**

1.18 Parent and children centres: communities have access to integrated services to support children’s health, development, learning and care. Childhood development should be supported through a place-based culture that offers integrated services and community support.

1.19 Life learning centres: service centres help working-age Australians meet their family and career needs.

1.20 Releasing latent value in our human capital:
   1.20.1 one curriculum, more money for schools: creating a national curriculum and rationalising curriculum development bodies, with freed-up funds going to children in schools
   1.20.2 business–school connections: creating a coordinated partnership program between Australia’s top 200 public and private organisations and our schools. This programme could also include universities, research agencies and vocational education and training institutions
   1.20.3 Golden Gurus: retired people acting as mentors in all aspects of economic and social life
   1.20.4 science, business and arts into schools: connecting scientists, business and the arts with the education system, with the use of specific engagement criteria as a condition of public funding
   1.20.5 One Australia: mobilising the intellectual resources of the international diaspora network of Australian expatriates and former foreign students.

1.21 Connecting Australia: using new technologies to foster new working environments that dissipate the “tyranny of distance” both within and beyond Australia

1.22 A business–research connect: removing barriers to the flow of knowledge generated within the research sector by fostering open approaches to access and dissemination

**RECORD OF DISCUSSION**

The Productivity Agenda stream focused on education, skills, training, science and innovation. Discussion was centred on how to maximise human capital.

A common theme was that in the future, productivity will be about innovation and education. From a longer term perspective, it will have been about what we do now to improve early learning and schooling. Co-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard, referred to a recent meeting of the education ministerial council in which Rod Welford, the Queensland Minister, summarised the goals of productivity and
education under the concept of 4 “Cs”: competence - in the essential domains of life; creativity; character - social and interpersonal; and citizenship - for active participation in the neighbourhood and nation.

A Youth Summit representative Sid Chakrabarti reported on the ideas identified by representatives of Australia’s young people. One top idea was paid parental leave for 14 weeks and return-to-work schemes following parental leave. Other ideas concerned addressing the quality and retention of school teachers, setting literacy improvement targets for under-15-year-olds, and lifting teacher and student performance. On the question of teacher remuneration, the Youth Summit recommended increased pay according to teaching’s relative contribution to productivity growth in Australia compared with the contribution of other professions. Also put forward was the idea of varying pay levels, with 80 per cent based on aptitude and 20 per cent on performance.

Catherine Livingstone stressed the importance of innovation, saying that people, not institutions, innovate. Intellectual capital is therefore essential. She argued that concepts of efficiency and effectiveness are no longer as relevant and that, instead, capability and incentive are key concepts to foster innovation and provide the culture and freedom to work in creative, new ways. She also noted that innovation relies on implementation capability through applying ideas, persistence and greater tolerance of risk.

Chris Sarra challenged the group to move away from a deficit mindset when it comes to educating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. He argued that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children should remain in their communities and be able to achieve as much as any other child: every child should aspire to excellence. He made a number of further observations:

- Cultural difference forms part of the pursuit of excellence; it is not a replacement for excellence.
- In education terms, Australia is a high-quality, low-equity country by international standards, so we need to raise the performance of children facing disadvantage.
- The way forward is to acknowledge and embrace Indigenous agencies.
- We need to re-instil a sense of integrity and honour in teaching and learning so that we become a stronger, smarter country.

**Ambitions**

Members of the stream acknowledged education’s central role in human capital development as the main driver of future economic growth for Australia and as the base for strong communities. The following was agreed:

- Universal access to high-quality education for early childhood development is an essential starting point. All Australians need to be equipped from birth throughout life by providing a world-class system for care, learning and schooling.
- We need to prepare our young people to be flexible workers as they will change occupations many times throughout their lives and will increasingly operate as part of global production and knowledge systems. A true education revolution is needed if Australia is to stand in the world as the smart economy.
- A substantial lift in research and development effort and a commitment to innovation will be the basis for Australia’s future. One thing that is most certain is uncertainty. We cannot predict how we will operate in the world in 2020, but we do need to have a strong base in research and development and robust, high-speed communications.
Our higher education and training systems need to become more flexible to meet students’ needs. They must be structured and funded to encourage Australians into and out of training and work that aligns with their career aspirations and caring responsibilities. A commitment to lifelong learning for all Australians was also seen as a prerequisite for maintaining Australia’s competitive advantage among nations. This should be underpinned by paid parenting leave.

Our institutional arrangements need to be reformed. Policy and funding should be driven by the needs of the individual rather than the institution. More focus should be given to providing the right incentives for businesses and individuals to pursue economic and societal outcomes. To this end, government purchasing and funding needs to be reformed to give scope to our institutions to be innovative to achieve the required outcomes. Government policies should be “road-tested” with citizens before they are fully implemented to ensure that new schemes and arrangements can stand the test of time.

Australia also needs to be regarded as a good place to work and live. Productive, safe industries are the generators of Australia’s wealth. There needs to be new partnerships between businesses and employees to help generate new levels of productivity. Workplaces need to be transparent, so that employees can enter into work arrangements that suit their needs and can optimise their contribution to work. Small businesses (including self-employment) represent a large component of Australia’s enterprises, and they need to be factored into the productivity agenda.

Early childhood and schooling: ambitions

The group’s ambition was that by 2020, children’s early development will be at heart of the productivity agenda. The group aspired that all children will be school ready and that they will enter world-class schools that meet their educational needs. It was agreed that we need to reach the situation where:

• all communities support the development of children
• parents and professionals who work to develop children are highly valued; and
• service structures are based on research and evidence.

For our youth, the group hoped that they, along with teachers, parents and the community, will have high expectations for achievement. Assistance would be given to those students who may be falling behind to help them achieve to the same level as other students. It was agreed that the highest priority would be to ensure that disadvantaged students, including those from Indigenous and low Socio Economic Status groups, have the opportunity to achieve the highest level of education outcomes. For example, all Indigenous students who wish to, should be ready to enter university.

Post-secondary education: ambitions

The group identified as an overall ambition that by 2020, every Australian resident will have the opportunity to be skilled and educated at many points in their life, to meet their own wants and needs and to meet the needs of the workforce. It was hoped that those currently marginalised in the education sector would be able to access and succeed to the same level as the broader Australian population. Employers and the industry sector would be active participants in the formal education system and would contribute along with individuals, government and non-government sectors.

Participants discussed ways to achieve these ambitions, and agreed that:

• The education system needs to operate seamlessly through schools, vocational education and training and higher education, which is not the case at present.
To bring about change it will be important to reprioritise skilling strategies, learning pathways and funding to aim by 2020 for an 80% workforce participation rate and universal post-secondary education.

- For this to be achieved it will be imperative that individuals take responsibility for their learning and that industry take responsibility for the skills formation of their workforces.

We need to encourage all people to pursue post-secondary education as part of their life course, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds such as low socio-economic status and Indigenous communities. The aim is for universal post-secondary education which recognises that human capital formation is not a linear process, but one where people enter and exit numerous occasions over their life course.

- This will be assisted by creating better institutional linkages and empowering people to manage their lifelong learning as they move between work and study.

Students must be empowered to make choices supported by a harmonised and integrated post-secondary system that doesn't lock students into one stream of education and training.

- Currently there are some disincentives to articulation and accreditation across education sectors.

- To solve this problem greater integration of policies across different levels of government will be required.

- Further, there needs to be collaboration between industry and the professions; and it needs a local, national and global focus. This can't be held back by the vagaries of the state-national divide.

We need to develop a world class university system by 2020. To do this we need to move towards educational funding systems that are flexible, without central bureaucracies dictating plans. We need to acknowledge that every tertiary institution is equally valuable in order to ensure that all students appropriately transition between sectors and into work.

We also need to encourage partnerships between education and research and innovation. Importantly we need to develop education systems which can respond to issues which have not been predicted:

- “We have to educate for what we can't imagine” – Bill Gates.

- A lot of things have happened over the last twelve years that we couldn't have predicted. We don't know what the future will look like but we do know that people will make multiple transitions – the old linear model won't work. We therefore need to set up systems that capture 'unpredictability'.

We should also aim for the first Indigenous Vice Chancellor of a mainstream university in Australia by 2020.

In addition, we need better recognition of trade qualifications. The value of high quality craftspeople needs greater recognition in society and trades need to be afforded greater status as an occupation, especially in view of the commitment to training required of apprentices.

To integrate work and learning we also need better engagement between workplaces and work-based learning, to balance theory and experience. We need to find ways to entice industry to allow students to work for a limited period of time or part-time.
Workforce and innovation: ambitions

The group’s discussions were broadly aimed at redressing Australia’s skill shortages. Two key ambitions were identified:

- to increase the labour force supply
- to increase the productivity of the workforce.

The ambition was of an Australia that by 2020 has a workforce where anyone who wishes to participate can do so and all direct and indirect barriers to participation are removed. The workplace, the education system and the broader community will be well connected and would understand and meet each other’s needs. Australia will have a dynamic and adaptive workforce that reflects Australia’s and the world’s needs. Workforce participation will be flexible and adaptive to needs, with people able to work from home or wherever they choose. By 2020 life-long learning would be the norm, and employees can move freely between work, education and training courses and creativity is valued, encouraged and supported by employers and government.

Other ambitions identified related to increasing the labour force supply, increasing the productivity of the labour force, improving outcomes for those in work, and the role of education and training.

Increasing the labour force supply

- Support disadvantaged people into education and training, provide incentives for participating (and disincentives for not participating) and remove barriers to participation such as reducing the marginal tax rate of those moving from welfare to work.
- Increase IT literacy.
- Provide to the education and training system information about the needs of industry and the community, so that education and training can better equip people to meet the demands of the workplace.
- Improve the quality of education and training outcomes of improve the portability of workers across the economy.
- Change work structures and support to make it easier for people to return to the workforce—from parenthood, education or other life circumstances.
- Import labour from other regions in Australia and from overseas.
- Build the workforce and infrastructure in regions and remote Australia to support Australia’s economic development.

Increasing the productivity of the labour force

- Improve the quality of training so that workers can lift their productive capacity and build a career.
- Ensure that skills training matches the needs of industry.
- Ensure that training is relevant to the needs of industry through good information and connections between education sectors, industry and the community.
- Provide career advice to those changing careers or moving in and out of the workforce, to make it easier to switch careers and develop new skills.
- Recognise and promote that good conditions for workers result in higher productivity.
• Make conditions offered by employers more transparent and improve employers’ accountability against the conditions they offer.

• Ensure that funding mechanisms support increased availability of education and training and increase their quality and relevance to the workplace. Key mechanisms to achieve this could be collaboration and partnerships.

• Establish workforce accounts and work–life centres to promote life-long learning and to support moves into and out of the workforce.

• Support small businesses in their training needs by enabling mentoring and training support from retired and semi-retired people.

• Acknowledge the productivity gains that could be achieved through mechanisms such as flexibility in hours, location of work and assisting successful professional career change.

• Apply creativity in workplace arrangements to suit industry and employee needs—for example, to support fly-in fly-out arrangements in remote locations, arrangements could include four months on and two months off.

• Provide support for parents through paid maternity leave, paternity leave and supported return to the workplace.

Improving outcomes for those in work

• Increased workforce participation should not be at any cost but should take account of the personal circumstances of individuals.

• Regulate the labour market to provide job security and a voice for employees. Collective bargaining might be an answer.

• Improve the built and IT aspects of the workplace environment to improve amenity for all workers and access for the disadvantaged.

• Focus on continually improving the quality of working life, bringing innovation to the workplace and improving work practices.

• Develop measures to improve work-life balance, the family friendliness of workplaces, addressing issues of career flexibility (including enhancing people’s ability to transition from one credentialled profession to another) and supporting people to move in and out of the workforce to improve income security.

Preparing for the workforce through education and training

• By 2020 provide free, high-quality, universal pre-school for kids, to support labour market participation for women.

• By 2020 all schools will run a career readiness program that helps students understand their transition options, rights at work and responsibilities.

• Provide infrastructure and career paths for rural kid young people, so they can see a reason and a way to stay in rural and regional communities to meet the skill needs of industry.

• Make education far more strongly directed by the needs of industry. By 2020 no one should graduate from post-secondary education unless their qualification is made up of at least 20 per cent
workforce experience. Schools or post-school institutions should have at least 30 per cent employer representation on their boards.

- Develop the best career advice system in the world.

**Science, innovation and digital: ambitions**

In connection with science, innovation and digital, the group focused discussion on how to increase the contribution of the whole innovation chain to lifting productivity. In particular, Australia should aim to be a leader in R&D, social networking, infrastructure to support innovation, and skills that contribute to the Australian economy, whether based here or abroad.

The group expressed concern that Australia was declining relative to other economies in a number of key measures, from expenditure on R&D to the deployment of new ideas and technology.

The importance of facilitating collaboration was stressed: we need to harness the skills of all Australians, no matter where they live, and to achieve this we will need appropriate communications infrastructure and a greater willingness from institutions to collaborate.

**Social networking**

- Create a framework to allow the private sector to invest. Broadband of 100 megabytes per second was suggested as a target, but there was also concern that, given potential technological improvements in the next 12 years, what seems a laudable target now might seem risible by 2020. A national broadband resource is needed.

- Empower the elderly by facilitating their access to the digital economy and digital resources.

- Ensure that access to broadband is affordable.

- Distinguish between platform ambitions and other ambitions (need the broadband to make it work - it is an enabler).

**Mobility**

- Embrace mobility: encourage university students to spend a semester at an overseas university.

- Establish mobility as a core competence of the workforce.

- Internationalise the entire innovation system: open up the Australian Research Council, universities and companies to face international competition.

- Establish a national register of our diaspora to encourage their continued engagement with Australian society.

**Human capital**

- Encourage business to support PhDs and the government to set up PhD centres of excellence.

- Encourage expatriate Australians in mid-career overseas to return to Australia through preferential tax treatment of retirement savings. The current arrangements make it hard for Australia to compete for talent. We need to encourage brain ‘circulation’.

- Free our leading scientists of the time they need to spend on grant applications—currently up to 70 per cent of their time. This alone could potentially triple their output.
• Develop connections between schools and universities to excite and engage students and teachers.

• Develop a better understanding of the roles of government, academia and business in an innovation system.

• Intellectual Property laws to keep pace with technology to ensure that information can be shared without infringing the rights of others.

• Establish arrangements to increase the number and quality of science communicators.

• Apply a broader definition of ‘science’ based on knowledge of the world, including the humanities. There is even a role for poetry.

Innovation

• Assist Australian industry to better capture the benefits of R&D.

• Double the resource commitment to innovation outside the R&D sector: 65 per cent of innovation in Australia takes place outside R&D channels.

• Reduce the ‘price’ of funding for public research i.e. high overhead costs on scientists in managing application processes and other paperwork for public research is unnecessarily lifting the price of innovation for governments.

• Reduce the cost of access to innovation information. At present, high costs reduce the demand for science and research from institutions and can discourage business from seeking out and adopting the findings of research. Costs, risks and pay-offs in this area could be shared between governments, business and the research community.

• Establish prizes for areas in which the government wants people to be innovative.

• Encourage both private and public investment in research.

Themes

Early childhood and schooling

A central theme identified for early childhood and schooling was that early childhood development should be at the centre of policy and programs. Participants further noted the following:

• Institutional forms need to support early childhood development and social inclusion. We need to create healthy communities that support children, and we need a change of mind-set to achieve a more child-centric model of care and learning. The work of Jacques Delors on the four pillars of education—knowing, doing, being, and living together—provides a sound basis for some new thinking.

• Given that much development, even educational development, happens before children start school, the notion of nurturing of learning from birth should be supported by a stronger focus on early childhood care, development and education.

• We must ensure that all children are provided with high-quality early childhood and schooling experiences. We need to have high aspirations and expectations that all students will achieve to their potential and that no child will be allowed to fall behind. Evidence points to Australia not doing enough to overcome the disadvantage caused by low socio-economic status. Some argue that the fragmentation of schooling arising from funding policies inhibits social inclusion and exacerbates
social divides. Rather, funding and service delivery should focus on need and should support a more integrated approach, recognising that learning can happen at school, at home and in industry.

- Education and learning should support all Australians in their efforts to achieve to their potential. We need to have high aspirations for all children. Of crucial importance to this is the need for a stronger evidence base and for trialling and assessing what works.

- Education must foster creativity, since this is one of the greatest contributors to productivity in the 21st century.

**Post-secondary education**

Participants agreed that, to improve the nation’s productivity, we must have an efficient labour market, an outstanding education system, effective infrastructure, and an appropriate competition framework. In addition, the following was noted:

- The skills shortages that Australia is facing are creating a crisis in terms of the nation’s future productivity. These shortages are largely the result of a deficit in the development of vocational and technical skills, rather than higher level university qualifications. If we are to tackle the shortages effectively, however, we need to take a broad, integrated approach rather than try to deal with specific areas in isolation.

- In order to meet skills requirements we need greater capacity for the nation as a whole to anticipate and identify what skills we will need in the future and plan for these as much as possible. This should not be approached simply from a ‘supply-side’ point of view but should be supported by a system that provides adequate funding to ensure that we are getting the right skills for the nation.

- We need to move on from the old paradigm of public versus private education—in both the vocational education and training and the higher education sectors—that says one is good and the other is bad. People should have the right to choose where they study. We must accept that there are many ways we can educate people in Australia, and they should all be valued.

- There needs to be recognition of workplaces as sites of innovation and the application of knowledge and that industry drives innovation.

- There should be a stronger role for enterprises in the education of the nation’s workforce. There need to be more partnerships between the industry and business sectors and the education sector. Employers and educational institutions need to be able to change and adapt quickly.

Participants also raised a number of themes relating to post-secondary education:

- Collaboration is not happening efficiently across sectors (between vocational education and training and higher education) and across education and work.

- There is a need for national consistency in schools. A good example of this consistency is national training packages, which are working well in vocational education and training.

- The number of international students in vocational education and training is increasing, but these people are not staying in the industry after they receive their residency. International students could be required to stay in the industry for a set duration to gain on-the-job skills, similar to apprentice arrangements. This could help resolve the workforce shortage problem.

- Education policy should factor in the broader benefits to society from schooling and post-schooling education otherwise there is a danger that short-term planning and funding for immediate needs will compromise the realisation of these benefits.
• To overcome the problem of an ageing teaching population, young people should be encouraged to become teachers and educators.

• Long-term planning for education and training is required in order to meet Australia’s future workforce needs.

• University lecturers need to get out in the workforce and industry experts should connect more with universities to foster greater interaction between the two sectors.


**Workforce and innovation**

Participants noted that in order to increase the labour force supply, it is essential to ensure that those who are not in the workforce have the means of gaining access to it. It was argued that the disadvantaged and excluded in the population must be offered the necessary education, training and incentives to enter the workforce. Further, the following was agreed:

• Removing barriers to participation is crucial. These may be barriers such as the taxation system, which can create a welfare trap that makes moving from welfare hard. Work structures and support also need to be addressed, to make it easier for people to return to the workforce from parenthood, education or other life circumstances.

• The links between the education and training system, industry and the community need to be strengthened. Collaborative partnerships between industry and our education and training systems need to be encouraged and fostered. This will ensure that our education and training system can better equip people to meet the demands of the workplace.

• Collaboration must be two-way: business needs to help the education system. This might be through providing mentoring services or more direct support and input into education or training courses. These collaborative links can help ensure life-long training is available to all.

• Workforce flexibility needs to be encouraged and supported. This should include measures such as ensuring the portability of education and training qualifications, providing improved careers advice, and national access to high-speed broadband that enables people to work wherever they are.

Other themes were also put forward:

• Ensure that due consideration is given to the impact of workforce flexibility on employers.

• Recognise the potential for significant waste of public funds if measures sufficiently are not sufficiently targeted—a dead-weight loss. For example, measures to increase access should specifically target the disadvantaged or they will be ineffective and wasteful of resources.

• Develop initiatives that link health, workplace, and education and training initiatives. We will not resolve significant disadvantage without looking across ‘silos’ of service responses. There are 2.2 million males out of the workforce because of health, rehabilitation and illness problems. We must look at the whole welfare safety net.

• Improve participation as a way of improving productivity.

• Provide researchers with access to the principal databases for major social policy areas (within privacy protections). At present health, welfare, tax, and education records are inaccessible because they are held by governments. As an example, it is impossible to compare rates of cancer in the city against those in rural areas.
Encourage a mind-shift in Australia to recognise our own competence and excellence on the world stage. We should establish a corporate and work culture that stands for excellence.

**Science, innovation and digital**

- Australia needs a national innovation agenda (R&D, deployment, and so on) that seeks to lift our efforts across all parts of innovation.
- We need to be, and be seen to be, a country that innovates collaboratively.
- We are behind our OECD competitors in the number of PhDs relative to our population and number of graduates.
- There has been a significant decline in the number of trainee teachers wanting to become mathematics teachers. The shortage of competent and engaging mathematics teachers reduces Australia’s capacity to undertake research requiring mathematics capacity.
- The funding system needs to be balanced for a broader range of innovation—away from the current bias toward physical science.

**Challenges**

**Early childhood and schooling**

To achieve a vision for Australia as the best educated, best skilled, best workforce in the world there are many challenges. Participants discussing this policy area considered the following questions:

- How do we get there without leaving some people behind—especially Indigenous Australians and children from low socio-economic status households?
- How do we improve the connectivity between schools, universities and business and between schools, parents and communities and integrate service provision and funding to support this?

It was agreed that we need to look from the perspective of individuals not from institutions, so we need to talk about a framework to meet early childhood and schooling needs. A key challenge was seen as achieving higher productivity by ensuring everybody has an opportunity to achieve. Early childhood intervention was seen as the first step in this process.

Participants also noted that if the goal is for inclusive education that strives to achieve individual excellence for the common good we need to consider whether current social policy and institutional arrangements help or hinder.

Finally, it was agreed that to do better we need to know what works in helping Australian students achieve top-rate educational outcomes. Australia should adopt a ‘gold standard for evaluation’ in education.

**Post-secondary education**

Participants agreed on the following:

- A major barrier to increasing participation in post-school education and thereby to lifting outcomes from this sector is high financial costs. Income-contingent loans are an important source of funding for students and are not spread widely enough across all aspects of post-compulsory education.
• Our workforce participation rate needs to be increased in order that we can continue to maintain our international economic competitiveness. Australia should commit to an 80 per cent workforce participation target.

• Businesses and employers need to play a central role in skills development. Employers are in the best position to take responsibility for skill solutions. They know the skills needs of their workforce, and they can provide incentives for their workers to take up training and further education. At present there is a mismatch between education and business. Business and educators need an accord at the local level across the country to identify skills needed to take a region forward. In this way businesses are formal partners with educators in the regions. This could possible be a legislated arrangement. We need to prioritise—at possibly the state and territory level—to bring together all levels of business and education to nurture potential and competitive advantage. An example of responsiveness to industry is the Curriculum Centre in New South Wales TAFE, which has an industry advisory board that comments on the curriculum.

Other challenges were also identified:

• It is essential to overcome ineffective Commonwealth–state relations. We need to dismantle governance structures around education: they are currently undermining our efforts. State boundaries and institutional boundaries create much wastage. We therefore need to seriously re-examine the governance systems around education at all levels.

• There should be a stronger focus on workforce planning. There is a lack of analysis that links labour market, population and education.

• Preparation for future work practices is crucial. We will all need to be global (and bilingual) employees in 2020. Language training has fallen into desuetude, and we are not preparing for cultural challenges ahead, at either school or post-secondary level. We should be changing the syllabus in all areas of education to take this into consideration.

• Improve planning and increase funding for strategic skills. Industry knows what is required, but is not connected with education planning. For example, planning has not addressed the current lack of scientists and engineers.

• Encourage long-term planning: we have lost sight of the strategic skills that will take our country forward. For example, the resource industry is suffering from a lack of engineers and we don’t have enough people in university to meet these needs.

• Create a statutory authority to monitor the health of all education sectors and the match with workforce development needs, which policy makers can then use in planning. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is a good model. Some participants raised doubt about this approach because many future graduates will be working in careers that we cannot imagine at this point.

• Take innovative approaches to training and education. For example, Maastricht University is renowned for its problem-based learning method as an innovative way of teaching. One-third of its students and a quarter of its academic staff come from outside The Netherlands. The majority of its educational programmes are taught in English. And most of the education and research has an international orientation.

• Rethink funding structures to encourage flexibility. The way TAFE colleges are funded reduces their ability to be flexible. The central bureaucracy locks in university funding and funds the same number of students year after year. Dual-sector institutions working across vocational education and training and higher education are locked into two different sorts of funding because they are dealing with two levels of government. There is no planning or discussion with each other or with industry.
• Build the capacity of the education workforce. High-quality teachers are essential for the best outcomes for students. We need to ensure that teachers develop core competencies in creative thinking, communication skills and ICT skills and can push the boundaries of professional teaching practices. Pay levels should be matched to performance—possibly through a scaling system of pay, a star-rating system.

• Refresh the apprenticeship system. A significant proportion of apprentices do not complete their training, and of those who do, many leave the trade within five years. Other approaches to training for the trades could be developed.

• Provide more public information on vocational education and training and higher education, so that people understand what they are going to do in a course and what they will get out of it. We need better information and to be more informative, so that people are able to choose the right course for them and plan their career better. Students often choose the wrong course and then withdraw. Of a number of teenagers canvassed before the summit, most did not know where they wanted to go, even though they were at the point of entering their final year of school.

**Workforce and innovation**

**Access**

• Local populations need to be employed before people are flown in to fill the jobs. This means giving local unemployed populations incentives to enter the workforce, and disincentives to stay out of the workforce. This is about getting people to a work ready state. This should be directed solely to all disadvantaged groups in regional Australia.

• Improved access for the Aboriginal community is essential. It is not a matter of removing obstacles: it is about increasing investment. There is no investment in the geographic areas in which Aboriginal people live. The problem is exacerbated by the dual economy that operates in mining areas, where companies import labour even though there are unemployed Indigenous Australians nearby. Employers’ policies can have a significant impact.

• The way we define jobs and work is rapidly evolving. The capability debate will become increasingly critical as technology, especially ICT, becomes more embedded in workplaces. Those who are not IT literate will be disenfranchised in the future.

• The way we define jobs and work is rapidly evolving. As technology becomes more embedded in workplaces, particularly information technology, the capability debate is crucial. Those who are not IT literate will be disenfranchised in the future.

• Fix the effective marginal tax rate for those moving from welfare to work. Currently there are massive tax disincentives for this group. We could initiate an inquiry into the overlap of work, tax and welfare. The income support system could be simplified. There should be a uniform base, with add-ons for special needs. Disincentives to progress to real jobs should be removed.

**Those in the work force**

• The labour market is not well supplied with information. Workers seeking to work for a company will be told many things about the benefits of working there, but companies are not accountable for this information. Employment marketing information from companies should be standardised and published so it can be compared by potential employees. A standard for this information should be introduced to redress this market failure. Such a standard would be a public good. Companies could measure themselves against the standard through a voluntary program. These measures (such as
family-friendly measures) have been found to be highly predictive of long-term corporate performance and so could inform the capital market as well. This would drive productivity in capital, improve management, and improve employee satisfaction. The standard could include reporting on the inclusiveness of corporate culture and the level of representation of women in senior management.

- In the old environment people could do an element of training at entry and then the job would progress throughout their lifetime. Now there are discontinuous employment patterns—breaks and changes in direction. People change jobs, change careers and employers change functions and jobs. Education and training needs to accommodate this job mobility.

Regional development
- Governments advocate the development of remote and regional areas, but it is difficult to attract people with the necessary skills into these areas. There is a big opportunity for Australia to increase its productivity by providing the platforms for development in remote and regional areas, without putting the burden solely on the employers.

- A number of different entities are being resourced to provide education and training, but they are competing for limited funds. The government should be funding collaboration and partnerships that deliver the services to get people into the workforce. This could resolve the problem of educational silos across schools, vocational education and training institutions, universities and workplaces. Funding should encourage collaboration through industry or regional communities. There needs to be more planning and integration across the education and training streams.

Providers of education and training
- Training in some regional areas and sectors of the economy could be more efficient. There is some concern, for example, that some Aboriginal people in North-West of WA have numerous certificates but they are not valued by employers. Government planning and funding for training could be more effective. In addition, the range and number of training providers in Australia places particular priority on ensuring that all are delivering training to a high quality and that they are offering training that meets the career and educational aspirations of their students.

- One body should take ownership of coordinating and supporting school to further education, to work pathways. It currently falls between the Commonwealth and the states and territories, resulting in poor outcomes for people and dissipation of good initiatives.

Science, innovation and digital
- There is a need to better understand the activities that drive the two-thirds of innovation that is not directly driven by research and development.

- The average OECD spend on research and development is 3 per cent of GDP. Australia should spend 3.6 per cent of GDP on R&D to catch up—1.6 per cent from direct government expenditure and up to 2 per cent from dollar-for-dollar matching (1 per cent from government and 1 per cent from the private sector).

- After we catch up with the OECD average we should maintain expenditure at 3.6 per cent to ensure that we remain among the top nations for innovation.

- We should re-examine our school curriculum to look at how we teach patterns of thinking.

- Private sector research and development dropped over by 24 per cent in the 10 years to 2006. It should be an aim to double R&D by 2020.
• There is a big gap between what we know and what we use. We need to open up the knowledge pool residing in universities. Business must demand the knowledge held in universities; universities cannot push the knowledge onto business. Increase the amount of collaboration between the public and private sectors.

• The cost of gaining access to research originating in universities and public sector research institutions is a disincentive for business to take up the latest research findings. We should aim to reduce the price for access to government-funded research.

• Research and development must be internationalised. We should develop mechanisms to connect the best minds.

• The importance of basic research in a national innovation system must be recognised.

• Australia must be seen as the country that innovates collaboratively—Team Australia.

• The image of Australia’s intellectual capacity could be better marketed internationally.

Ideas

The following ideas were discussed in plenary sessions and identified as the big ideas for the stream.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDEAS</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>Encourage more private investment into key productivity-generating areas, especially through better design of markets.</td>
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<td>1.24</td>
<td>Universal access principles for people with disabilities should pervade all social policy planning.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>Adults should talk to children about success—top 100 companies to connect with schools—through mentor and work experience arrangements.</td>
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<td>1.26</td>
<td>Develop a comprehensive definition of ‘productivity’.</td>
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<td>1.27</td>
<td>Introduce a national, paid maternity leave scheme to operate alongside expanded access to early childhood care as a whole package to promote workforce participation.</td>
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<td>1.28</td>
<td>Test and trial new ideas for education—similar to the clinical trials adopted for disease. This would be founded on a science-based commitment to find out what works. Australia would also need to establish a gold standard for evaluation of public policy initiatives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>Encourage connectivity between schools, universities and business. Research should be connected to schools and business.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>By 2020 every Australian should be in a position to believe that every child has the same capacity and talent to lead a fulfilling life.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>Require that there be a ‘children’s development impact statement’ for every policy and initiative.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.32</td>
<td>By 2020 we should be regarded as one of the world-leading countries in education.</td>
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</table>
Many other ideas were also raised, as follows:

**IDEAS**

**Early childhood and schooling**

1.33 Childhood development should be supported through a place-based culture that offers integrated services and community support.

1.34 Every child should be given an early development assessment, including for disability and disadvantage. This could be funded through Medicare and delivered by early childhood centres.

1.35 Overcome the public–private divide by funding students according to need and encouraging more private investment in public and private schools through

- 1.35.1 student-centred funding
- 1.35.2 funding according to need, where disadvantaged students attract more funding and support to ensure that they become a productive participant in Australian society
- 1.35.3 further cross-sector collaboration
- 1.35.4 integrated sources of funding attached to students and/or institutions. One option would be to rationalise the use of private investment and then use public investment to make up the shortfall. Private involvement is not necessarily for profit but for broader economic return.

1.36 Build infrastructure that integrates a wider range of services and encourages shared community use. Schools could be the focal points for social capital.

1.37 Until actual hubs are established, develop stronger links between early childcare centres. Recognise that bilingual education is very important in Indigenous communities.

1.38 As a cost-saving big idea, rationalise the curriculum and assessment process by supporting a national system and use savings from current duplication of curriculum development for further investment in education—especially in early childhood education and school.

1.39 Consider system-wide improvements—for example, paid maternity leave.

1.40 Using research results from six countries about how schools dramatically improved in disadvantaged settings, examine and apply the critical success factors—building intellectual capital, social capital, spiritual capital and values, and financial capital.

1.41 Build formal partnerships between industry, business and schools—for example, mentoring for success by top 100 companies.

1.42 Do not let go of the 30 per cent of students who fall behind. One-on-one support and special education are required for these students.

1.43 Have high-quality teachers go to remote schools for a term to mentor groups of less-experienced teachers.

1.44 Realign investment to support children’s development by more investment in early intervention and childhood education.
Post-secondary education

1.45 Extend the partnerships between 100 top companies and schools to include universities and vocational education and training institutions.

1.46 Extend the Higher Education Loan Program (HECS-HELP and FEE-HELP) to all students in post-secondary education.

1.47 Establish a productivity levy to include incentives to business in return for partnerships in education, and business to institute a ‘skills pledge’, recommitting to skilling their workforce.

1.48 Establish an independent national agency to collect and publish trends in education and the workforce across the sectors.

1.49 Education policies should be guided by the principle of ‘what works?’ and underpinned by rigorous scientific evaluation.

1.50 Include universities and vocational education and training providers as partners with schools, in line with the Deputy Prime Minister’s idea for partnerships between the top 100 companies and schools.

1.51 Introduce a new form of government funding targeted at the local level and contingent on collaborative relationships—in the form of a ‘compact’ or memorandum of understanding.

1.52 Expand ABSTUDY to all post-secondary Indigenous students to facilitate engagement with education and ultimately the workforce.

1.53 Remove rigidities in funding arrangements

1.54 Restructure incentive arrangements for apprenticeship training as the lever to overcome skills and labour market shortages.

1.55 Introduce 500 ‘Mabo scholarships’ for Indigenous students in research and higher level degrees similar to the Endeavour scholarships.

Workforce and innovation

Those in the work force

1.56 The Golden Guru is a plan that would use the untapped skills of senior citizens. This core of senior citizens will contribute their spare time to whoever needs it in for small and medium businesses that cannot afford training:

1.56.1 The scheme would be voluntary, with no joining fees.

1.56.2 Trainers would be paid $150 for a day of training, with costs borne by the employer.

1.56.3 Golden Gurus would provide training and support in three streams—trades, professional, and middle management.

1.56.4 A database would be deployed to enable matching of the needs of participating businesses with the available trainers.

1.56.5 Developing countries could be invited access Australia’s Golden Gurus.
By 2020 we should have a workforce where anyone in work can participate to a level they want:

1.57.1 All barriers are removed.
1.57.2 The workplace and all education outlets connect with the community.
1.57.3 We have a truly dynamic workforce, reflecting the requirements of the world.
1.57.4 Workforce participation is interactive, and people can work from home or wherever they choose and move in and out of the workforce.
1.57.5 Creativity is supported.

Develop a cure for type 1 diabetes using stem cell technology. It was noted that diabetes affects about 5 per cent of Australians, of whom about 150,000 are young people. Diabetes is an area of research where success is highly likely by 2020, and the rewards would be significant in terms of health outcomes and export potential. Venture capital should find this research very attractive. It was argued that the government needs to provide the research support infrastructure in order to attract the venture capital and researchers to the project. Participants thought that failure to invest will see overseas competitors develop the science, technology and patents, resulting in Australia importing this later at higher cost.

**Life-long learning and working**

Working people’s hubs would use existing resources more effectively to provide community-based centres for people of working age. The hubs would provide advice on employment, training, career management, health and housing services. This would be through provision of information, support, case management and income support. It would be available to all aged from 16 to 76 years and would in particular support those marginalised from the workforce—such as the 2.2 million men with health problems impeding their access to work, carers, and women returning to work and education. It would assist in providing individualised responses for these citizens, whose needs do not match the current education, training and work structure.

At birth or on gaining citizenship each Australian has a workplace account opened. Contributions could be made by the individual, government and/or employees, and the funds could be spent on childcare, education, career breaks and mental agility support for older Australians. The account could be overdrawn and would exist throughout the person’s life.

Support life-long learning to assist in career management, helping address the digital divide and rapid changes in the workplace and preventing further marginalisation of people.

**Regional development**

People to flow across borders as freely as money. With more movement will come more knowledge of our neighbours and less fear. This would be done while supporting Australia’s minimum standards in the workplace.

Improve the skills of local people, particularly Aboriginal people, before importing labour.

Develop links with Australia’s overseas aid programmes to offer aid recipients work opportunities in Australia as an opportunity to develop skills, earn wages to support their family and community and promote cross-cultural understanding. The scheme would also offer Australian employers the capacity to fill jobs.

Develop a trigger for investment in rural and regional communities that will intervene when those communities are in danger of spiralling into reduced employment, investment and development.
Business and employment structures

1.66 Require every business of a certain size to have a community council, like a sustainability council. This council would provide advice on the principles of the business, inform its stakeholders of company values, supporting worker transitions into and out of the workforce, and consider the needs of the community the business serves and from which it obtains its workers.

1.67 Regulate the labour market for all workers, without artificial concepts of master–servant. Industrial relations regulation is based on legal concepts that are no longer relevant and does not fit the shape we have now—for example, independent contractors.

1.68 Continue to develop industry and infrastructure in remote Australia and broaden the labour market. Provide an incentive to small to medium-sized enterprises to develop in rural and regional areas. Provide tax incentives to employees to work there.

1.69 As a no-cost option, change the structure of the workplace to support those struggling to participate—such as carers and Aboriginal people. A good change would be to move from the 9 to 5 Monday to Friday approach to a more project-based approach. The Productivity Commission has shown that 70 per cent of jobs could be more project based. This employment pattern could tap into a variety of skills, such as nursing, construction and legal skills.

1.70 Establish a national awards scheme for organisations proactive in training and employing Indigenous people.

Science, innovation and digital

Broadband

1.71 Roll out broadband across Australia.

1.72 Rethink the investment strategy for the roll-out of broadband: there is some concern that the development of a national broadband network by the private sector has been sub-optimal. On the other hand, reliance on public investment requires careful consideration because it entails highly sophisticated planning and investment and direct knowledge of the market. The unwinding of government monopolies in infrastructure in the early 1980s provides a useful benchmark.

1.73 The government should issue bonds to superannuation fund managers to fund the broadband network roll-out. Bonds could be issued for up to 1 per cent of superannuation funds under management and funds raised could be used to invest in broadband. The government would need to ensure that the scheme provided a return to investors.

Mobility and internationalisation of the innovation system

1.74 Adapt PhD training to improve the capacity and willingness of PhD students to move between sectors. The current approach to PhD training does not facilitate movement between academia and business and back again. This could be complemented by identifying and removing barriers to movement within the innovation system. One approach could be to have joint appointments to universities and organisations such as CSIRO or other bodies here or overseas.

1.75 Mobilise the Australian diaspora. The nation now has a diaspora of around 1 million—some 5 per cent of the population. Look at whether government funding could be used to develop a system to encourage the diaspora to contribute more to Australian innovation. It should be noted that the Taiwanese carefully manage relationships with their diaspora. A broader view of the diaspora could include those who have studied here: they are often sympathetic to Australia and among them are a number of future leaders of their home countries.
1.76 Develop a ‘pipeline’ for Australians abroad to transmit their knowledge and experiences back to Australia. Fostering links with Australians abroad will generate ideas and innovative pathways to develop productive ideas. Consider scholarships to encourage Australian researchers to return to Australia, even if only temporarily.

1.77 Introduce ‘guidance principles’ for the government’s approach to encourage R&D and innovation rather than micro-management of processes and funding.

1.78 Use clusters—along the lines of California’s Silicon Valley—to encourage international connections for R&D and innovation personnel.

**Science and mathematics**

1.79 Require more teachers to be science and mathematics literate, to enable them to excite kids with the subjects’ potential. Research is telling us that we have an acute shortage of science and mathematics graduates.

1.80 Ensure that education resources take account of long-term industry needs, especially through occupations and professions that can spawn further growth and productivity—science and mathematics graduates, for example.

1.81 Adopt a systemic approach to science and mathematics. Make sure our teachers are well trained to teach in the disciplines. We need to make it interesting and lucrative to enter these areas of study.

1.82 Conduct more research into what skills are needed.

1.83 Introduce a national numeracy standard, similar to a literacy standard.

1.84 Boost the teaching of Asian languages (particularly Mandarin) in primary and secondary schools to promote ourselves within our region.

**Investment in R&D and non-R&D innovation**

1.85 Aim to double investment in R&D by 2020.

1.86 Require only 80 per cent of public R&D funding to be accountability based. The remainder should be trust based in order to free some of our best scientists of having to prepare grant applications and enable them to spend their time doing research instead.

1.87 Increase public and private sector combined investment in R&D to 3.6 per cent of GDP and keep it at that level until Australia is among the top investors in R&D in the OECD.

1.88 Instigate a fundamental change in education to support innovation and entrepreneurship from the earliest years of schooling.

1.89 Reduce the fear of failure. There is sometimes a culture within industry and community which inhibits innovation.

1.90 Encourage innovation through having the education system support the creative arts. By encouraging imagination, the creative arts are fundamental to engendering creative capacity and innovation. All parts of the economy need to embrace innovation: some firms face the difficulty that downstream intermediaries or retailers might not accept innovative new products.

1.91 Base government procurement on specification of expected performance. Such advanced contracts could be a useful means of driving innovation.
1.92 Encourage scientists to stop doing R&D and spend a year implementing the ideas they have developed.

1.93 Expand the Prime Minister’s idea for a one-stop shop for early childhood services to encompass ‘life learning centres’ in suburbs and regional centres. People could continue to use the centres beyond childhood to seek out information, including on returning to the workforce and life-long learning opportunities.

1.94 Use the tax system to encourage collaboration.

1.95 Help businesses plan for their skills needs. Businesses need to take more responsibility for ensuring that their skills needs are met.

1.96 Release latent value in the innovation system by re-examining our curriculum architecture, working with business, and developing patterns of thinking that can cope with the envisaged conditions of 2020.

1.97 Establish an ‘Innovation Summer School’ for students during their holidays to inspire creativity.

1.98 Use the Golden Guru concept beyond business: the concept could also be useful for engaging experienced retired members of the community in schools.

1.99 Develop Centres of Excellence based on PhD-level studies.

1.100 Establish a national digital fund to continue to expand Australia’s broadband.
The future of the Australian economy

Co-chairs:
Dr David Morgan
The Honourable Wayne Swan MP

Lead Facilitator:
Mr Adam Lewis
OUR AMBITION

"AUSTRALIA SHOULD BE THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO LIVE AND WORK. THIS WILL REQUIRE URGENT ACTION TO INCREASE ECONOMIC CAPACITY THROUGH THE CREATION OF A TRULY NATIONAL, EFFICIENT, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY, SUPPORTED BY SEAMLESS REGULATION."
## OVERVIEW

### AMBITION

### RECORD OF DISCUSSION

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OVERVIEW

Big challenges confront the Australian economy—among them the reality of ongoing economic change and competition, the ageing of our population, climate change, and the continued projected expansion of China and India. We must be ready, and we must devise ways to grasp the opportunities presented in a way that reinforces our national values of opportunity and fairness. The answers lie in fresh ideas that can make our economy more flexible, productive and participative, allied to a macro-economic framework that can sustain strong growth without fuelling inflationary pressures. Before the summit, participants were asked to consider the following questions:

- Is Australia in a position to respond to the challenges and opportunities that we know about?
- What events might be over the horizon that we cannot forecast? How should we prepare for them?
- In which areas could governments cooperate to achieve reforms that will boost Australia’s productive potential?
- Is there scope to make greater use of market mechanisms to regulate access to natural resources?
- Are current regulatory regimes the best to respond to future challenges and opportunities?
- Are there impediments to the movement of labour and capital that we can address? Are governments responsive to a changing population distribution?
- What options should we be exploring in energy production?
- What will be the future roles of the government and private sectors in financing, building and managing public infrastructure?
- Do we have a shared understanding of infrastructure investment priorities—across sectors (for example, social services, transport, environment) and across state boundaries?
- Are there opportunities to get more international players into infrastructure, introducing true markets to replace existing oligopolies?
- What can be done with policy incentives to make our existing infrastructure work ‘smarter’?
- What does a modern infrastructure network designed to incorporate sustainability challenges look like?
- What can we do to ensure ongoing universal access to high-quality communications infrastructure?
- How can we drive productivity growth and competitiveness so that we can succeed in the world economy?

This stream—dealing with the future of the Australian economy—recognised that government plays a crucial role in the economy, and its positions on taxation, regulation and investment need to be carefully defined to meet economic goals. Participants agreed that, in order for the general economic goals to be achieved, the government should prioritise a number of ideas under five broad headings: infrastructure; federalism; the role of government; public policy; and talent. Sub-groups were formed under each of these themes and ideas developed. At the end of the second day of the summit, the sub-groups came together to talk about their discussions and provide feedback on other groups’ ideas and thoughts.
AMBITION

The economy stream agreed that Australia should be the world’s top place to live and do business. This requires urgent action to increase economic capacity through the creation of a truly national, efficient, sustainable and inclusive economy supported by seamless regulation. There are three fundamental forces confronting the economy in the lead-up to 2020: the shift of economic and political power to China and India, demographic transitions, and policy responses to climate change. The group agreed that Australia should set national economic goals in which all Australians share, including full employment, low inflation (averaging between 2 and 3 per cent) and gross domestic product per capita in the top five countries in the world.

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Theme 1: infrastructure

The chair of the infrastructure sub-group raised several topics to begin the discussion. These initial remarks highlighted the importance of both social and economic infrastructure; that many decisions for long-term assets are driven by political and engineering considerations instead of economic ones; that greater value needs to be derived from existing infrastructure; that the challenge is to meet future demand for investment; how the boundaries between public and private investment should be managed over time; how can government provide infrastructure better; whether decisions on priorities are sufficiently well informed and whether prices should play a bigger role; and whether allowing greater private provision might lead to incentives for efficiency but also raise the question of regulation and third party access.

The chair directed the group to focus on new challenges, especially since globalisation is seen increasingly as an opportunity rather than a threat. There is also now a domestic imperative to create a low carbon-intensive economy and greater awareness of congestion and ‘slow’ broadband.

It was acknowledged that Australia became much more efficient in the way it used infrastructure in the 1990s, through reforms that reduced costs through corporatisation and some privatisation, allied with greater fiscal discipline. While governments have been working on infrastructure through the Council of Australian Governments and the new Infrastructure Australia, the focus needs to be on the new challenges and ways to underpin growth for the coming decades. There was concern that Australia has under-invested in critical infrastructure.

The group identified four major problems affecting infrastructure development—funding, where to invest, how to get planning and regulation right, and community access. There was early agreement that the focus should be on the bigger picture, rather than on mechanisms in relation to private or public funding. A number of ideas were canvassed, as follows:

- improved, more accountable regulation—regulators to be held to performance indicators and have their performance reviewed
- developing a master infrastructure plan with a vision for individual sectors
- reducing regulatory complexity and providing greater regulatory certainty
- removing investment impediments to allow for rapid development and fast-tracking of projects
- creation of a single, centralised representative entity to promote infrastructure investment
- an open-access national broadband platform with a separate retail arm
creating incentives for long-term (25-year) investment and encouraging expansion of first-generation infrastructure

creation of an infrastructure endowment

having governments deal more directly with funding providers

creating satellite distribution centres to allow rail distribution from major ports and road distribution from inland hubs

establishment of a global centre of excellence for education.

These ideas were voted on, and those receiving most support were taken forward for further discussion and assessment. The following ideas received the strongest support:

improved, more accountable regulation—regulators to be held to performance indicators and have their performance reviewed; regulatory ‘scope creep’ to be assessed and avoided

rapid development – fast-tracking – time-sensitive—Australia’s processes for developing project proposals and getting regulatory approval to be dramatically accelerated

a single, representative, centralised entity to promote infrastructure investment and ‘telescope’ consideration of projects

a satellite distribution centre—rail distribution from major ports and road distribution from inland hubs

an open-access national broadband platform, with retail arm separated

a global centre of excellence for education.

It was accepted that many of these ideas should be subject to rigorous cost-benefit evaluation or other review.

Discussion of these ideas led the group to agree that the infrastructure imperative is to create a regulatory and institutional framework that allows timely and efficient investment, especially in key export areas. A specific priority is a simpler, national regime for third party access to give upfront regulatory certainty and to promote competitive pricing and adequate returns. The group endorsed a need to coordinate national infrastructure priorities through Infrastructure Australia, underpinned by rigorous cost–benefit analysis and focusing on Australia’s competitive advantages. The group also discussed the impact of addressing climate change, including through an emissions trading regime, on infrastructure and transport. The impact of rising internationally driven fuel prices on transport, infrastructure investment and the community was discussed. It was noted that energy pricing issues will be critical to future investment in economic infrastructure.

Comments by members of the stream who were not part of the sub-group referred to a focus on knowledge-related and social infrastructure, consideration of privately owned public finance institutions, the need to better transition plans for upgrades (including national infrastructure corridors), dealing with increasing fuel and energy costs, dealing with sovereign risk in the regulation of infrastructure, the need for more urgency in relation to the broadband task, the need to set clear directions and market signals for a carbon trading regime, consciousness of a 30-year time frame for infrastructure investment, and greater emphasis on the urban infrastructure challenges. In the light of these remarks, the infrastructure sub-group developed the following final ideas.
### IDEAS

2.1 A time-sensitive approach to more rapid development of infrastructure

2.1.1 Telescope the development approval process for infrastructure projects, which would help reduce delays and scope creep.

2.1.2 Provide clear guidance to parties so that they can act on the objective criteria that have been set for a project and make the necessary longer term investments.

2.1.3 Increase accountability for regulators, with clear performance indicators to review performance.

2.1.4 Review regulatory regimes to encourage private investment.

2.2 A single national government entity to facilitate financing, approval and development of infrastructure projects

2.2.1 Increase the power of Infrastructure Australia to drive priorities, develop more competitive national markets in areas such as water, electricity and transport and ensure market-based pricing of scarce resources such as water.

2.2.2 Liaise more directly with capital markets (that is, superannuation funds) and develop national standardised protocols for public–private partnerships.

2.3 A master plan with a clear framework for assessing infrastructure priorities

2.3.1 Government should confirm its priorities in energy, transport, water and communications.

2.3.2 The plan should focus on where Australia has a competitive advantage—such as agriculture, mining and education.

2.3.3 The plan should impose national standards encompassing economic, environmental and social criteria for the development of infrastructure.

2.3.4 The plan should provide a framework for a rigorous cost–benefit assessment of projects.

2.4 Competitive national broadband

2.4.1 Government should assess the case for vertical separation of the network owner from retail carriers and carriage service providers to promote access.

### Theme 2: federalism

The chair of the federalism sub-group asked group members to consider the costs of duplication between governments, the lack of accountability resulting from unclear roles, defining the responsibilities of different governments, how to entrench cooperation, and vertical and horizontal equalisation.

During its initial discussions the group identified a number of shortcomings with the current system, among them duplication of roles and functions between the three levels of government, lack of clarity about the respective roles of each level of government, lack of clear accountability and, as a consequence, sub-optimal delivery of government services and excessive regulation. The aspiration of the group was to provide the framework for systematically working towards a seamless national economy, with minimum inefficiencies, overlaps and bottlenecks, and clear roles, responsibilities and accountabilities between different levels of government. A true national market was the goal.
A number of ideas were canvassed during the discussion, the focus being on ways to demarcate the respective roles and responsibilities of the Commonwealth and the states and territories. Not all the following ideas attracted consensus but they enabled the discussion to develop further:

- the need to institutionalise cooperation between the states and territories
- holding a constitutional convention to review and agree on new roles
- consideration of Canada’s federal system because it works in a more cooperative way than Australia’s—although a number of participants queried the relevance of Canada in view of the greater power of its provinces
- any new structure to be underpinned by the notion that regulation is to be done nationally but service delivery is to be done locally
- the need to more actively and consciously try to spread innovation from one state or territory to another
- setting of a clear, national reform objective
- ensuring a nationally consistent set of regulations by recognising there is a fundamental choice between one national set of regulations and a set of concurrent uniform state and territory regulations
- any new system to devolve to the lowest practical level the running of government programs
- cities needing to work together in order to compete with cities from other countries
- the need to resolve the extent to which the Commonwealth should be able to direct or tie how the states and territories spend their money
- ensuring that the tax system works in a way that supports any new federal structure.

Among other matters raised by the participants in both this and the other economic sub-groups was the abolition of existing Commonwealth–state ministerial councils because they are seen to be roadblocks and to delay policy processes. An alternative would be to have all matters go through the Council of Australian Governments and a new independent commission properly resourced by federal and state and territory governments. (It was, however, noted that not all ministerial councils were considered roadblocks and that the Ministerial Council on Energy had been successful in implementing a reform agenda.)

After two days of discussion, the group agreed that an independent body—either a new Federation Commission or an expanded Productivity Commission—should be established to conduct a review of the roles, responsibilities and resourcing of federal, state and territory and local governments in areas of major economic activity. Other sub-groups raised additional matters that were linked to the main ideas outlined below. Among them were properly resourcing federal and state and territory governments; initially focusing on infrastructure priorities in growth regions and cities, expanding the scope of a new commission (or the Productivity Commission) to include federal matters with state ramifications, such as population and immigration; aspiring to one national education and accreditation system; and, in relation to the education system, providing a national curriculum with common starting ages and national literacy and numeracy testing but leaving the implementation to the states. There was also discussion about what functions the new commission would have—would it simply make recommendations or actually take decisions?—and how it would be funded.
2.5 Establishment of an independent body—either a new Federation Commission or an expanded Productivity Commission—to:

2.5.1 Within two years, carry out a detailed audit of the existing governance, management and financial arrangements applying to major areas of Commonwealth and state and territory and local government activities, including education, health, infrastructure, Indigenous welfare, and regulation.

2.5.2 Make recommendations on the priorities and changes required in order to achieve efficient, effective, non-duplicating outcomes, with a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of respective governments and a true common market.

2.5.3 Include a detailed cost–benefit analysis of the proposed changes, considering the question of fiscal imbalances and resourcing, and design a road map for implementing the changes.

2.5.4 Absorb the COAG Reform Council and subsequently initiate studies into areas of federal and state activity perceived to be operating at sub-optimal level and make recommendations for improvement.

2.5.5 Monitor the progress of implementation of the foregoing initiatives against agreed criteria and perform these tasks through a combination of internal research and self-initiated public inquiry.

2.5.6 Abolish ministerial councils and steer related matters through the Council of Australian Governments and the proposed new commission.

2.5.7 Make reports public early in the process to ensure progress and transparency.

2.5.8 Focus initially on infrastructure priorities in growth regions and cities.

2.6 Introduction of four-year fixed terms for the federal government to allow for a greater focus on longer term matters and removal of overlap between different tiers of government.

Theme 3: the role of government

The sub-group that deliberated on the role of government agreed that government plays a crucial part in the Australian economy, and its positions on regulation, direct action and taxation need to be carefully defined to ensure consistency with the overriding ambition for the economy. (One participant considered, however, that these concerns were an unambitious view of government, saying there are more varied roles for government, including the need to make connections, purchase new technologies, and act as a responsive regulator. Another participant felt the government should be viewed as the nation’s largest company and that a vision and framework in that regard should be developed.) The consensus was to consider the three main roles of government and to establish three smaller groups to deal with regulation, direct action and taxation.

Regulation

The group discussing regulation (and deregulation) started with a broad statement to establish the direction for their deliberations. They felt the government should foster an open, competitive national economy that takes direct action only where it can and must uniquely and productively contribute. Regulations should be reformed to maximise productivity, encourage efficient investment and reduce the cost of doing business. The group discussed setting parameters on regulation that are clear, strategic,
national and set in an international context and are based on principles and not prescriptive. The group also canvassed the harmonisation of federal and state regulation, which would reduce the cost of doing business by taking an early look at state taxes. Governments should also consider markets as partial solutions to social problems—for example, health, education, housing, water and carbon. Early discussion raised the following ideas:

- establishment of an independent agency to review regulation parameters
- rapid elimination of ineffective policies and ineffective agencies
- a move to punish ex-post rather than to try to solve ex-ante
- rapid harmonisation of occupational health and safety, workers compensation and trade licensing
- use of market solutions to social problems by creating a price or incentive mechanism.

These ideas were further developed with input from other sub-groups (both in the role of government context and in the general economic group) to reach a suggested approach for government to improve productivity and reduce the costs of doing business. It was suggested that a review be carried out with a view to removing ineffective and distortive regulation, the starting point for the review being the Banks Taskforce Group (2006). Regulation boundaries should be set in an internationally competitive context to promote global Australian firms. The group also considered the problem of knowledge turnover.

**IDEAS**

2.7 Establishment of an independent, bipartisan agency to review regulation across the country, create systems and processes and create an opportunity for ‘quick wins’ such as reducing the number of regulatory bodies:

2.7.1 A committee of no more than five people with a two-month time frame could identify ineffective current policies and ineffective agencies for quick elimination.

2.8 Harmonisation of federal and state regulation to reduce duplication and reduce costs of doing business.

2.9 Paying proper market-related remuneration to staff in order to attract and retain people and create a positive culture between business and government.

2.10 Regulation to be seen in the context of allowing market solutions wherever possible to deal with social problems and externalities.

**Direct action**

The group considered that government should take direct action in the economy but only where it can and must make a unique contribution. The group originally discussed ideas across a broad range of themes. The feeling was that infrastructure encompasses more than just physical assets and that the government should focus on both physical and non-physical infrastructure supporting a modern knowledge economy. Discussions also centred on the key platforms for government interventions—stimulating market success, solving national problems and exporting solutions, and broader measuring and monitoring of services. Initial discussions highlighted a number of ideas that were further developed during the course of the summit.
IDEAS

2.11 Action on key platforms for growth

2.11.1 Ensure that there is a fully effective housing finance market.

2.11.2 Establish a national financing literacy program to provide to customers, knowledge and understanding about things such as investment in superannuation, retirement and other sectors.

2.12 Creation of a ‘foresight centre’ to look at trends and continuity over the long term to help engage future thinking.

2.13 Facilitating market successes

2.13.1 Introduce a Prime Minister’s Grand Challenge Prize for solving big national challenges of a global nature—for example, climate change.

2.13.2 Invest in a carbon tax to create internationally competitive markets such as reinvesting in research and development of clean technology. This would give domestic industry a chance to solve national problems, obtain an international advantage, and use the solution to create further export opportunities.

2.14 Creation of a national balanced scorecard that focuses on the economy, people, the environment, culture, innovation and governance.

Taxation

Participants in the economic stream shared a vision of a holistic tax system that is fair, simple and efficient, minimises distortions, interacts constructively with the welfare system, and supports the global competitiveness of the economy. The taxation sub-group believed that, to achieve this vision, a comprehensive tax review is necessary. Some participants expressed the view that the need for tax reform is urgent and that a review should make progress within a quick time frame. Most believed, however, that the review should take about two years, although some suggested that up to three years might be necessary. Participants considered that interim reporting on the progress of the review would be useful. It was said that the review could be split into different parts with different reporting time frames, but the majority thought that the links between different aspects of the tax system call for a comprehensive approach.

Participants considered the scope of the review should include state as well as Commonwealth taxes and that tax bases and the allocation of tax revenue between the states and the Commonwealth could be part of the review. A few participants also favoured the inclusion of local taxes. Given the interactions between the tax and welfare systems, it was agreed that welfare systems and income support should also be included in the review. Participants discussed the need to review the interaction between the taxation system and retirement incomes, including Australia’s superannuation policies and arrangements and pensions.

Further, many emphasised that the review should consider implementation and transitional matters since these are central to the success of reform. There was broad agreement that the review would consider the following initiatives and ideas, although not all participants supported all initiatives:

- The review should aim to simplify the tax system by further harmonising taxes across jurisdictions and reducing the number of taxes.
- The review should aim to remove distortions, including those imposed on investment, to reduce wasteful taxes and to eliminate transaction taxes that can impede movement of resources.
The taxation of housing, including negative gearing, should be reviewed.

The review should aim to increase fairness and create incentives for participation—including shifting the tax mix toward consumption and away from income while ensuring that the overall tax system is progressive in practice.

The review should look at negative interactions between the tax and welfare systems—including the high effective marginal tax rates faced by some individuals moving into or increasing their work.

The review should remain mindful of the global context, and the tax system should be robust in the context of global capital flows and reflect the mobility of capital and the labour to which it applies. Participants stressed that competitiveness with Asia is particularly important and could create pressure for a flatter, simpler tax system.

It would not be the role of the review to determine the total tax levied on the economy, but participants supported indexation of tax scales to promote transparency and to reduce the buoyancy of the tax system.

A number of other ideas were put forward in broader discussions of the tax system, among them the introduction of death duties, how to develop an environmentally sustainable tax system, how the tax system affects education, the current fragmentation of resource taxes, how to reduce the bias against labour in the tax system, and ways of abolishing the capital gains tax discount for housing.

### IDEAS

2.15 Conduct of a comprehensive tax review

2.15.1 Increase harmonisation across jurisdictions, reduce costs of administration and decrease the number of taxes.

2.16 Removal of distortions

2.16.1 Reduce wasteful taxes that create perverse incentives—such as the fringe benefits tax threshold that encourages people to increase their driving mileage.

2.16.2 Eliminate transaction taxes such as stamp duty.

2.16.3 Recognise that some taxes will be deliberately distortive but ensure that any distortion is driven by deliberate socially beneficial policy.

2.17 Moving the tax base from income towards consumption

2.17.1 Ensure that the tax system is progressive in practice.

2.17.2 Provide incentives for participation—such as marginal tax rates on second family incomes.

2.17.3 Redress negative interactions with the welfare system—such as effective marginal tax rates on transition from welfare to work.

2.18 Reviewing tax offsets and tax deductibility and considering ways of encouraging older people’s participation in the workforce. The taxation review should include consideration of the relationship with retirement incomes.

2.19 Ensuring that Australia is not permanently disadvantaged vis-à-vis the flatter, simpler tax systems in Asia.
Theme 4: public policy

The public policy sub-group worked towards achieving an Australia that was first class in public policy advice, formulation, implementation and evaluation. Their first focus was to develop themes for discussion. After a brainstorming session about the public sector and the current formulation of policy, the group identified a number of areas for improvement but also acknowledged the value and benefits the public sector brings to public policy in dealing with important matters. The group agreed that, to augment this value, the public sector needs to be open, contestable, vigorous, innovative and responsive. In order to achieve improvements and suggest ways forward, three main themes were canvassed on the first day of discussions—the quality of public debate, the quality of the public service, and the transparency of the policy process.

Participants expressed concern that the flow of people between the public and private sectors is currently all one way. To help resolve this and maintain the quality of people in the public service, they felt there needed to be a reduction in the attractiveness gap between the public and private sectors; that is, pay the public sector more. This should also lead to people entering the public service who have direct knowledge of and experience in the operation of markets. The group felt that, in order to increase productivity and deliver services with fewer resources, the public sector needed to be actively involved in innovation. It was noted, however, that the culture of the public sector is risk averse and that this does not foster innovation. The group agreed there are substantial gains to be made from engaging with business, academics, public policy institutes and non-government organisations. They felt the Productivity Commission was not being used enough and its mandate was too narrow. The commission’s work should be about managing the political economy of reform-looking agendas and helping government manage the process of this reform.

The initial ideas to come out of the discussion were as follows.

The quality of public debate

- Consciously generate informed debate about forward issues by ensuring the government is willing to engage and to involve non-government organisations.
- Return to Green and White Paper consultation, which will enable greater diversity in analysis.
- Allow greater independence of action for the Productivity Commission.
- Encourage research-based advocacy.
- Improve the information flow, to ensure good public policy debate.
- Use resources such as the Productivity Commission or the Australian National Audit Office to look at alternative ways of getting what the government wants.
- Encourage the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Treasury to seek advice from the private sector.
- Conduct sectoral analyses every 10 to 15 years, which will support a regular review of ‘inside-government processes’.
- Fund public policy institutes.
The quality of the public service

- Create career paths between the public and private sectors.
- Preserve and strengthen the role of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to bring a whole-of-government approach.
- Introduce better performance management in the public service.
- Develop education fellowships for public servants.
- Make greater use of parliament and parliamentary committees.

Implementation and transparency

- Create an independent statutory body to assist with implementation.
- Introduce a two-stage process for implementation.
- Develop clear deliverables upfront to build accountability.
- Set realistic timetables for implementation of policy.
- Encourage regular, robust reporting on all projects in a portfolio in order to limit the continuation of programs that are unsuccessful.
- Introduce full reviews of projects and policies after three years.
- Audit every department against its objectives.
- Introduce an independent evaluation process similar to the World Bank, which has an audit office that audits every funded project.
- Make managers accountable.
- Mainline institutions after developing huge policy proposals.
- Encourage private sector feedback on how the public sector operates.
- Prioritise implementation through the Budget.
- Have post-implementation reviews of policy.

These ideas were used as the basis for further discussion. Flowing from them was the importance of innovation in the public service. The participants suggested that the public sector should look at new approaches to policy making and implementation and new ways of engaging business. In this context, less focus should be placed on the process and more consideration should be given to the outcomes of policies. Increasing innovation in the public sector was seen to be of high importance: the group felt there were limited incentives for people in the public sector to be innovative. One suggested solution was higher pay for public servants. The group also felt it would be beneficial if the general public became more broadly engaged through encouraging public submissions to inquiries. It was hoped that this involvement would help the public service test new ways of working by engaging the public and business sectors.

The group looked back over 20 years of reform and agreed that strong public policy debate has been important to empower action by governments. The group's ideas all focused on creating well-resourced, well-informed, evidence-based public policy with a strong public sector that is encouraged to be innovative, open and responsive.
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<td>2.22.1 Governments must be willing to engage with the policy debate and work with academics, non-government organisations, businesses and unions.</td>
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<td>2.22.2 Develop and strengthen institutions such as the Productivity Commission, university research departments and independent institutions that produce credible research results.</td>
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<td>2.22.3 Carry out whole-sector (such as education) reviews every 10 to 15 years.</td>
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<td><strong>2.23</strong>  Re-establishing annual budgets as the sole priority-setting mechanism for government policies in order to help avoid ‘short-termism’.</td>
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<td><strong>2.25</strong>  Leveraging technology: using the internet as a way to engage the broader community in policy debate.</td>
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<td><strong>2.26</strong>  Establishing a ‘bottom-up’ approach instead of a ‘top-down’ one—fostering an environment for experiments that are monitored, measured and shared with the public through the internet.</td>
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<td><strong>2.27</strong>  Seeking out opportunities to change the way the public service operates and engages by becoming a thought leader in innovation.</td>
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<td><strong>2.28</strong>  Focusing more on effective implementation</td>
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<td>2.28.2 Create a mind-set that implementation is highly valued.</td>
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<td>2.28.3 Carry out regular reviews of clear deliverables and outcomes in years following implementation.</td>
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<td>2.28.4 Create a specialised implementation capability that helps line managers develop plans and carry out reviews.</td>
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<td><strong>2.29</strong>  Expecting innovation in delivery approaches to all initiatives</td>
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<td><strong>2.30</strong>  Managing risk instead of avoiding it in relation to innovation by people in the public sector.</td>
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Theme 5: talent

Despite the Economy stream being aware that the Productivity stream would be considering things to do with human capital, it felt it was important to discuss the subject in the context of the vital role people play in the success or otherwise of the Australian economy. As a result, the stream developed a sub-group called ‘talent’ for the purpose of considering the role of human capital. The sub-group’s leader suggested that the group consider ways of encouraging creativity, how to better allocate and direct people to the right areas, and increasing broader workforce participation and skills. Sub-group participants felt there was a serious need to develop the collective talents of Australians in order to generate a more productive economy.

Discussion focused on five themes—greater creativity and engagement, world-leading education and skills, improved participation, increased workforce mobility, and languages. Some ideas were considered on the first day and were further developed during discussions on the second day. While a number of outcomes from these discussions are not reflected in the ideas agreed to by the sub-group, they are outlined here and do connect with, or touch on, discussions held with other sub-groups in the economic stream:

- Determine how outcomes will be measured for education, accreditation and participation.
- Introduce measurable targets for educational outcomes and accreditation, including international accreditation agreement.
- Greater value and flexibility need to be given to teacher and academic salaries to improve the quality of teachers.
- Increase geographical mobility.
- Increase access to global labour and compete for talent internationally, including Australian talent.
- Establish a ‘talent institute’.
- Improve access to secondary education in remote areas.
- Determine ways to improve our university performance relative to that of leading overseas universities. Government should create world-class institutions.
- Abolish the retirement age.
- Make education in mathematics a priority.
- Foster closer relationships between business and education.
- Retain both ageing workers and overseas postgraduates.
- Reform national accreditation for all trades and professions.
- Increase mobility between universities, government and business.
- Encourage life-long learning.
- Provide tax incentives to encourage expatriates to move back to Australia.
- Offer government contracts to companies that have sourced a proportion of their workforce from among the long-term unemployed.
The sub-group reached consensus on the main ideas, which are aimed at unleashing and investing in Australia’s talent. The ideas were formed by considering the main themes that were agreed to early in the discussion and were refined during the two days of the summit.

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Population, sustainability, climate change, water and the future of our cities

Co-chairs:
Mr Roger Beale AO
Senator the Honourable Penny Wong

Lead Facilitator:
Ms Jennifer Westacott
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OVERVIEW

Australia faces an unprecedented challenge from climate change coupled with our ever-expanding ecological footprint. We risk losing our natural heritage, our water resources, and the basis for our urban lifestyles and future prosperity. We have a brief opportunity to act now to safeguard and shape our future.

The 2020 Summit participants for the Population, Sustainability, Climate Change, Water and the Future of Our Cities stream (the Sustainability stream) were asked to consider the challenges and opportunities for a sustainable future for Australia. This is the final report of that stream.

The report brings together the full set of ideas of this stream and documents the detailed discussion which formed the basis of the initial report presented at the conclusion of the summit.

The initial report was the culmination of significant debate and discussion and represented the majority views of the group. It is presented in this final report together with greater detail about the ambitions, ideas and themes that were discussed and synthesised into the initial report.

Stream process and structure

In developing its report for consideration by the Australian Government the stream adopted the following process.

On day one, outputs focused on collecting and distilling views on ambitions for 2020, top ideas and priority themes, including views from the Youth Summit. The 100 participants of the Sustainability stream were then divided into four subject discussion groups. These groups were:

- climate change
- water
- sustainability
- population and cities.

The climate change group focused more on emissions reduction, innovation and technology and markets while the sustainability group focused on the issues of adaptation, biodiversity and broader environmental sustainability. It was recognised that there was some significant overlap between these groups and it is important to consider mitigation and adaptation issues together.

Each group was led by a team leader who was one of the participants with expertise in the subject area. The groups were supported by facilitators and note takers.

The process of developing the initial report was as follows. Groups were first asked to identify their top ambitions for their subject area, e.g. water or climate change. Specifically, they were asked:

- what would Australia look like in 2020 in respect of your area?
- what are the key areas for change to achieve that ambition?

Groups were asked to prioritise their top three ambitions through a process of discussion and agreement.
Individuals were then asked to identify their top three ideas to achieve their ambitions and the groups were asked to collectively agree on five high impact ideas and potentially a “breakthrough” idea. The criteria for a high impact idea were magnitude of change, speed, achievability and cost. Groups were asked to ensure that one high impact idea was a “no cost” idea.

Through a process of debate and discussion each group agreed their top five high impact ideas and recorded disagreements and additional ideas. These ideas were then presented to the full stream of 100 participants in the afternoon which formed the basis of the first draft of the summary report.

On day two, the draft report was considered by the 100 stream participants. Three broad groups discussed the document and suggested changes to the original draft. The majority views of these groups were then synthesised into the initial report.

**STREAM SUMMARY: THE INITIAL REPORT**

**Ambitions**

Our aspiration is that by 2020 Australia is the world’s leading green and sustainable economy. That we will set time bound targets and be on track to dramatically decrease our ecological footprint while continuing to grow our economy and improve our quality of life. Through our creativity and skills, we will have harnessed the full potential of our natural assets and human resources to turn the challenge of climate change to our advantage.

By 2020 Australia will be making a major contribution to a comprehensive global response to climate change, including working with our partners on clean energy. Australia will have dramatically reduced our emissions, and communities, regions and business will be actively assisted to adopt the unavoidable consequences of climate change.

Environmental considerations will be fully integrated into economic decision making in Australia, at the household, business and government levels. We will have resilient and innovative water systems that reduce our dependency on climate-sensitive water resources in our towns and cities.

A robust emissions trading system and a suite of complementary measures will be driving a low carbon revolution with government taking the lead working in partnership with business and the community. Climate and sustainability policy will also incorporate the needs of disadvantaged and low-income Australians.

A new dialogue will have been established with our Indigenous peoples on our response to climate change, water and sustainability challenges.

Australia’s globally outstanding ecosystems and species are managed to reduce threats and build resilience to promote adaptation to climate change.

By 2020 the health of Australia’s ecological systems will be improved. The health of our river and groundwater systems will be managed to achieve ecological sustainability, supporting food and fibre production and resilient communities. Australia will also have become a global leader in tropical water system conservation and sustainability.
Themes

An integrated, whole-of-government approach underpinned by clear targets and measurement with independent reporting is fundamental.

Strong national leadership and international engagement was identified as a priority theme. Capacity building and the importance of changing incentives such as price were also widely considered to be central to the discussion.

Stakeholder engagement, including with regional Australians, capacity building and education are needed to support the significant behavioural change required to implement these policies. Indigenous people must also be involved in policy development and implementation.

The urgent need to complete implementation of long-standing commitments to water reform was also identified.

Ideas

We could adopt a National Sustainability, Population and Climate Change Agenda and develop robust institutions to support it. Australia would have a whole-of-government approach to climate change and sustainability policy, encompassing government expenditure, taxation, regulation and investment.

As part of this agenda we could include an audit function to report on governments’ performance against these climate change and sustainability objectives.

We could implement a set of national environmental accounts, including carbon and water accounts, to inform government, business and community decision-making. These could be linked with the current national economic accounts. We will explicitly link the environment to productivity and innovation to underpin our future competitiveness.

Through a national Sustainable Cities Program the federal government could lead a nationally consistent approach to urban and regional planning which drives water efficiency and reductions in emissions. This could be supported by the implementation of tax and other policies that encourage the use of public transport relative to other modes of transport.

A national Indigenous Knowledge Centre could be established and maintained with Indigenous people. This centre would examine multidisciplinary research and program delivery pertaining to climate change, sustainability and water.

Australia could have a population policy and immigration program that works truly in the national interest and that is a model for the world.

Further investment could be directed into research, development and deployment to enable a low emissions energy revolution.

We could transform the ecological footprint of the built environment by taking the lead on national planning, building and product standards to minimise waste and reduce water and energy consumption in our homes and in our neighbourhoods. Early action could include support for energy efficiency measures in low-income households and consideration of housing affordability implications. A particular initiative at this point could be to require carbon neutrality for all new buildings constructed beyond 2020.
Before 2020 all Australians could have the tools to enable them to measure and manage their personal carbon footprint. This could include access to smart meters for energy and water consumption.

We could expand the use of a wider range of market mechanisms to acquire water entitlements from over-allocated systems with a view to encouraging sustainable water use and assisting communities to adjust.

The urgency of responding to climate change makes it imperative that the emissions trading scheme and the ensuing long-run carbon price drive a transition to clean energy technologies.

**Areas for further research**

It was agreed that comprehensive improvements in environmental data and statistics were necessary to enable better management.

**Disagreements**

The points of contention during the discussion were the respective merits of clean coal versus renewable energy sources, population restrictions versus reductions in per capita footprint, the transfer of all Commonwealth funding to public transport (rather than roads), and GM crops.

A substantial number of the group felt strongly that no new coal-fired power stations should be built in Australia until carbon capture and sequestration is commercially available, proven, safe and efficient. However, there was no consensus.

**Summary of submissions to 2020 Summit Secretariat**

Sustainability and climate change were two of the most topical issues addressed in submissions. There was considerable support for an increasingly market-based approach to environmental issues, with water and carbon pricing two of the most intensely debated issues. Several demand-side initiatives to moderate Australia’s consumption of high-carbon products were proposed, including product labelling and taxation measures designed to promote low-carbon consumer choices and lifestyle changes. Such specific ideas were proposed as electronic traffic congestion pricing (with positive credits potentially available for public transport usage), while bigger picture concepts such as engaging in a global carbon trading market were also vigorously advocated.

From an environmental leadership perspective, an Asia-Pacific regional authority was proposed to research and promote renewable energy technologies and policies. Domestically, a set of national environmental accounts was suggested to regularly report on the condition of our natural capital. There was a call for increased disclosure of the environmental performance of large enterprises, possibly under a set of formalised accounting standards, while increased scrutiny of government environmental practices (use of energy from renewable sources, emission levels) was a further idea.

Large-scale consumer education campaigns were suggested to raise awareness of the urgency of sustainability issues. A raft of broader ideas were also put forward for this stream, including overhauling immigration policy in the context of increasing domestic demand for skilled labour, and the reinvention of our architectural and building design industries into a visionary, world-leading institution in sustainable practices.
CLIMATE CHANGE

Ambitions

- By 2020 Australians are proud to be enabling effective global climate action. Australia is a global model for sustainable development.
- By 2020 we have harnessed our creativity and skills to develop new opportunities and natural advantages for the future.
- Acting together, by 2020 we have dramatically decreased our personal carbon footprint and improved the quality of life for all whilst understanding our relative global position.

IDEAS

3.1 A National Climate Strategy for transforming Australia to a green economy that could be exported globally, including:

3.1.1 an energy efficiency strategy for every sector (leveraging our natural advantages—at low cost)

3.1.2 establishment of institutions for the long-term management and oversight of carbon risk—a single, independent clean energy authority, in the manner of the Reserve Bank of Australia—see the later discussion about a proposed Clean Energy Authority

3.1.3 linking with regional partners.

3.2 A national clean energy portfolio of several flagship projects—in ‘natural advantage’ categories such as agriculture, clean coal and renewable sources of energy.

3.3 An independent Australian Climate Information Authority to disseminate evidence-based information rather than advocacy—see the later discussion about this proposed authority.

3.4 A world-class climate change education program (leveraging a natural advantage) that includes developing applied science capacity, green economy skills and training, a clean energy corps, and ‘eco-education’ embedded in school curricula.

3.5 Support for Youth Summit views to encourage greater use of public transport.

Disagreements

- The role of targets such as renewable energy targets and energy efficiency targets: we need to make sure these complement the emissions trading scheme.
- How we refer to ‘decreasing our carbon footprint’: what if Australia produces power and exports to the world in a more sustainable manner? What risk do we run in taking the ‘hit’ as far as per capita emissions are concerned?
- Terms such as ‘clean technology’ and ‘clean energy’: clean coal and nuclear energy are not the same as renewable sources of energy.
- The use of nuclear energy as a renewable source or clean fuel: there was strong opposition to nuclear energy being considered a clean energy option. It was agreed that criteria including public acceptability were required in the selection of clean energy options.
WATER

Ambitions

- By 2020 Australia will be a global leader in tropical water system conservation and sustainable use.
- By 2020 the environmental health of all river and groundwater systems will be restored to achieve environmental flows, sustainable food and fibre production, and resilient communities.
- By 2020 we have a dynamic, climate-resilient and innovative water system.
- By 2010 (as a stage towards 2020) we can report on the status, performance and outlook for water resources in a way that is useful to policy makers and markets and is accessible to the general public.

IDEAS

3.6 Manage tropical water system conservation and sustainable use by:

3.6.1 developing a management plan for Northern Australia within three years, with full implementation by 2020, to prevent rather than repair environmental damage
3.6.2 shared governance of tropical catchments through cooperation—perhaps through a COAG agreement covering water, sustainability and land management
3.6.3 delivery through the support of, and in partnership with, Indigenous and local communities—including through developing markets for ecosystems services including stewardship payments to Indigenous communities
3.6.4 limiting water system development to achieve healthy rivers whilst achieving the best economic outcomes—for example, water use for mining instead of agriculture
3.6.5 synthesising and understanding the available data to enable better policy making.

3.7 Manage all river and groundwater systems by:

3.7.1 institutional and market reform based on water systems, not state boundaries, with participatory governance that engages the local community
3.7.2 expanded use of a wider range of market mechanisms (or smarter ways) to acquire over-allocated water—for example, deferred purchase or up-front payment for water entitlements—and enable water to be used for multiple purposes under water plans
3.7.3 determine the process for the community to define the objectives and trade-offs to achieve sustainability, particularly in the context of the uncertainty created by climate change and increased variability
3.7.4 identifying key environmental assets and defining objectives and measurable criteria for system health and water quality
3.7.5 improved scenario planning that takes account of future system changes.

3.8 Manage Australia’s water system by:

3.8.1 facilitating investment in technology, infrastructure and industry skills to achieve greater diversity in supply, including indirect potable, stormwater and low-energy desalination, with carbon-neutral delivery of water in rural and urban areas
3.8.2 institutional and market reform—including proper pricing for water and competitive access for the private sector in delivery and distribution
3.8.3 implementing a demand management strategy including standards for water infrastructure, fixtures and appliances

3.8.4 increasing the level of water sourced from climate-resilient supply options over time.

3.9 Report on Australia’s water resources by:

3.9.1 collecting data necessary for developing a biennial Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change–style report on the status of water systems—for example, by developing a water index similar to the Australian Stock Exchange top 200 index

3.9.2 publicising this information on water status in annual environmental accounts

3.9.3 fostering multi-disciplinary cross-industry training and skills development in the water industry—including hydrology, climatology, ecology and economics.

Disagreements

- The relative financial and energy costs of local treatments and distributed systems (rainwater tanks, and so on) as compared to centralised schemes. Local can be more expensive.

- The importance of water systems remaining energy efficient—including, for example, putting low-flow power plants into the gravity systems.

SUSTAINABILITY

Ambitions

- By 2020 we will have developed a comprehensive vision of a sustainable Australia—and we’re living it! A no regrets approach.

- By 2020, we are reducing our impact and moving towards a zero footprint across society (not just carbon) through a mix of design initiatives and offsets.

- By 2020 we have actively built environmental and social resilience through:
  - biodiversity conservation and restoration of landscapes, for example salinity control, improved water management and reforestation
  - community resilience and collaboration—an inclusive approach involving rural, Indigenous and urban communities.

IDEAS

3.10 A national sustainability reform agenda resulting in a framework policy (National Sustainability and Climate Change Policy) and a commission (Sustainability Commission) with ‘teeth’ similar to Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. The process should be similar to the implementation of National Competition Policy.

3.10.1 The aim of regulatory reform is to ‘climate-proof’ the economy, remove anomalies and inconsistencies in planning, zoning, building codes, inefficient and distorting taxes, subsidies and regulations.
3.10.2 The Sustainability Commission would be an independent sustainability institution equivalent to the Reserve Bank, the Australian Stock Exchange, the Productivity Commission or the ACCC, to give effect to the new regulatory environment and provide imperatives to achieve action on sustainability.

3.10.3 Provide for a full range of mechanisms to redress market failures, including ensuring that price reflects true social cost, not just private cost.

3.11 Internalise the values from society and environment into a comprehensive reformed national accounts system.

3.11.1 Track sustainability performance with something visible that will help people change their behaviour—environmental indicators should have the same status as economic indicators showing trends in the ecological footprint. This is not about inserting environmental factors into economic accounts but substantially re-thinking the role and function of both environmental and economic accounts.

3.11.2 Encourage regular company reporting against sustainability indicators.

3.11.3 Undertake the valuation of environmental and social measures at the same level as economic measures—differentiating between ‘dollarisation’ and valuing.

3.11.4 Apply the principle that independent measurement of key factors is crucial but that waiting for measurement is not an excuse to do nothing.

3.12 A closed-loop economy to create a zero-waste society—a manufacturing system that deals with its own waste, minimising its ecological footprint.

3.12.1 Recognise the need to reduce landfill, perhaps through providing credit for landfill avoidance, reducing the cost of recycling, everything produced being recycled as far as possible, and resource recovery with waste as a feedstock for other industries. This would reduce energy costs. Consider the ‘Factor 10’ concept to reduce resource consumption (that is, reduce our impact by a factor of 10 by 2020 and support collaboration and cooperation by a factor of 10).

3.12.2 Include the agriculture and energy sectors (high-emission sectors), with all buildings to be green by 2020 and flow-ons to all other parts of the economy.

3.13 Community engagement, knowledge building and education in order to create an environment that supports political leadership for fundamental change and better decision making for our businesses of the future.

3.13.1 Educate decision makers in sustainability, so that decisions such as widespread land clearance in Western Australia do not happen again. Prevent ‘crimes against sustainability’.

3.13.2 Create environmental hubs where consumers can go for information and answers.

3.13.3 Use a Green tick (similar to the Heart Foundation tick) as a mechanism to educate consumers on the environmental impact and carbon intensity of their consumption choices.

3.14 Active rebuilding of resilience in nature and societies to avoid further loss and potential catastrophic breakdown of ecosystems.

3.14.1 Recognise and reward environmental stewardship and biodiversity banking; perhaps set targets such as 20 per cent in protected areas by 2020.

3.14.2 Concentrate development away from coastal zones, to contain our footprint.
3.14.3 Climate-proofing the economy: not just thinking ‘locking up’ areas; include carbon offsets, biodiversity banking, stewardship, and caring for country. Valuing and caring for biodiversity are essential. Fundamentally change the approach to agriculture by recognising the new opportunities and services climate change might bring.

Disagreements

The only area of major disagreement was to do with setting actual targets for protected areas: the protection concept was agreed, but the target was not.

POPULATION AND CITIES

Ambitions

• By 2020 our cities will be fundamentally different. They will be sustainable and will offer all residents access to employment, education, transport and affordable housing. They will be prosperous, diverse, creative and connected.

• By 2020 we will have a sustainable population and consumption policy: while the population grows, net consumption should decrease. This will mean:
  - a national approach to managing growth and immigration
  - policies that provide a framework to set sustainable immigration levels and distributes population across cities and regions
  - the need to concurrently examine the role of consumption and set targets to ensure we live within our means.

• By 2020, our cities will be among the most sustainable in the world underpinned by the principles of social equity. This will mean:
  - opportunity for all in terms of jobs, education and affordable housing
  - prosperity, creativity and diversity
  - cities are net contributors to energy and water supply
  - all homes and buildings are carbon neutral
  - all people in major cities are living less than 800 metres from access to mass transit public transport
  - there are clear performance goals and targets for sustainability
  - the population is fully educated in relation to sustainability.
3.15 Climate-proof low-income households—for example using compact fluorescent light globes, low-flow shower roses, and home energy audits. This acknowledges the impact of managing climate change on low-income households. It would apply to rental properties, where many low-income people live.

3.16 There should be a national agenda to plan for cities and population through establishment of a planning commission type organisation that sets goals and targets for cities. It is important that there be a re-engagement by the national government in planning for cities and examining the potential role of the Council of Australian Governments and federal funding to drive change across jurisdictions. This could include a sustainability audit of federal and state legislation to remove all unnecessary subsidies and regulatory burdens, as well as the consideration of the legislative arrangements needed for the future. The review of planning legislation was seen as a no cost idea.

3.17 Transport and infrastructure: to redirect federal funding from roads to public transport—passenger and freight. There should be a focus on driving compact and efficient transit oriented developments across all Australian cities as a means of supporting population growth at the same time as not increasing our ecological footprint.

3.18 A national building and sustainability system which creates an emissions reduction program for all new and existing buildings. The system would use measurable, reportable, verifiable methods. This would enable Australia to be a world leader, provide global leadership, and support innovation. This was seen as a breakthrough idea.

3.19 Education: develop a national school-level strategy that includes a broad public awareness program on how to be sustainable. Need to work with business to create incentives and achieve a fundamental shift in people’s thinking and behaviour.

Disagreements

- Creation of new institutions around problems may possibly be ineffective—particularly where there are institutions that already exist but might not be working.

- The practicality of redirecting funding away from roads and into public transport.

- Use of the term ‘cities’ or ‘urban settlements’ and whether adaptable housing and denser cities are needed.

- The need for, and the direction of, a population target.

It was suggested that a bill of rights is integral to a population policy, but the group regarded this as outside its mandate and more of a ‘how’ consideration.
YOUTH SUMMIT

Ambitions

- The Youth Summit’s vision was for Australia to be a world leader in addressing sustainability and climate change. By 2020 Australia would be carbon neutral and run on energy from renewable sources, and the economy, society and the environment would be considered equally in all decisions made.

IDEAS

3.20 An Australian Sustainability Challenge: a competition between local communities, with the group making the largest shift towards sustainability winning a large government grant. This might include a change in behaviour through the uptake of green power, public transport, native tree planting or sustainable housing, among other things. The aim would be to engage local communities, create local jobs and bring ‘sustainable thinking’ to the mainstream at negligible cost.

3.21 Public transport: divert government road funding into public transport infrastructure, with the aim that every person who lives in an urban area lives within 2 kilometres of a train station, light rail corridor or high-frequency bus route.

3.22 Eco-Ed: sustainability education in primary and secondary schools.

BACKGROUND AND OTHER DISCUSSIONS

The following section represents a complete record of the background and discussion which informed the top ideas submitted by the groups. In some cases, these detailed notes represent group discussion and group ideas, in some other cases they document individual ideas that were put forward during discussion.

Climate change

One of the questions posed to the climate change discussion group was, what would Australia look like in 2020 if we realised our greatest ambition in this area and how do we get there? Matters raised in discussions covered a wide range of topics and views.

The climate change discussion group focused on mitigation while the sustainability discussion group considered climate change adaptation. Even so, the groups recognised that mitigation and adaptation need to be considered together and should not be treated separately.

There was intense discussion about coal as a source of energy and the role of clean coal technology in climate change mitigation. The discussion group took it as given that the government was committed to the Kyoto targets and an emissions trading scheme.

A number of themes were at the heart of the discussion:

- leveraging Australia’s natural advantages and seeing climate change as an opportunity rather than a threat
- the role of education and information in changing behaviour
- a lack of confidence that existing institutions will deliver a sufficiently long term and independent response to managing long-term risk associated with climate change. There was a desire for a coherent national approach, independent of politics and state boundaries
a desire for national leadership, both within Australia and internationally

development of renewable sources of energy and clean energy

the need for an integrated view on sustainability, which would include consideration of all settlement needs—transport, housing, water use, and so on—and would improve resilience and adaptability

a sense of urgency about a clear and effective trajectory for avoiding climate disaster, recognising that the earlier we act, the easier the transition will be.

The main area identified for more research and information related to agriculture and included:

research into the soil’s capacity to store carbon

more research into the carbon footprint of different agricultural production methods (cropping versus livestock) and systems (including transport).

Discussion of what Australia might look like in 2020 focused on the following areas.

**Vision and leadership**

- There was much discussion about the need for an overarching strategy, framework or plan to demonstrate government leadership and give the nation confidence that the problem is being confronted. It would overcome jurisdictional problems and positively engage with the community, but Australia needs to be wary of duplicating what already exists or discrediting it.
  - A coordinated national approach in a ‘big picture’ framework—including international engagement.
  - Climate change as a central organising principle for government action. This could drive a transformed energy sector: the next decade must be one of innovation and development.
  - Climate justice is an important organising principle to ensure all Australians benefit under a transformed economy.
  - Must be inspirational and reflect Australia’s place in the world.
  - A central theme of acting together, enabling worthwhile global change, creatively harnessing natural advantages and positioning for the future.
  - Improving energy affordability every year from 2010 to 2020.

- We need a national energy framework and a national coordinated climate change framework, with an international hook to promote greater action in the region.

- A National Climate Action Agenda should include energy efficiency, transport, research and development. It would seek to decrease the regulatory burden and improve education and skills.

- We need to focus on sustainable development holistically and have an effective climate change policy as part of sustainable development—environmental sustainability, economic growth, and ‘responsible stewardship of our energy resources’, including reliable providers of energy and energy solutions to trading partners.

- A ‘clean energy revolution’ should include training, deployment and ‘green job’ creation. It could lead to Australia leading the world in climate change mitigation or being a global leader in clean energy solutions, a technology and service provider to the world.
Australia could be a world-leading source of low-carbon products and expertise based on our natural advantages of sun, space and agriculture.

There could be a national Green Jobs Program, which could include an energy efficiency corps, a clean energy corps, a climate science corps, and volunteerism.

Leadership in reducing Australia's ecological footprint: by 2020 we could be honoured around the world as the least-wasteful nation on the planet.

Well before 2020 Indigenous Australians should be part of the dialogue on climate change policy. We need to take social equity into account in developing a comprehensive response to climate change.

Increasing market leverage of deforestation could assist with biodiversity and salinity issues: by 2020 ‘our natural resources have become a powerhouse in sequestration’.

Looking back from 2020, people should see our actions as ‘wise and enlightened’.

In 2020 climate change must be recognised as a global public health concern.

Our climate change strategy should improve the resilience of the economy and the environment. By 2020 we should have averted climate-related crises and be resilient enough to overcome challenges.

We need a portfolio of iconic clean energy projects to drive change—could be both a source (solar, geothermal or carbon capture and storage) or a sink (biosequestration).

We need to build public agreement and confidence in high levels of national investment, analogous to the funding of the Australian Institute of Sport after the Montreal Olympics.

A national energy framework and nationally coordinated climate change framework could include an international hook to promote greater action in the region.

An Australian sustainability challenge could include sister sustainability cities in the region.

Set an iconic challenge and meet it with funding.

**Institutions**

The structural and institutional foundations of climate change policy were examined. There is a need for robust institutions to support national and global action. We also need to effectively implement Australia’s own climate change–related policies, to demonstrate that we can make a difference. Policies could include regional partnerships.

There was a call for policy frameworks and institutions that are beyond the politics of government—that is, do not change every three years—and take a long-term view—for example, to 2050.

- There are lessons to be learnt from monetary policy independence—for example, the Reserve Bank of Australia.
- We need institutions that are able to manage risk in the face of uncertainty, including in relation to the economic consequences of climate change.
- The idea of a central carbon bank was proposed.
- Credibility is necessary.
- We need financial and regulatory institutions that can respond to information (environmental, economic and global). We need to transform politics and governance—state versus federal government and across the divide.

- More transparent environmental markets are necessary, including transparency of corporate environmental information. Use the advantages of financial markets for carbon.

- Consider regulating market frameworks to promote sustainable practices with measures that complement the market.

- Consider a carbon trust to leverage opportunities in small business.

**An Australian Climate Information Authority**

- We need a governance process to deliver climate information to the community.

- It must be an independent, trusted, verifiable, government-funded fact base of institutions that goes beyond electoral cycles. Such an authority would inform and mobilise community action (having a public education capacity) and would need to be aligned constitutionally.

**A Clean Energy Authority**

- There are 69 state and national processes in the energy sector. This sector represents 50 per cent of emissions. We therefore need a single energy authority and a single coordinated approach to take us to our target.

- This new organisation could be funded by government, and trusted by business, to leverage action and share information—a single, one-stop Clean Energy Authority. The main thing the entity would do is provide support for carbon capture and storage in terms of storage maps and drilling plans. Perhaps a carbon capture and storage target, to supplement a renewable energy target of 10,000 gigawatts by 2020, is needed. Carbon capture and storage commitments could be modelled on European Union—style targets.

- A renewable energy task force could identify emerging flagship projects.

- Any retrofit program should give priority for low income households.

**Information and education**

- Education is crucial if we are to prepare people for change.

- We need to consider a national climate education strategy, to ensure that there is early education and skills training at schools. It might be possible to export a world-class climate education facility. The process might include energy audits of schools.

- ‘Eco-education’—to understand the impact of lifestyles and impacts on landscapes—needs to be at all levels. There is the possibility for a world-class institute supported by philanthropy. A worldwide climate academic facility should include curriculum development.

- A transformed education system is needed to drive community awareness. Education about climate change and sustainability should be integrated across disciplines.

- We need better information to help promote change and to invest in getting clear, independent, verifiable data to better inform the economy and the community. Consistent public messaging and clear consumer information are essential. And the information must be able to be translatable into useful tools, rather than be an impost on consumers.
• There is a role in changing behaviour to comprehensive product labelling—to disclose products’ carbon life-cycle cost, embedded energy and water—and possibly mandatory disclosure of emissions from installations of a certain size.

• We need to invest in developing an information base that could include improved mapping methods to deliver important information that will inform consumption decisions.

• Community groups must be engaged, to enable them to create local solutions to local challenges—for example, through community sustainability forums.

• A ‘national clean energy corps’ could train the wider Australian community in clean energy.

**Targets**

• Targets can have value in giving expression to aspirations or goals and encouraging communities and individuals to change. They should not be absolute, though, because they need to take account of how national priorities change with time. We also need to be mindful that it is possible to have targets that could be seen to be mutually exclusive: for example a target to grow GDP at 3.5 per cent a year might conflict with reducing waste. The following are examples of targets discussed:

  - A common energy efficiency goal. A mandatory target or a voluntary energy efficiency target over and above the mandated target, to prompt further community action. We need, however, to be mindful of impacts on the emissions trading scheme

  - Clean energy targets. For example, it would be unacceptable to have new dirty-coal power stations

  - Renewable energy targets. These can be for base load solar energy generation, clean power stations, solar panels on every new house in Australia and installation of smart meters, as well as large underwater turbines to generate energy from renewable sources. A target of 50 per cent of energy to be derived from renewable sources by 2050

  - Carbon positive targets. For example, targeting an increase in forests to slow the growth of, and possibly reduce, global accumulated carbon emissions in the air.

• Once a target is set, we must focus on overcoming obstacles to achieving it.

**Transforming the economy**

• Harness our natural advantages: use the leverage of our mineral endowment (coal and liquefied natural gas) and our influence as a leading supplier.

• Households must understand the need for change and how to bring it about. Take people with us: this can’t be at an elite level. Everyone in Australia must participate, the community must be brought along. Every person must feel they can make a practical difference.

• The emissions trading scheme will be a potentially blunt instrument if consumers cannot choose to change that behaviour.

• Government has a central coordinating role to bring a cohesive approach to the response to climate change—to avoid counter productive competition between sectors.

• Sustainable growth and improved future prospects would be enhanced by utilising our natural capital.
One of the implications of climate change will be higher energy costs and a need to transform yet maintain lifestyles and standards of living. How do we assist low-income earners in this context? Discussion focused on:

- improving energy affordability every year from 2010 to 2020
- energy efficiency—for example, ‘green certificates’ for low-income earners, redeemable for household energy efficiency measures
- behaviour change and the importance of education at an early stage—junior and secondary level
- supporting consumers to choose to change their behaviour
- the need for broad community engagement and commitment—local sustainability forums, to discuss matters that affect people
- transport options
- clean energy targets versus targets on the use of energy from renewable sources.

The emissions trading scheme needs to be compatible with the available options and allow the community choice and an opportunity to actively participate.

Excise on coal exports could be used to reinvest in clean energy.

Mandatory fuel and energy efficiency targets.

Mandatory superannuation increased to 12 per cent, with the extra 3 per cent invested in clean energy projects.

Personal carbon budgets should be tradeable.

Global agreement and regional role

Australia should take a leading role in positively transforming society and the economy through being part of an ‘global effective agreement’. ‘A global effective agreement that avoids dangerous climate change internationally, with Australia following a trajectory which does our bit and also transforms our economy and society’. By 2020 Australia is delivering on a trajectory of emissions reductions embedded in an international set of commitments.

Australia could join with Indonesia and Papua New Guinea in a climate change agreement: assist their economies and facilitate their emission reductions.

Australia has a leadership mitigation role to play in the Asian region, politically and economically. It could have a significant influence in Asian mitigation: we need to be a technology test bed.

- ‘Man on the moon’—type targets and visions.
- Specific technology targets to drive it.
- A strategic supplier of clean energy for Asia.
- Facilitating transfer of technologies to Asia.
Research, science, technology and demonstration

- We need to strengthen and build our science research base, including fundamental climate science as well as applied science, and encourage an honoured place for the sciences and engineering.

- We need to devote adequate resources to technologies and approaches in which we have a natural advantage and a national interest. For example, we need to recognise the need for a clean coal solution. Incentives for the commercialisation and deployment of these technologies might be necessary.

- Consideration of an holistic technology response. For example, grouping carbon capture and storage with solar-powered transmission and transfer technologies.

- Superannuation could be scaled up, with the extra money going into clean technologies and obtaining energy from renewable sources.

Energy

- An energy efficiency theme is needed in transport, buildings and products.

- There was discussion about energy preferences and the need to recognise that there are advocates for and against all energy sources. For example, there are negative community views about wind as well as nuclear. We need to take care not to put a technology solution aside solely on the basis of community views. We need to have the same standards or criteria against which all technologies are assessed. And we should consider action in the broad context of ‘public acceptance’, along with cost and feasibility.

- It could be argued that it makes sense for Australia to produce all the energy in the world, if that is the cleanest way for the world to do it. This would drive per capita emissions up for Australia, but could lead to a better global outcome.

- Consider a flagship of two to three clean energy projects in areas of comparative advantage that engage Australia’s skills and national interest.

- Consider converting or replacing existing energy sources to clean energy, using agricultural and natural energy sources.

Renewable sources of energy

- We need a framework and infrastructure for opening up renewable energy resources.

- Higher use of renewable sources of energy, biofuels and biomass, recognition of natural resources’ role—vegetation and soils. Don’t leave natural sequestration out of the equation.

- Renewable energy targets are inadequate: we need to identify prospective technologies and pick winners.

- The Youth Summit called for all new energy sources to be renewable.

- Australia needs to develop solar technology. The market does not seem to want to do it, but technologies exist and the potential for employing solar technology is more accessible than that for wind sites.
• Deploy more resources so that we can gain an understanding of the potential for renewable energy sources to provide base load power—geothermal, solar and wave. We will need premature closure of coal power stations plus an efficient system for distributing that energy.

• By 2020 the biofuels industry should not compete with food and water production and usage, while re-energising rural Australia.

• Consider extending the Snowy Hydro scheme—backed by community engagement.

• A national transmission system under which connections to clean energy generators are free.

**Clean coal**

• By 2020 clean coal technology should be demonstrated with a successful Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle station, there has been a retrofit of carbon capture and storage technology, and there is an infrastructure project for sequestration.

• Well before 2020, there should be a public–private commitment to carbon capture and storage projects.

**Nuclear energy**

• It was stated by a participant that we need to recognise that nuclear energy will be part of the global solution but is unlikely to be part of Australia’s solution.

**Land use and transport**

• Transport, including an expanded public transport system, must be taken into account.

• Consider electrifying ground transport in south-eastern Australia—for example, electrified rail between Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney.

• Consider accelerating the turnover of the car fleet—recognising that you will need to support low-income earners, who often drive the furthest.

**Water**

The water group focused first on ambitions for 2020 and then the path to realising those ambitions. The ‘breakthrough idea’ concerned northern Australia, in relation to which the group strongly felt that water resources should be holistically managed—unlike in the Murray–Darling system—and that the lessons learned in the south should be taken up.

The following were among the themes to emerge from the discussion.

• Implement existing government commitments on water. Many of the initiatives being discussed were committed to by previous governments, but often not followed through.

• There is a need for participatory governance in relation to water, to engage the community in the allocation of water resources.

• Simplify and reform existing institutional and governance arrangements: there are too many layers of government and conflicts of interest in existing arrangements.

• Get the price right for all markets in water and carbon.
More data on, or research into, tropical water system conservation and sustainable use is needed. There is especially a need to better synthesise and analyse information into a better understanding about the different seasonal nature of tropical rivers.

Discussion on the points that underpinned their ambitions for water by 2020 was as follows.

**Water systems**

- There are sustainable allocations of water in all systems by 2020. Environmental flows are restored to the Murray River, including at its outlet.
- Groundwater storage and recovery should be better used to manage severe droughts and ensure continued supply.
- Development in northern Australia must avoid the export of problems and poor practices from southern Australia.
- There should be competitive private sector involvement in delivery and distribution systems.
- Plan to develop and grow where the water is, rather than delivering it across the country.
- Develop a climate-resilient water supply by diversifying water resources and investing in innovative infrastructure, technology and skills.
- Treat northern catchments as a unit, with a cooperative management plan for northern water and savannas, probably through a Council of Australian Governments agreement on northern development.
- Develop a national policy on rivers and their use, including damming. The aim would be to protect 100 free-flowing rivers by 2020, with strong federal government oversight.
- At least 30 per cent of natural flows must be restored to river systems.

**Urban water**

- The price of urban water could be used to balance supply and demand instead of using permanent urban water restrictions. Cutting back demand is not a long-term answer: we need to focus on supply and price signals.
- All major urban centres could derive a high percentage of their water from climate-resilient sources including re-use, noting that complete recycling is not always possible or desirable. This includes low-energy desalination, indirect potable recycled (purified recycled water) and stormwater re-use.
- By 2020, all water runoff should be captured by houses and reused on site, for non-potable purposes.
- Urban water utilities should be sustainable and carbon neutral.
- High percentage targets should be adopted for urban water supplies to derive their supplies from climate-resilient sources, including re-use.
Agriculture

- By 2020, the optimum footprint of irrigated agriculture should be determined to allow better management of the agricultural footprint. Food production is a crucial factor in the water debate.
- Intensive agriculture that manages water and energy efficiently and effectively should be encouraged.
- The $10 billion allocated to restore the Murray should result in twice the agricultural production for only half the amount of water, with the community engaged and common values recognised.
- One hundred per cent of nutrient-rich waste water from urban centres should be re-used in agriculture instead of being disposed of.
- Further institute ecosystem services payments to landholders to improve water quality on their land.
- Water trading could be accompanied by payments to farmers to upgrade water infrastructure.

Technology, innovation and investment

- Technology is important to solving our water problems. A key is to encourage investment in a range of solutions, and a pro-investment and innovation strategy is needed.
- To encourage investment in multiple water technologies and supply options, water pricing must be addressed.
- There is a need to turn climate change adaptation into an economic and environmental benefit through investment in innovative technology, including desalination, stormwater harvesting and recycling.
- The technologies adopted should be carbon neutral. There was concern that some technologies for desalination are too carbon intensive.
- Water infrastructure must be efficient throughout the system of capture, delivery and use—including appliances, pipes and water channels—and water leakage must be addressed.
- Water should be recycled many times and have multiple uses, with no single use by 2020.
- A 10-star standard for water efficiency should be implemented, with more minimum efficiency standards.
- Consider options for further private financing of infrastructure.

Data and accounting

- Water indices and data should be developed to better manage water, understand water issues and communicate this information to a broader media and community audience.
- Performance in the reform of water management needs to be measured against existing agreements, perhaps via a score card.
Water industry development

- By 2020, there should be improved capacity development in the water industry through improved multi-disciplinary education and training, with a particular focus on young people and professionals.
- There should be better dialogue facilitated between water professionals and climate and weather scientists to grow the knowledge base of the sector.

Indigenous engagement

- There needs to be greater recognition of Indigenous land resources and stewardship in the development of water resources—for example, through improved environmental stewardship payments that can assist in reducing passive welfare.
- Adopt a land and water stewardship role for Indigenous communities.

Governance

- Water needs to be treated as a strategic resource, the supply of which is variable and must be adjustable to climatic factors, whilst recognising that there are non-linear pathways for water use and that it should be used multiple times.
- Australia is richly endowed with water, although there is a need to use it creatively and wisely. A changed perception and discourse are required: we should stop using ‘averages’ for water measurement.
- It was noted that people in south-east Queensland have voluntarily reduced their water consumption, which was achieved through community engagement.
- Overall ownership and management of water infrastructure needs to be under public and government control, although water services can be privately provided.
- Fully implement water trading across the board, including between rural and urban areas, to ensure efficient allocations.
- Governments need to deliver on commitments already made.
- Because of the energy cost, water should be used in situ as far as possible and not be transported vast distances.
- We should not lose the advantage of low-energy water and should actually use it to generate small amounts of hydro-energy.
- Water planning needs to be flexible and based on the principles of diversification and decentralisation, with incentives for groups to engage in water self-sufficiency.
- The federal government should control the Murray–Darling Basin and override parochial state views with effective regulation of the river system.
- Water management needs to take account of the landscape involved, to simultaneously protect biodiversity. This could preserve the quality of water run-off within catchments.
Sustainability

The sustainability group focused on adaptation and the question of what do we do if the world does not come together to address sustainability. It realised the importance of considering the precautionary principle and that Australia’s biosystems may not be as resilient as we think they are.

The main themes reported were as follows:

- changing patterns of consumption: don’t just buy green, buy less. Price around the energy and broader ecological footprint implications of products
- using a variety of levers to affect changes in behaviour—for example, taxation, incentives (positive and negative) and regulation
- ownership of action: shared responsibility
- urgency
- can we wait for a sustainability revolution? Do we need an immediate intervention?

Areas for further research centred around better measurement of the scope and scale of issues and developing recommended institutional and data changes. Another urgent research priority was the development of technologies to address climate change and emissions reduction. The group considered that the scale of the problem requires innovative technology solutions, and these need to be deployed more rapidly.

The summary points were derived from discussions that covered the following:

- targets—zero footprint, measurement, and so on
- strategies—use of markets, incentives, pricing, getting the metrics right, and so on
- barriers to getting there—which includes markets, incentives and pricing
- building resilience in communities—capacity, education, equity, a better knowledge of risks and vulnerabilities.

A summary of the discussions that developed from considering these points follows.

Vision and leadership

- A vision of a sustainable Australia, integrating community, economy and environment, reducing impact and building resilience. Opportunity to maximise potential from the landscape and create new industries, new skills and other services that could be exported and form the basis of an ecosystem services–based economy.
- A national sustainability reform agenda, coming from a desire to rethink institutional arrangements. Reframe thinking to remember that the economy is a sub-set of society, which in turn is a sub-set of the environment.
- A zero-waste society: recycling may be key to reducing carbon emissions; penalise contributions to landfill; green credits for lower contributions to landfill. Can be a weapon against climate change. Addressing landfill emissions would have a significant impact on sustainability. Landfill trading schemes and carbon credits for avoided landfill would provide economic incentives for action.
• A Factor 10 strategy: reduce our impact by a factor of 10 by 2020 and support collaboration and cooperation by a factor of 10.

• The interconnectedness of life: climate, population and resource scarcity are all interdependent and need a holistic approach in actions. We need to value this interconnectedness and act now; the young want a safe climate and healthy ecosystems.

• A ‘war room’ response is required to encourage rapid technology development for low-emissions technology. We need to significantly increase R&D to respond to the challenge. The role of technology and supporting innovation to make step changes. The R&D cycle is too long for the urgency of the task at hand. We need to overcome the risk-averse market for technology development, perhaps through incentives.

• Tackle climate change as a priority: the precautionary principle. Australia is not as resilient as we think; we need to focus on the longer term—50 to 100 years—and then come back to practical actions which need to be taken now.

• Seek balanced environmental outcomes through an inclusive, involved, empowered society and institutions. Consideration of equity and impacts on the disadvantaged.

Planning, land use and urban design

• The savannah of northern Australia is integral to the future development of Australia. Any projects there need to be inclusive of Indigenous people, biodiversity conservation, and future community development needs.

• Consumers need to assert their purchasing power for six-star buildings.

• Shared development of the landscape: address cross-cutting issues in land development and use.

• Provision of ecosystem services: take this into account in planning and land use decisions.

• Building standards: aim for a major increase in ‘green buildings’ by 2020? If buildings represent around 23 per cent of emissions, then higher standards could have a significant impact on reducing demand for water, energy and materials.

• Recognise that land use other than for traditional food and fibre crops is valuable. For example, stewardship and diversification of livelihoods are equally valuable.

• An integrated approach to natural resource management: healthy rivers benefit all communities and the environment.

• We need to tackle the big sectors of transport and agriculture, to make significant gains in these areas in terms of energy efficiency, CO2 reduction and water conservation.

• Planning should concentrate on population settlements. Avoid coastal strip development, building on flood plains, and so on. Plan to avoid the ‘coastalisation’ of Australia.

• Developer responsibility should be encouraged in addition to a green building code or reform of Building Code of Australia.

• Manage waterways from source to sea.

• Recognise and reward contributions to the provision of ecosystem services.

• Pay for environmental stewardship and encourage sustainable farming practices.
**Incentives, signals and targets**

- Cooperation policy versus competition policy.
- Technological innovation—’necessity is the mother of invention’.
- What signals can be developed to lead to an outcome where environmental and social impacts outweigh economic impacts? What are the top 10 to 20 sustainability indicators?
- The role of targets and measurement: measuring leads to better valuation and pricing, which can lead to realignment of values and priorities.
- Square off sustainability with economic and social agendas: measure it, price externalities in ecosystem services.
- The role of price signals to redress over-consumption: we need to improve valuations and get the market working better to encourage appropriate valuation. Demand-side management can tackle untapped opportunities for energy, waste, water and resource consumption. We need to address market failures.
- Adequately resource Indigenous land management arrangements and recognise them as legitimate players in caring for country.
- We need new approaches to build community recognition of biodiversity and cultural and community values and also to create revenue streams that will endow those communities for the future.
- Community consciousness needs to be built to demand green buildings, clean energy, and so on.
- Tax reform: examine where changes in tax might drive behavioural change—for example, novated leases on cars and Fringe Benefits Tax, reform research and development tax concessions to focus on sustainability. Devote defined government revenue streams to sustainability projects—for example, from carbon tax, and so on, to support innovation in sustainability. Tax to drive behavioural change, appropriate pricing. Tax structures to raise revenue for sustainability initiatives—for example, conservation farming, plant and animal species preservation and landscape restoration.
- Align economic levers to remove perverse incentives.
- Target to be a lead exporter of sustainability technologies and services.
- Explicitly link environment, productivity, innovation and competitiveness agendas.
- Sustainability ambassadors could be deployed at the local level to help promote knowledge sharing and encourage sustainable behaviours.
- There could be a suite of national sustainability indicators.

**Institutions**

- There could be a Sustainability Commission (or equivalent) to review tax and planning, monitor progress and implement a national sustainability and climate change policy. It could also be the body that administers an independent carbon bank, monitors productivity, and so on. It could become the alternative machinery of a new economy and provide equivalent services to current economy-driven institutions. It could include social and environmental dimensions in equal measure.
Information and education

- Education is vital to positive action: everyone needs to be better informed to change behaviour, and action must be backed up by incentives and sanctions.

- Regular company reporting of sustainability indicators: a low-cost option could be to mandate triple bottom-line accounting for companies, using ‘balancing act’ methodology—developed by the University of Sydney and CSIRO—to map resource inputs and areas of wastage in different sectors. Additional information could be gained using existing company registers and making sure everyone is using the same standard for reporting.

- We need to engage and empower people, perhaps through better information and accountability mechanisms to reduce their consumption: indices that mean something and are regularly updated. An energy balance label on appliances is more helpful than just energy efficiency.

- Measuring, mapping and managing risk: we need to check if current systems should be adapted and changed; don’t perpetuate current management systems if they are not working.

- Accurate measurement is a dilemma: measuring the wealth of the nation should also include natural and human assets.

- Natural disasters cost our society in both economic and social terms. Australia made the top 10 in the global disasters list in 2007. There is value in extensive preparation and design of infrastructure for resilience, not just rebuilding vulnerabilities after an event.

- We need to understand Australia’s environment better—how our natural systems work and where wastage is occurring. Introduce incentives in legislation for waste abatement and resource conservation.

- We need to bring all aspects of society along, and don’t leave low-income or disadvantaged groups behind.

- Communicating carbon intensity across products: removing high-intensity ones, a green tick for quick decisions, standard across the supply chain.

- We need to ensure that sustainability is affordable and that people understand how to make sustainable choices.

- Getting sufficiently qualified people in the right areas and improving the quality of the curriculum are essential.

- Developing a national campaign for environmental education or at least some aspects—for example, sustainable consumption and water and energy reductions. It will require nationwide, consistent messages and could be supported by curriculum change to encourage sustainability education. This would be complemented by a ‘green schools’ building program.

- An environmental hub concept: a one-stop shop for information on availability, labelling, accessing and adoption of sustainable technologies. This could be run out of local councils or government shopfronts and be supported by a phone hotline for quick advice.

- Using an ‘eco-warrior’ concept to better educate and engage people in relation to environmental matters, choices, and so on.

- Amalgamating data from the natural resource management council or regional level to the state and national levels, as well as more broadly in a region.
• Building the skills base in and knowledge of sustainable farming and promote the value of stewardship.

• Educating the ‘white’ population on Indigenous culture and traditional knowledge and then harness the intellect of all to solve sustainability challenges. The global network of Indigenous peoples who share knowledge and discuss emerging concerns could act as a model for collaboration.

• Sustainability Intervention: go to regions, diagnose problems and develop plans for action. Quarantine payments until action is taken. Need to prevent ‘Crimes against sustainability’: for example, clearing of the Western Australian Wheat Belt is now costing millions of dollars in repairs and lost productivity. We need to make sure that this does not happen in northern Australia. Intervention for the national benefit: part of a rebuilding and refocusing initiative.

• Considering curriculum change: sustainability education for adults in organisations, not just aiming at schoolchildren.

• A ‘green card’ for company directors and professionals, making sure decision makers are educated in sustainability, ensuring engagement across the community.

Culture

• Culture-based economics: get society to recognise and value sustainability; make it meaningful within Australian culture.

• A green or sustainability revolution: green-collar jobs, a new range of employment options, replacing payroll tax with carbon tax. A sustainability intervention: time to dictate actions across local government, institutions, and so on.

• Acknowledging the social context of community sustainability and value Indigenous knowledge more highly.

• We need to look outwards as well as inward: lessons are to be learnt from other countries and cultures?

Biodiversity

• A sustainable northern Australia: some of the world’s last vestiges of pristine environment are in northern Australia and need to be protected. We need an inclusive and distinct vision for northern Australia, recognising the Indigenous peoples, stewardship of the land and sea, biodiversity conservation, and future community development needs.

• Biodiversity banking: threatened species legislation is not working effectively; we need to have banked the biodiversity before developments occur—build in incentives for a zero-based footprint by developers.

• Environmental stewardship: ensure that the agricultural sector and broader community value this. It is important to link with Indigenous activity. We need to recognise the value of biodiversity conservation in all landscapes, not just in protected areas.

• Given that we are already losing species due to land clearing and diverting environmental water flows, we should not use lack of measurement as the excuse for not taking action now. Valuation may be the key to taking action.

• Developing links between community and country in upholding biodiversity values.
• The extinction crisis: we need a strategy for giving plants and animals the best chance of survival. We are dependent on ecosystem services, so a target of 20 per cent in protected areas by 2020 is desirable.

• A zero-footprint society: changes and offsets for biodiversity restoration. Sustainability is an inclusive concept.

• Consider extended producer responsibility through legislation to redress wastage at the end of life—particularly for electronic goods.

Population and cities

The primary questions posed to the group considering populations and cities were, what would Australia look like in this regard if we succeeded in achieving our top two or three ambitions and what are the areas of change in order to reach that future? For example, there were questions about cities and population and how to accommodate population and economic growth with a lower ecological footprint—the comment was made, ‘how can you be fat and slim at the same time?’ This has implications for urban design, including transport infrastructure, systems and homes. There was also a debate about the definition of ‘cities’ and whether this meant only capital cities or also regional centres.

A number of themes were developed in the discussion:

• Planning for sustainable cities—goal and target setting. A need for new governance arrangements at a national level.

• Transport and infrastructure investment.

• Policy for population and consumption—increased population and reduced net sustainability impacts.

• Education: capacity building in research and collaboration, and public education and awareness campaigns.

Some of the other discussion was around the following topics.

Vision and leadership

• Identification of the challenges and opportunities leading to 2020 to drive a sustainable urban future which can accommodate growth and change whilst not increasing our ecological footprint.

• In pursuit of an urban future.

• Climate-proofing low-income households.

• National leadership on population policy, sustainable cities policy, and building standards and codes. Need to re-engage at the national level.

• By 2020 there should be a National Sustainable Population and Consumption Policy—developed by a new Population Council—that emphasises how we move people, is driven by measurement metrics that are clear and verifiable, and ensures that cities are connected by information technology as an alternative to transport.
Population and migration

- There should be free and open discussion of the subjects of cities and population. Population is a lateral theme and was often mentioned in public submissions. There was broad agreement on the need for a population policy but that that would not be resolved at the summit.

- There was a question about whether we must agree on Australia’s population size first, before we can deal with other concerns. The population should grow, continuing at a record rate to 25 million.

- A sustainable level of population depends on our lifestyle choices. Do we have the ability to sustain more people?

- Reference was made to the 1994 House of Representatives’ inquiry that looked at the need for a national population policy. It was argued that we have never had a debate about a sustainable population, and the topic also came late to the Council of Australian Governments agenda.

- Given that we live in a global economy, Australia’s ability to control its population through migration is limited. The (permanent) Migration Program is small compared with temporary migration. Should we consider unskilled migration? Should we be more generous about immigration?

- It is not the number of people that matters; it is about the footprint per head.

- We need to consider Australia’s role in accepting climate change refugees.

- We need to look short, medium (2020) and long (2050) term as an approach to population growth and sustainability.

- We need a complete review of immigration policy. We should look at the potential that immigrants have, rather then the skill set they bring to Australia now. Policy would be enshrined in international human rights law.

Climate-proofing the economy

- Climate-proof 1 million low-income households in the next 12 years, including through low energy use (electricity-based) and low water use. This would be done through the provision of infrastructure such as compact fluorescent light globes and grass-roots education.

- Consider introducing a range of legislative mechanisms that require zero impact on the environment by 2020.

- Consider a range of privately and publicly funded incentives to cap emissions from all buildings and homes by 2020.

- Engaging businesses by finding ways of decoupling economic growth from consumption: move from buying to hiring, for instance. Examples are pianos and other major cost items, as well as utilities.

Sustainable cities

- Cities must give everybody a fair go. Transport, recreation and culture must be linked in with prosperity. Jobs, education, affordable housing. This allows a platform for city prosperity.

- Significant regulatory change is required for appropriate cities planning at the national level. There should be national targets or objectives for urban development and planning standards. Targets also need to be set and achieved for particular building types.

- Establishing a national sustainable cities policy with specific Ministerial responsibility.
• All decision making and policy setting on nationally sustainable cities to be achieved through a Council of Australian Governments review, supported by a Sustainable Cities Commission, which examines national and state-based urban planning against sustainability indicators.

• Sustainability indicators could be triggers for federal recycling of funding through emissions allocation options into areas where so far, there has been public policy failure—public transport was cited as an example.

**Education and information**

• A national campaign for households on how to save energy and lower energy use.

• A higher education requirement to instil sustainability knowledge and skills in every sector.

• Establishing an Institute for Sustainable Cities, modelled on the Australia and New Zealand School of Government, which is a distributed model that coordinates knowledge and expertise within government and educational institutions at the national level.

• Commonwealth–state collaboration on a national education campaign to explain the benefits of a reduced carbon footprint, looking to the European models of diversity rather than North American.

**Governance and accountability**

• A National Population Council would set levels of immigration but would bring every topic in, not just immigration. For example, it would also look at related housing, energy, environment, education and training factors, and it would take the politics out of the population and immigration dialogue.

• The federal government to be accountable and report on a range of legislative, regulatory and policy decisions.

• The federal government to take leadership in population and city planning and policy. The first step would be a review of all existing legislation, including an assessment of what is currently in place and what is needed for the future.

• There should be a legislative requirement that all new policies have a sustainability impact statement—the impact on wellbeing and sustainability, linked to education. The benefit of impact statements was, however, questioned by a number of participants because current cabinet impact statements do not inform policy decision making.

• Scepticism about establishing new institutions to tackle existing problems: it is dangerous to identify problems and establish institutions around them.

• Do we have a system of governance in Australia that allows us to make good decisions about sustainability? We need a place-based system of governments. We need city governments with regional governments—unlike what we have at the moment, based on state boundaries that are artificial.

• We need to decentralise facilities, including government departments. Cities have so far been created in the image of Westfield shopping centres.
Transport: road and rail, public and private

- Remodel the way government looks at its land transport funding. Put money into public transport infrastructure, rather than roads. Examine the introduction of a congestion tax as a longer term goal, although it was recognised that you need to properly fund transport infrastructure before you can set a congestion charge on cars.
- There is an urgent need to invest in passenger and freight rail and stop reliance on road transport.

Sustainability and our ecological footprint

- Questions of sustainability are social and ethical as well as economic. The Commonwealth and the states and territories should collaborate on tax and other measures that discourage the use of energy waste in transport and set clear goals for reducing our dependence on carbon dioxide emitting activities and technologies.
- We could have an ambition for our population to increase but for there to be no increase in our ecological footprint.
- To have the most sustainable cities in the world, we may need new policies to include a sustainability impact assessment or an intergenerational impact statement: An Asia-Pacific Institute for Sustainable Cities or independent national Sustainability Commission.
- An ambition for Australia: to be a world leader in sustainable urban design.
- How to define ‘sustainability’? Does it refer to ecological sustainability or is it used in the wider sense of the triple bottom line—economic, social and environmental?
- Identify key national sustainability targets and measurable performance indicators.

Buildings and urban design

- It was argued that building is where market failure is happening. We need to create awareness of the role of the building sector: it is not in the Garnaut review. Reforms will deliver health and productivity benefits and drive skills and jobs growth, including opportunities overseas.
- Cities should become car unfriendly—a less consumerist society.
- Waste reduction: make people and organisations responsible for the resources they use.
- Ambition to have the most liveable and sustainable cities in the world.
- Need for more ‘know-how’ on sustainable living, especially at universities.
- Cities with minimal impact and moving to self-sufficiency in resources. Past zero impact; heading to positive impact.
- Adaptable housing, denser cities.
- A broad-scale upgrade of existing housing stock and standards on new housing.
- People valuing green infrastructure and setting targets.
- Australia could generate income through the advice on sustainability it provides to other countries.
- All new buildings have emissions and water performance measures.
• Energy and water efficiency retrofit when buildings change hands.

• Endorsing the report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage Inquiry on Sustainable Cities, which was released in 2005.

• Developing an Australian Sustainability Charter with a Sustainability Commissioner.

• Creating a Commonwealth Network on sustainability to build capacity and develop understanding.

_Equity_

• We need to look at the impact of changes on low-income households.

• Ambitions to reduce ecological footprints need to take account of disadvantaged people progressively increasing their consumption to become less disadvantaged.

_Youth Summit_

A delegate from the Youth Summit provided input to the Sustainability stream’s full stream session. The main ambitions and concerns put to other stream participants were:

• Act now on climate change, loss of biodiversity and water scarcity.
  - On 18 April 2008 representatives from Australia’s 20 biggest youth organisations signed a petition to express their concern.
  - Over 80 per cent of submissions to the school summits held around Australia were about climate change and sustainability.

• Hold people accountable for the decisions made.

• ‘Think global, act local’.

• Help people to know what they can do to act now to respond to climate change.
Future directions for rural industries and rural communities

Co-chairs:
Mr Tim Fischer AC
The Honourable Tony Burke MP

Lead Facilitator:
Dr Graeme Simsion
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OVERVIEW

The Future Directions for Rural Industries and Rural Communities stream brought together close to 100 Australians whose common objective was to promote a better social, economic and environmentally sustainable future for remote, rural and regional Australia. Before the summit the stream participants were asked to consider the following questions:

- Who will the future generation of farmers be?
- What can be done to better enable rural and regional economies to thrive?
- What can be done to maximise land use productivity while simultaneously minimising land degradation?
- How can we extend the lessons learned from a generation of land care programs?
- What are the options for dealing with increasing areas of marginally productive land?
- What support do farmers need in order to prepare for climate change while ensuring that Australia remains agriculturally productive in 2020?

The challenges and ideas raised by the stream participants reflect those communities and industries in remote, rural and regional Australia—they are diverse, wide-ranging, and well-disposed to the making of improvements.

Looking ahead to 2020, stream participants identified a wide variety of challenges that could be tackled in future efforts to support Australia’s remote, rural and regional communities:

- Participants expressed deep concern that urban Australia mostly holds a negative perception that is thought to be inhibiting remote, rural and regional Australia.
- In remote, rural and regional Australia itself, stream participants widely agreed that access to services and physical and social infrastructure lacked overall parity with urban Australia.
- For remote, rural and regional Australia to both maintain its activities and to grow successfully, it also needs a sustainable natural resource base. Participants recognised that farming is integrally linked to the natural environment and that action is needed to help ‘the practitioners to become the greatest advocates’ of environmentally sustainable practices.
- Acknowledging that farmers are the principal landholders in Australia, participants felt there should be rewards for maintenance and improvement of the environment whilst also observing that there could be opportunities for remote, rural and regional Australia to use its natural resource base to contribute to Australia’s responses to climate change.
- New research and development, particularly its on-ground extension (that is, learning activities organised for rural professionals from different disciplines to encourage innovation), was deemed critical to effective adaptation to and achievement of the broad array of environmental, productivity and services challenges.
- Participants thought the ability of remote, rural and regional Australia to competitively gain access to, connect with and supply products to other parts of the nation, as well as the world, was constrained by deficits in infrastructure and unnecessary regulatory burdens. The challenge of providing improved infrastructure and new technology in the areas of transport, communication, education and water for remote, rural and regional Australia is considered a crucial priority for improving productivity and efficiencies and taking advantage of new opportunities.
• Capacity to deal with change at both a business and individual level needs to be enhanced in rural and regional Australia. All levels of education need attention, especially in the area of sustainable food, fibre and environmental services at a tertiary level. Improved capacity will enable change in other areas such as research and development and economic growth to improve options in rural communities.

These challenges emerge from and underpin the discussions detailed throughout this chapter.

PROCESS

Discussions began with the co-chairs of the stream offering some participants the opportunity to give a one-minute presentation on the one big idea that they had brought to the summit. Following this introductory session, participants were able to choose to be involved in one of four sub-groups:

- agriculture
- rural communities
- infrastructure
- small to medium enterprises, tourism, and research and development.

Every individual then had the opportunity to give a one-minute presentation to their sub-group on the big idea they had brought to the summit as well as the 2020 outcome they hoped would be achieved should their idea be implemented. Within each sub-group the various ideas offered by participants were grouped together where there was alignment, and these grouped ideas were reported back to stream participants. All ideas were then ranked to determine the level of support for each.

The co-chairs drew on the collective ideas to identify an overarching ambition and five priority themes that were subsequently discussed by the groups. Some of these discussions were encapsulated in a final presentation by the co-chairs to all summit participants at the closing plenary session, detailed in the co-chairs’ initial report. All key discussions and ideas are further detailed in this chapter.

OUTCOMES AND IDEAS

The agriculture sub-group

**Outcome: improve our ability to service our domestic and global food and fibre markets**

The outcome sought is to improve—through harmonisation of regulation and coherence of policy—remote, rural and regional Australia’s ability to service its domestic and global food and fibre markets in a responsible way.

The main ideas for achieving this outcome were as follows.

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<td>4.1</td>
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4.3 A lessening of the regulation costs imposed on the food processing sector.

4.4 Streamlining the regulation of water markets.

4.5 Provision of matching government incentives under ‘mutual obligation partnerships’ for activities that deliver broad community benefits for remote, rural and regional Australia.

**Outcome: productivity and applied research and development**

The outcome sought is for Australian agriculture to achieve an annual total factor productivity improvement of 3.5 per cent by 2020.

The main ideas for achieving this outcome were as follows.

**IDEAS**

4.6 Agreement on what the ‘drivers’ of productivity are by a broad range of stakeholders, so the drivers can then be benchmarked and measured. Each driver would require a government action agenda to facilitate industry improvement and to deliver progress.

4.7 Integrated research, development and extension for adaptation to climate change, to streamline and integrate investments across institutions (such as at CSIRO, government departments).

4.8 Removal of current impediments to adjustment—namely government subsidies that prevent the adjustment required to grow resilient businesses, both intellectual and economic.

**Outcome: sustainability within Australia’s resource constraints**

The outcome sought is seamless integration of agricultural production and natural resource management practices and policies. This was expressed by one of the participants: ‘Our 2020 farm would be highly productive and produce a variety of products; the producer would also be paid for wetland conservation and carbon sequestration; it would be resilient to climate change; and it would be supplying energy to the national grid’. Investing in integrated research and development is crucial to achieving this outcome.

The main ideas for achieving this outcome were as follows.

**IDEAS**

4.9 Management of farms with inputs different from those currently used so as to achieve new outputs—for example, carbon sequestration.

4.10 Creation of a new national body, which could notionally be called a Landscape and Carbon Commission, to implement national policy, research and development, ecosystem programs and the governance of associated markets, and coordination of regional delivery of programs and extension.
**Outcome: food security**

The outcome sought is ‘development of a national food security plan for Australia.

The main ideas for achieving this outcome were as follows.

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.11 Establishment of a government unit to consider national and global food security matters and develop and implement new policies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.12 Examination of projected national food demands and the production systems required to enable sufficient food production to continue to be achieved within Australia’s environmental and resource constraints.</td>
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<td>4.13 Promotion of healthy food to tackle societal problems such as obesity and measures that ensure human capital is retained in remote, rural and regional Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.14 Future policy being careful not to create food shortages by providing more favourable incentives for agriculture to participate in carbon markets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.15 Assessment of the crucial role of honey bee pollination in food production and adequate support for the honey bee industry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.16 Implementation of safeguards and building of industry capacity to preserve the genetic diversity of our plants and animals, including protection from exotic disease incursions through biosecurity measures.</td>
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**Outcome: a vision for rural Australia**

Two outcomes were sought in relation to the vision for rural Australia: an improved relationship between consumers and producers on the management of natural resources in the production of food; and Australian producers being trusted producers of food, fibre, environmental services and shelter.

The main ideas for achieving these outcomes were as follows.

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<tr>
<td>4.17 Gaining consumer trust through the pursuit of sustainable production.</td>
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<td>4.18 That the federal agriculture portfolio be transformed into a ‘ministry for food, fibre, environmental services and shelter’ to better reflect the products remote, rural and regional Australia provides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.19 A willingness on the part of consumers to pay more for sustainably produced food.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 4.20 ‘Each child should be required to produce a real or virtual primary product’ in order to better understand its origin and appreciate the effort and resources needed to produce it.
**Outcome: rural promotion**

The outcome sought is the creation of a strategy document that underpins promotional activities on what remote, rural and regional Australia is all about and the opportunities that it offers.

The main ideas for achieving this outcome concerned development or enhancement of the attributes that would be promoted, as follows.

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**Outcome: finance and investment**

The outcome sought was expressed thus: ‘By 2020, to build a globally successful and vibrant agricultural industry using Australia’s natural endowment and talented human resources to supply our growing world markets’.

The main ideas for achieving this outcome were as follows.

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</table>
The communities sub-group

**Outcome: connected individuals and communities**

The outcome sought is the creation of vibrant remote, rural and regional communities to which people are drawn.

The main ideas for achieving this outcome were as follows.

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**Outcome: labour**

The outcome sought is the attraction of labour to remote, rural and regional Australia, including the development and retention of skilled people.

The main ideas for achieving this outcome were as follows.

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Outcome: parity of access

The outcome sought is parity of access for remote, rural and regional Australians to a wide range of the nation’s services and resources.

The main ideas for achieving this outcome were as follows.

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.45 Establishment of a rural social inclusion board.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.46 A Productivity Commission audit to examine parity of access between urban and remote, rural and regional Australia to quality health, education, housing, transport and social services as well as other community services and professional resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.47 Enactment of a ‘charter of parity on essential services for remote, rural and regional Australia’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.48 An ‘easy entry, gracious exit’ approach to non-hospital health facilities, which could be owned by bodies such as local governments or divisions of general practice and staffed by those bodies and individual general practitioners.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outcome: education and training

The outcome sought is a renaissance of remote, rural and regional Australian communities.

The main ideas for achieving this outcome were as follows.

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.49 Establishment of a mentoring exchange program between urban and remote, rural and regional Australia that targets students, trainees, young people, professionals and business people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.50 Showcasing of remote, rural and regional communities by way of promotional drives—could be called ‘the Bush Blitz’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.51 Funding of change management and leadership programs in remote, rural and regional Australia and development of a national strategy for rural education that establishes a ‘tertiary access allowance’ and certain waivers against higher education loans for remote, rural and regional students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.52 Tertiary graduates having their higher education loan debts reduced by seeking voluntary or paid employment in remote, rural and regional areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.53 Expansion of scholarship schemes to cover further education and other accredited training for remote, rural and regional students, trainees and apprentices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.54 Expansion of online education in tertiary and secondary schools to ensure that courses are accessible to remote, rural and regional people via virtual classrooms, online tutors and mentors, e-learning tele-education centres, and better use of hard infrastructure such as ‘school buildings for out-of-school-time use’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.55 Government funding to establish a national body for remote, rural and regional education.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.56 Conducting comprehensive physical assessments of all remote, rural and regional children aged 4 years to ensure early detection of potential behavioural and learning difficulties before the children start school.

4.57 Case conferencing with school teachers and health professionals to better meet the needs of children at school with conditions that impair their learning.

**Outcome: positive image**

The outcome sought is a positive image of remote, rural and regional Australia.

The main ideas for achieving this outcome were as follows.

**IDEAS**

4.58 Supporting communities in developing their own social and marketing strategies to facilitate the relocation of people from urban Australia to remote, rural and regional areas.

4.59 Development of tourism opportunities.

4.60 Development of a national marketing strategy that promotes agriculture and rural careers as rewarding compared with other career structures and other advantages such as affordable living and diversity of enterprise.

4.61 The hope of attracting people from urban to remote, rural and regional areas was encapsulated by one of the participants through the following anecdote: ‘Over 40 years ago I was a city convert relocating to the middle of nowhere to start my own pastoral enterprise, and I know that there are so many city converts yet to be converted. This is my dream and vision—that we reverse the drift, revitalise the bush, because the outback is the heart of the nation’.

**Outcome: standardisation of regulation and services**

The outcome sought is standardisation of regulation and service provision across Australia.

The main ideas for achieving this outcome were as follows.

**IDEAS**

4.62 Policy making at the local and regional level.

4.63 Abolition of state governments, with them being replaced by regional provinces, as outlined in the 1920 Australian Labor Party regional provinces map (see Figure 4.1).

4.64 A requirement that a rural impact assessment be carried out for all new policy measures.

4.65 Introduction of a long-term stewardship incentive scheme for private landowners for the provision of ecosystem services.

4.66 Development of a national policy and strategy to promote a profitable remote, rural and regional Australia.

4.67 The conduct of research into the most efficient way of moving water around Australia.

4.68 Development of a website (with a mail-out version for those without internet access) that provides an illustrative map of Australia that progressively charts climate change impacts.
4.69 Establishment of a national system for registration of medical professionals.

4.70 An upgrade of the Pacific Highway to dual carriageway along its entire route.

The infrastructure sub-group

**Outcome: new and upgraded rail infrastructure**

The outcome sought is a national transport system that provides a competitive advantage for all businesses in remote, rural and regional Australia.

The main idea for achieving this outcome was as follows.

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<tr>
<td>4.71 Immediate and sustained investment in Australia's intramodal and intermodal transport systems, targeting rail as the short-term imperative.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outcome: regional development**

The outcome sought is development of comprehensive infrastructure that is able to service production and supply chain enterprises in all parts of remote, rural and regional Australia.

The main ideas for achieving this outcome were as follows.

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<tr>
<td>4.72 Development of locally appropriate regional infrastructure that is informed by an enterprise service strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.73 Creation of economic zones that are underpinned by tax incentives, including measures that allow for accelerated depreciation, income splitting and allowances for access to education, health and housing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.74 Incentives for private sector investment; government provision of infrastructure in northern Australia—particularly water-related infrastructure—to facilitate further development of the agriculture, mining and other sectors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.75 Use of geothermal energy to pump water from northern to southern Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.76 Protection of infrastructure and investments from natural and human-induced disasters through government provision of multi-peril insurance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.77 Upgrading and building of new national highways interconnecting remote, rural and regional Australia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outcome: harmonisation of national regulation, licensing and standards**

The outcome sought is harmonisation of national regulation, licensing and standards that govern surface transport and agriculture and food production.
Participants said that significant border anomalies exist for trucking and there are several areas of different rules and requirements, adding to accident potential and inefficiency:

- different ‘fatigue management’ rules between states, including a 16-hour driving out limit in some states versus a 15-hour limit in others
- different rules applying to ‘modular B triple combination’ modern truck units
- mass limits or HML vary, most notably with New South Wales imposing a 3-tonne lower limit than Queensland on the same trucks using the same designated category roads
- performance-based standards once obtained in one state do not apply nationwide
- low loaders face a costly and cumbersome set of variations from state to state and in the Northern Territory
- critical differences in width and height of loads (for example, for hay bales and industrial loads) across the states.

The main ideas for achieving greater harmonisation were as follows.

**IDEAS**

4.78 The Commonwealth making incentive payments to state governments in line with their progress with reform. Significant progress should be achieved within 12 months, with further progress built on each year until 2020.

4.79 Abolition of the states and territories and their replacement with amalgamated regional councils, which could potentially be modelled off the 1920 Australian Labor Party regional provinces map—see Figure 4.1.

Figure 4.1  Australia as 31 provinces

Source: Australian Labor Party (1920).
Outcome: a work and skills program for foreign workers

The outcome sought is to redress the workforce and skills shortages in remote, rural and regional Australia.

The main idea for achieving this outcome was as follows.

IDEA

4.80 Establishment of a workforce and skills program that enables foreign workers to come to remote, rural and regional Australia for up to two years, to work under an Australian industry instrument.

Outcome: training and mobility

The outcome sought was expressed as: ‘By 2020 all remote, rural and regional Australians will no longer be disadvantaged in their educational opportunities and outcomes when compared with their metropolitan counterparts’. This outcome would assist with the attraction and retention of a well-trained workforce in remote, rural and regional Australia.

The main ideas for achieving this outcome were as follows.

IDEAS

4.81 Provision of clear educational pathways and partnerships for young people to gain access to quality educational and vocational outcomes locally.
4.82 Incentives for education and training such as reduced higher education loan debts.
4.83 Business and tax incentives such as reduced income tax rates.
4.84 Incentives targeted at recruiting and retaining health and education professionals in remote, rural and regional Australia.
4.85 Improved professional development opportunities.
4.86 Increased access to technology.

The sub-group dealing with small-to-medium enterprises, tourism and research and development

Outcome: education and awareness

Two outcomes were sought: that every Australian understands the primary role of remote, rural and regional Australia for the production of food, energy, water, environment and security benefits; and improved consistency in the delivery of research outcomes.
The main ideas for achieving these outcomes were as follows.

**IDEAS**

4.87 Provide education on research and development results, including on-the-ground extension.

4.88 Inclusion of rural studies in a compulsory national education curriculum.

4.89 Long-term funding for research, including its extension, that goes beyond the current short-term bidding cycles.

4.90 Funding for the delivery of research extension services through application of a tiered levy on agricultural product customers such as supermarket retailers—and applied so that the levy cannot be passed on to consumers.

4.91 Investigation of the likely impacts of climate change on remote, rural and regional Australia as well as the likely adaptation requirements.

4.92 Facilitation of further community debate on the use of biotechnology in the production of food.

**Outcome: empowerment**

The outcome sought is an empowered remote, rural and regional Australia that is itself supportive of and recognised for sustainable primary industries, business, tourism and social capital.

The main ideas for achieving this outcome were as follows.

**IDEAS**

4.93 Establishment of interactive learning centres of excellence, which could be provided by satellite technology to allow high-quality education and training relevant to any field of expertise to be ‘zoomed in’ to remote, rural and regional communities.

4.94 Facilitation of local 2020 summits to empower communities and to inform the development of regional prospectuses to guide future development and support bids for funding.

**Outcome: successful and diverse remote, rural and regional economies**

The outcome sought is the achievement of successful and diversified remote, rural and regional economies that produce new opportunities for investment, generate employment and attract new residents.

The main ideas for achieving this outcome were as follows.

**IDEAS**

4.95 Creation of a ‘flying business-mentoring squad’ of successful business people who volunteer their time—say, 12 days a year—to provide business and management coaching on the ground to small to medium businesses in remote, rural and regional Australia.

4.96 Creation of an online regional business network, funded through advertising revenue, that offers online discussion, the exchange of ideas, sharing of resources and a job-matching service.

4.97 Development of a national renewable energy policy that is focused on providing investment opportunities and associated benefits for remote, rural and regional Australia.
KEY IDEAS

After the four sub-groups had presented their ideas the stream participants scored the ideas using a scale of one to five, with one indicating strong disagreement and five indicating strong support. The scoring did not reveal any single idea with consistently low support; the majority of ideas recorded a high level of overall support.

The following ideas received the greatest degree of support from stream participants.

**IDEAS**

- Harmonisation of national regulation, licensing and standards that govern surface transport and agricultural production
- Seamless integration of agricultural production and natural resource management practices and policy—including creation of a new national body that could notionally be called a Landscape and Carbon Commission.
- A strategy for removing the barriers and providing incentives to gain access to quality education services for remote, rural and regional Australia.
- Attraction and retention of a well-trained workforce in remote, rural and regional Australia via the provision of clear educational pathways and partnerships for young people to gain access to quality educational and vocational outcomes locally; incentives for education and training such as reduced higher education loan debts; business and tax incentives such as reduced income tax rates; incentives aimed at recruiting and retaining health and education professionals; improvement of professional development opportunities; and increased access to technology.
- Immediate and sustained investment in Australia’s intramodal and intermodal transport systems, targeting rail as the short-term imperative.
- A joint government and privately funded national program to provide investment in water infrastructure in Australia’s established and underdeveloped agricultural regions.
- An improvement in the relationship between consumers and producers of food, including each child being required to produce a real or virtual primary product in order to better understand its origin and appreciate the effort and resources needed to produce it.
- A renaissance in remote, rural and regional communities via a mentoring program between urban and remote, rural and regional Australia that targets students, trainees, youth, professionals and business people and the showcasing of remote, rural and regional communities by way of promotional ‘Bush Blitz’ drives.

4.98 In the face of pressures from lower rainfall and corporatisation of farms, special effort needs to be made in remote, rural and regional Australia to facilitate new entrants into tourism business and to support tourism product development.

4.99 Provide greater opportunities for local and artisanal food and wine production to support local and national tourism industries.
Development of a national food security plan for Australia’s national security—including an examination of projected national food demand and the production systems that would be needed to allow sufficient food production to continue to be achieved within Australia’s environmental and resource constraints—and introduction of appropriate safeguards and the building of industry capacity to preserve the genetic diversity of our plants and animals and protect them from exotic disease incursions through biosecurity measures.

Removal of the requirement for public liability insurance for community groups, to enable them to hold functions and social events, which are often ‘the life blood of rural communities’, so as to create vibrant remote, rural and regional communities to which people are drawn.

Establishment of interactive learning centres of excellence, which could be provided by satellite technology to allow high-quality education and training relevant to any field of expertise to be ‘zoomed in’ to remote, rural and regional communities.

A skills audit of remote, rural and regional areas to identify labour and skills shortages and provision of training opportunities in communities where there are labour and skills shortages.

AMBITIONS

The co-chairs of the stream drew on the groups’ collective ideas, as detailed, to distil an overall 2020 ambition, which was as follows:

The development of strategies for fostering food security and the future sustainability and productivity of remote, rural and regional Australia has been the focus of the Future Directions for Rural Industries and Rural Communities stream’s discussions. The group identified two challenges of particular importance in developing such strategies: first, building on the strengths and contributions of our remote, rural and regional communities; and second, the development of strategies for the efficient provision of infrastructure and services outside our cities.

It is, however, relevant to note that there were many ambitions advanced within this discussion stream. For example, this ambition received strong support: ‘Our 2020 farm would be highly productive and produce a variety of products; the producer would also be paid for wetland conservation and carbon sequestration; it would be resilient to climate change; and it would be supplying energy to the national grid’. This particular vision could be realised if seamless integration of agricultural production and natural resource management practices and policy were achieved.

PRIORITY THEMES

The co-chairs identified five priority themes that encompassed the diverse ideas of the group:

- the challenges posed by climate change, with particular emphasis on its impacts on the food, fibre and forestry value chains

- nationwide harmonisation of regulation, standards and enforcement

- development of incentive schemes to promote environmentally sustainable behaviours and strategies

- attraction, recruitment and retention of people, families and businesses to remote, rural and regional communities

- broad parity of access to infrastructure and services for remote, rural and regional Australia.
On the Sunday of the summit the co-chairs began by presenting these five priority themes to the members of the stream.

Minister Burke addressed the participants and asked, for his own ministerial purposes, that they give two particular policy areas consideration as part of their deliberations:

- How can Australia further unlock the key drivers of productivity in remote, rural and regional areas?
- When government assistance is given, where do participants believe it should be targeted and where do you think current targeting has been less than ideal?

**PRIORITY THEME DISCUSSIONS**

After the co-chairs’ Sunday presentation the stream broke into four sub-groups to further refine four of the five previously identified priority themes, focusing on advancing ideas that supported the themes. The discussions concluded with a presentation to the full stream. What follows is an outline of each sub-group’s final presentation.

**Theme 1: the challenges posed by climate change, with particular emphasis on its impacts on the food, fibre and forestry value chains**

Australia needs to develop comprehensive and detailed future climate scenarios for remote, rural and regional areas.

These will provide the basis for analysing the risks and opportunities for remote, rural and regional industries and their communities. Once this understanding is achieved, it is crucial to invest in measures that allow farmers and remote, rural and regional communities to effectively and efficiently adapt to the impacts of changed climate.

These measures need to be underpinned by education and capacity building for people who will be required to manage and implement the response measures. An emphasis throughout this continuum of research, development and education needs to be on participatory processes involving all key stakeholders.

It is essential that Australia has a nationally integrated and coordinated resource, development and education approach across all remote, rural and regional industries and sectors. The primary driver will need to be a whole-of-government alignment of policy coherence in relation to all factors that affect the increasingly complex competition for carbon, water, land and energy.

**Theme 2: nationwide harmonisation of regulation, standards and enforcement**

Remote, rural and regional communities go beyond state borders.

Without progress on harmonisation Australia will not have productive remote, rural and regional industries by 2020. Nationwide harmonisation and standardisation are urgent. This should include uniform regulation, licensing, standards and enforcement for land transport, food, agriculture, client services and promotion to our export markets. State regulatory reforms will be achieved through federal government incentives and penalties linked to the rate of progressive reform. Future infrastructure investment decisions should be approached from a national perspective. As part of this there must be broadband access for remote, rural and regional Australia.
Theme 3: development of incentive schemes to promote environmentally sustainable behaviours and strategies

If we are to achieve ‘productivity for 2020 sustainability’, agriculture and natural resource management policies should not be implemented in isolation from each other.

The current ‘silo approach’ to policy should be avoided. Effort is needed to establish rewards and recognition for environmentally sustainable behaviour. There should be a review of ‘economic mechanisms for agriculture and the drivers behind them’ to achieve both profitability and environmental management. A framework should be developed to facilitate mechanisms that recognise areas in remote, rural and regional Australia that are currently undervalued—for example, stewardship payments for managing non-income earning services such as remnant vegetation management. Although some of these non-income earning services might already be supported in part, there is a need to create markets for other non-income earning services that are currently not being rewarded.

Synergies need to be achieved because ‘current economic settings are distorting signals back to producers (for example, land values tend to reflect the land’s productive capacity)’. Perverse outcomes are being delivered by exceptional circumstances assistance ‘because farms need to be failing to be eligible for support’. Alternative approaches to exceptional circumstances assistance should be pursued against the concept of mutual obligation and recognition of the productive and environmental sustainability of the producer. Future decisions about exceptional circumstances assistance would ideally be made against a producer’s holistic farm plan that ‘shows you are a growing business’.

The producer’s holistic farm plan would cover such items as enterprise profitability and viability, the long-term sustainability of the resource base, skill and knowledge requirements, and succession planning. Alternatively, a higher education loan-like scheme could be introduced to provide exceptional circumstances assistance, which could also include in-built incentives for producers to hone their knowledge to better deal with exceptional events, which would in turn reduce the value of repayments.

New participatory approaches to research, including on-ground research extension, are needed to help the ‘practitioners to become the greatest advocates’ of environmentally sustainable practices. It is judged that the most effective way of generating on-ground change is by having producers actively involved in participatory approaches to research since ‘farmers are often first order innovators’.

Theme 4: attraction, recruitment and retention of people, families and businesses to remote, rural and regional communities

Research, programs and incentives are needed to enable remote, rural and regional communities to be more vibrant and diversified.

A wide-ranging strategic national program should be developed, and it should have a regional implementation focus. It would promote remote, rural and regional Australia as a place to live and conduct business, with a national roll-out of the Victorian government’s Make it Happen in Provincial Victoria campaign as a possible option. Under the strategic national program the promotional campaign would be supported by incentives designed to help remote, rural and regional businesses attract skilled and semi-skilled employees, as well as unskilled people willing to undertake training, and help with equivalence recognition and the bridging of overseas qualifications for migrants. A strategic national program could also fund training in customer service for remote, rural and regional businesses—particularly those involved in tourism-based activities.
A strategic national program could also seek to remove barriers and provide incentives to gain access to quality education services for those already residing in, or those that can be attracted to, remote, rural and regional Australia. Better access to a broad range of quality education and training is needed for every age group. This includes expansion of online, electronic and other technologies that allow access to quality education and training from a distance; establishment of virtual centres of excellence in regional towns through satellite technology; the ability for recent tertiary graduates to ‘work off their higher education loan debts’ under both paid and voluntary employment if they choose to reside and work in remote, rural and regional Australia; incorporation of rural studies in a compulsory national education curriculum; improved allowances for remote, rural and regional populations to gain access to further education and training away from home; and greater funding for all tertiary institutions to integrate perspectives of, and opportunities in, remote, rural and regional Australia into relevant courses.

There is much concern about the disparity in community services between urban and remote, rural and regional Australia. In the first instance, the Productivity Commission should audit the parity of community services in remote, regional and rural areas compared with those in urban areas. On the presentation of the results, action should be taken by governments to redress the identified inequities in community services.
A long-term national health strategy

Co-chairs:
Professor Michael Good
The Honourable Nicola Roxon MP

Lead Facilitator:
Mr Larry Kamener
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OVERVIEW

There were two discussions on the Saturday of the summit, one focused on 2020 ambitions and goals and one that brainstormed and generated ideas to support the ambitions and goals. A number of ideas were generated in both sessions. Ideas are listed at the end of each of the ‘Ambitions’ sections where they were not identified or further developed in the ‘Ideas’ section. If an idea was discussed in more than one group, efforts were made not to highlight and ‘box’ it more than once.

On the Saturday afternoon the group came together and voted on their ‘top ideas’. These ideas were presented in the interim report. The stream’s eight top ideas were as follows:

- Create a Health Equalities Commission.
- Create a National Preventive Health Agency—akin to VicHealth funded by taxes on tobacco and unhealthy food.
- Ensure evidence based allocation of health resources.
- Set up a regional health partnership—akin to the ASEAN model.
- ‘Fast fruit, fresh food’ - making healthy food choices easy in schools and regional areas.
- Completely rethink the shape of the health workforce.
- Promote better translation of Australia’s research efforts into commercial and health outcomes.
- Create a ‘Healthbook’ web-based personal record—like Facebook.

On the Sunday participants were given the opportunity to discuss the stream’s input into the interim report. They also voted on ‘out-of-the-box’ ideas and the information that would be presented to the full summit on the Sunday afternoon. The stream’s top out-of-the-box ideas were as follows:

- a ‘Wellness Footprint’
- first aid training for all children, the training being delivered by volunteers
- an opt-out system for organ donation
- health impact statements
- half an hour of physical activity built into sedentary jobs.

AMBITIONS

The Health stream initially discussed what ambitions were necessary in order for Australia to consider a long term health strategy. Ambitions were grouped into five main themes—healthy lifestyles, health promotion and disease prevention; the health workforce and service provision; addressing health inequalities; future challenges and opportunities in health; and health research, research translation and research training.
Healthy Lifestyles, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Under the theme of healthy lifestyles, health promotion and disease prevention, the group put forward the following ambition: 'By 2020 we will have achieved a healthier lifestyle, through universal access to a clever wellness-focused evidence-based system with due regard to the environment in which we live'.

Health Workforce and Service Provision

Five main ambitions were identified under this theme.

Ambition 1: By 2020 Australia should aim to become the most healthy, health literate, physically active and health conscious nation.

Ambition 2: By 2020 there need to be greater links between health and all sectors.

Ambition 3: By 2020 we need fair distribution of health.

Ambition 4: By 2020 we need a single integrated community-centric health care system with one set of legislation and common data across the nation to inform resource allocation based on needs.

Ambition 5: By 2020 we should be self-sufficient in producing our workforce and assisting in enhancing health throughout the region.

Addressing Health Inequalities

The following ambitions were identified under this theme:

- equivalent health outcomes for all Australians, with a particular focus on closing the gap in life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the wider Australian population
- adequate health providers
- rationalising governance, management and funding of the health system, including research
- a person- and family-centred health system, collaborating across disciplines
- a system focused on prevention
- a system that prioritise health and wellbeing in the early years (from conception to adolescence)
- an open sharing of health information
- becoming world leaders in the development and use of technology and research
- having a rapidly responsive health system to deal with emerging global health issues.

Future Challenges and Opportunities in Health

The following ambitions were identified under this theme:

- a human-centric single health system focused on wellness
- measurement of outcomes and health practices based on evidence and outcomes
- productive ageing
• a diverse health workforce with new boundaries
• research.

**Health Research, Research Translation and Research Training**

Under the theme of healthy lifestyles, health promotion and disease prevention, the group put forward the following ambition: ‘Good health outcomes and systems are underpinned by quality research. The research agenda must better reflect 2020 priorities. A fixed percentage of GDP should be spent on research and development (aspiring to the OECD benchmark).’

Once these ambitions were identified, participants broke off into five groups to further discuss themes and ideas under each ambition.

**GROUP 1: HEALTHY LIFESTYLES, HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION**

**Evidence-based preventive health policy and programs**

The following views were put forward:

• There is a strong need for evidence-based health policy.

• This could be assisted by providing legitimate Commonwealth data to the public; the data held by Commonwealth agencies such as the Department of Health and Ageing and Medicare Australia, including linked administrative data, represents an untapped resource that should be used to support transparent evidence-based preventive health policies. It will help us understand what works well and what works badly and should be made publicly available and used to support measurable targets.

• Key targets should be set in health policy to achieve real outcomes. A program of visiting infants and new mothers in South Australia was given as an example of an intervention in health promotion that begins early in the life of a person and targets both the mother and the infant.

• Health funding should be redirected to prevention to stop people from coming into the health system later in life with chronic diseases; it was suggested that 1 per cent of the hospital budget and resources could be directed into health prevention. There was some disagreement on moving resources from hospital budgets, which some participants claimed are already underfunded.

• Some consideration should be given to complementary medicines. This is a high-spend area in the community, and the traditional health system should embrace the sector if there is research and evidence that such medicines do contribute to the health system.

**A focus on ‘wellness’ in policy development, as opposed to responding to ‘illness’**

Participants were of the view that the health system is currently focused on illness and that there is a real need to focus on wellness. It was felt that the word ‘prevention’ is ‘siloed’ as a term. There is a need to refocus the concept of health prevention to mean an investment in wellness and wellbeing. The following ideas were brainstormed:

• Encourage all families and people to engage in ‘wellness’ activities.

• Develop a ‘wellness footprint’ that would target specific outcomes—for example, childhood obesity.

• Give individuals the knowledge, opportunity and ability to embrace positive health behaviours.
• Enable older people to achieve healthy participation in the community and value them more.

• Health care is not a commodity but an investment: there is a need to change the way health is viewed in the community if we are to achieve a real change in health behaviour patterns.

• Help people manage their conditions better and have a better engagement with the health care system.

• There is too much focus on illness in the study of medicine. we need more education on prevention and wellbeing at schools and medical schools.

• Every child and adult, organisation and employer should have a full understanding and the opportunities to engage in behaviours that enhance their wellness. A wellness footprint would be a way of measuring how you or your organisation is promoting and encouraging wellness.

A focus on health policy that is integrated with broader government policies

The following views were put forward:

• Preventive action does not have a significant profile outside health, but it greatly affects all areas of life and wellbeing. The view was expressed that there is a need to set targets for people, cities and hospitals and that the government needs to consider the health and social impact of all government policy in all policy settings.

• There is a need to focus on the political economy: infrastructure should be established that will make positive choices the easy choices. What is it about society and culture that makes things such as intoxication acceptable? Why do our children pursue this?

• Government needs to be accountable for our aspirations, targets and policies and for policy implementation and resourcing. It needs to be accountable for the outcomes of this summit. There is a Community stream at the summit, and it is important to link this discussion back into what is happening in that stream. There is a need to put some incentives into the system to support interdisciplinary action.

• A ‘life-course’ approach is desirable—activities for children, young people and adults. This needs a whole-of-government approach.

Smart cities and towns

The following views were expressed:

• Smart cities and towns aspire to be healthy cities promoted on the basis that there is a link between the nature of our cities, environment and health.

• As a nation, Australia needs to plan for healthy cities using key planning tools—town planning, good architecture, and social modelling.

• We need to rethink how we plan and develop our cities. Tharangau, near Townsville is a good example of urban planning that encourages healthy living and social and environmental integration.

• Smart cities will support the measurement for wellness or a health rating that measures equity of access to things such as transport and healthy food, to help build healthy societies.

• We need to better value the community and how it contributes to health.
Recognising individual and population ageing as major opportunities

The group noted the importance of recognising individual and population ageing as a real opportunity to reassess how we structure the health system. It was felt that there is a need to focus on health prevention and promotion to extend the useful life of the ageing population through enabling older Australians to be healthy, productive and able to contribute to Australia. The following suggestions were made:

- Fundamentally rearrange work, care, acute treatment and prevention to improve access by the ageing population.
- We need a funding system that supports this as an opportunity: this can be cost-neutral but effective funding.
- Develop a two-pronged supplementary health insurance system—one for long-term care and one for catastrophic conditions and illness, as a result of injury, for example.
- This could be done through another type of Medicare levy, for aged care and for severe conditions and illnesses.
- Giving people greater mastery over their own health is a key concept for any age.

The health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The group considered that Australia must close the gap for Indigenous people and their health indicators using evidence-based approaches and target setting. It was agreed that it is vitally important to focus on the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through giving them the knowledge to make decisions, the wherewithal to make those decisions, and access to the services.

The Commonwealth to run the hospital system

The following ideas views discussed:

- a universal health card with universal information
- one health system using science to deliver better health. This would include use of a ‘Facebook’ approach to maintaining and accessing individual health records at the national level
- the need for one health system. Cost shifting has become an art form in this country
- the government to be accountable for the policies it develops. We need to ensure that there are funds behind policies for implementation.

Preventive action: thoughts from the Youth Summit

The following thoughts from the Youth Summit were put forward:

- a health system equitable for all ages and all socio-economic groups—a system that does not discriminate
- shifting from a system focused on illness to encouraging and valuing wellness
- a youth-focused and -driven mental health program that is relevant to young people, using schools, the media and movies
• developing the concept of ‘mental health first aid’—raising awareness and destigmatising mental illness through engendering in the population an understanding of how to deal at a basic level with mental health problems.

**Mental health**

The group agreed that by 2020 Australia should have better mental health: at present poor mental health is a significant burden. Australia can become a leader in this area, to link better wellbeing, brain function and healthy lifestyle to improved outcomes for mental health issues. The following views were expressed:

• Evidence shows that better living leads to a healthier brain—an aspiration for a clever health system that uses science and is not ideologically driven.

• Any approach to mental health must be multi-disciplinary. There are services that are doing this on the ground, but the information does not get out there.

• Consider establishing an Institute for Better Mental Health.

**A clever health system**

There is a need for a smarter, single health system that is integrated more broadly with government policy to leverage and influence health outcomes. The following issues and ideas were raised:

• People will always be sick, so there is a need to be careful not to cut hospital funding to support health prevention policy.

• There is a need for a culture of perceived control over one’s life, rather than being tossed around in the system. This applies to all areas of health.

• We need to empower people to use and understand the health system.

• A clever health system needs to be integrated at all levels, allowing for active participation of all health professionals to focus not only on illness but on wellness; allied health professions need to be included in the mix.

• Health is part of other streams: there is a need for intersectoral collaboration in a range of areas.

• There is a need for interdisciplinary education and integration and being able to work together.

• Oral health should be part of the central theme in health prevention.

• The hospital system needs to be smarter, and financial incentives need to be incorporated.

• There is a need for a patient-responsive workforce—patient- and family-centred care, care that is community focused, person-focused care.

• We need affordable health care that caters for every Australian; take a holistic personal view and a whole-of-system view to deliver effective health care.

• Australia is not good at planning in a regional sense for our health care; we can learn much from other countries in the region; for example, Japan has an ageing population that is well cared for and productive.

• We should use emerging medical technologies to cut the cost of the provision of health care. Medical technologies can be the driver of effective health care.
• We should work on avoidance of the chronic consequences of disease. There is a need to appropriately treat the consequences of chronic health care—for example, transplant or dialysis. Good care of people with chronic and acute disease will save the country thousands of health care dollars by increasing the productivity of this group.

• We need to retrain health professionals so that there is a movement from illness to wellness—to help bring about a cleverer health system.

• We need to do much in our clever health system in integrating health professionals and health services and helping them participate in the wellness area.

• We also need to make a lot of gains in interdisciplinary education—there is too much training in silos with a focus on illness, not wellness.

Alcohol abuse

The group put forward the following ambition: ‘In the year 2020 we want to live in a society that does not accept “intoxication” as acceptable’. It was felt that this calls for an integrated approach, including marketing and government action. The view was expressed that to do this Australians need to change what they see as ‘normal’, just as the perception has changed about smoking. To achieve this, it was suggested that perhaps ‘flavoured’ alcohol could be banned as it currently attracts young people to consume large amounts of alcohol. It was felt that the community is not bothered by the problem of overindulgence but is bothered by the issue of drinking and ‘safety’: this is the community’s main concern. It was reiterated that there is a need to change social perception of what is acceptable, just as has occurred with drink–driving. It was said the government can assist by implementing strong policies.

It was suggested that there is a need to involve the education system to achieve this, starting with healthy lifestyle choices such as beginning the day with breakfast and doing some physical activity. It was suggested that education needs to start at younger ages, including at schools: the education system is an important partner in health; it is an intersectoral responsibility. The view was also put forward that schools cannot be the be-all and end-all as there are competing priorities there in terms of numeracy and literacy. To this end, it was felt that there is also a community and parental responsibility.

In dealing with this issue the group considered there was a need to:

• redefine the unacceptable—similar to the issues of smoking and road deaths
• bring the impact of the problem of alcohol to the public’s attention
• move away from a focus on individuals to the structures behind this: what makes the unhealthy choices the easy choices? How do we change these structures to make the healthy choices the easy choices?

A view was put forward that this type of approach to policy and program implementation would risk the notion of a ‘nanny state’ and over-restriction of behaviour—in particular, where the view exists that health behaviour is a personal responsibility. It was felt that there needs to be an understanding that this response will occur and that health promotion must not succumb to these pressures. It was also considered that the program would require good intervention outcome measures, something more meaningful in the evaluation of programs, with a link to evidence and a resolution of the contradiction in existing policies—for example, alcohol availability and the abuse of alcohol.
Unpredictable health challenges and Australia’s role in the region

The group considered that unpredictable challenges such as emerging infectious diseases will occur and that Australia needs to consider how it will prepare for the unknown. The following views were expressed:

- Australia is not well placed to respond regionally and has a poor capacity to respond nationally. To this end, there is a need for coordination of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery integration of national efforts in emerging infectious diseases and the possible catastrophic events.

- There is a lack of national skills for catastrophic events. Although these types of events are high risk with a low probability, they have a high risk.

- This is a cross-sectoral question relating to animal health, robust surveillance systems, emergency management agencies, and a whole-of-government response.

- Australia needs to be well placed internally and through its regional partnerships to minimise the impacts of possible emergence of communicable diseases such as H5N1 but also of things such as changes in climate change and the possible shift down of communicable diseases currently common in other countries. These issues are cross-linked closely to national security, agriculture and globalisation.

- Australia can contribute in relation to health in our region but can also learn much from other—for example, learn about affordable and healthy ageing from countries such as Japan.

Government accountability

A view was put forward that there are issues around elections and the election cycle that reinforce the view that no government accepts policy failure: they just transform bits of the failed policies to try and respond to policy failure. The following views were also expressed:

- There is a need for good performance measures for programs that are put in place.

- There is a need to understand what is working well and what isn’t. An audit could be undertaken.

- Most of what is called evaluation is really just a description of activities rather than a focus on the intended outcomes of the programs. The concept of evaluation also supports and is linked to the evidence-based approach to policy and programs discussed earlier.

- A new government can examine what worked and what did not without ‘shooting itself in the foot’.

- Why just government: should industry also be accountable? There is a need for health to work more closely with the private sector because this will create an opportunity for interventions not yet seen. There is potential for industry intervention and collaboration that is not yet tapped.

- There is a real opportunity for the new government to achieve real outcomes, involving decentralisation, change of measures and change of outcomes.

- How can governments be encouraged to dump bad policies—for example, the 30 per cent rebate on private health insurance?
The following ideas were identified from the ‘Ambitions’ session but were not further developed in the ‘Ideas’ session.

### IDEAS

5.1 Develop a two-pronged supplementary health insurance system—one for long-term care and one for catastrophic conditions and illnesses (for example, as a result of injury).

5.2 Introduce a Medicare levy for aged care and for severe conditions and illnesses.

5.3 Introduce a universal heath card with universal information.

5.4 Mental health:
   - 5.4.1 Develop a youth-focused and -driven mental health program that is relevant to young people, using schools, media and movies.
   - 5.4.2 Introduce mental health first aid, a common basic understanding in the population of how to deal at a basic level with mental health issues.
   - 5.4.3 Establish an Institute for Better Mental Health.

5.5 A clever health system:
   - 5.5.1 Have a system integrated at all levels, allowing for active participation of all health professions to focus not only on illness, but also on wellness.
   - 5.5.2 Financial incentives should be incorporated in the hospital system.
   - 5.5.3 Use medical technology to cut the cost of the provision of health care.

5.6 A program to combat alcohol abuse:
   - 5.6.1 Redefine the unacceptable: change community views on alcohol use, similar to the change that has occurred with tobacco use.
   - 5.6.2 Bring the impact of alcohol abuse to the public’s attention.

5.7 Develop regional partnerships to minimise the impacts of communicable diseases such as H5N1.

5.8 Conduct a health audit to identify the programs that are working well and those that are not.

### Preventive action

The group suggested that national taxation on cigarettes combined with a volumetric tax on alcohol be used to fund a national preventive health agency that would focus on positive lifestyle initiatives. It was felt that this would require a national health effort that is fully integrated with broader health strategies, is intersectoral, and has a supportive government framework that will ensure a policy focus on wellness and national health. It was suggested that a 2.5 cent increased tax on each cigarette plus a volumetric tax on alcohol (based on alcohol content) would lead to funds of about $500 million a year to support the agency. Additionally, a ‘junk food’ tax could be introduced—that is, a tax on high-energy, low-nutrient foods. It was agreed that the revenue from these taxes must flow back to fund the work of the agency.

It was felt that an holistic approach to wellness needs to be adopted and that this policy would encourage good behaviour and require the community to ‘pay’ for poor dietary habits, with funds raised to be fed back to preventive strategies in that domain. The agency could develop evidence-based policies and undertake program design and implementation. Policies would need to be broadly integrated with parallel policy areas such as education and broader social policy.
The following views and concerns were also raised:

- The agency must focus on preventive health across sectors and be intergovernmental—Commonwealth, state and territory and local governments.

- Consideration should be given to abolishing cigarettes and alcohol brought into the country duty free.

- Is a bricks and mortar agency or institute necessary? It could be a committee or a task force—or like a national version of VicHealth. Thailand also provides a similar example.

- An agency needs dedicated infrastructure and capacity, but it does not need to be a building. The notion of an agency would be preferred, not just a committee or a task force, and it needs to be independent of government, with a focus on leadership in these areas.

- It is important that there is something like a link into the Prime Minister’s department so that it does not get lost or sidelined. It needs to be actively championed at the very top, through a mechanism that is central and engages the relevant government portfolios, such as health, education and employment, treasury and rural issues portfolios.

- If it was based on specifically targeted revenue raised through taxes it could be used to deliver programs.

- Taxing things such as food might also make food manufacturers change their food products to make healthier choices.

- The agency must focus across the life course and the most disadvantaged groups.

- Oral health should be included—for example, one government-subsidised visit a year to the dentist.

### IDEA

5.9 A National Preventive Health Agency:

5.9.1 tax hypothecation of cigarettes, alcohol and junk-food products to fund the agency

5.9.2 a 2.5 cent increase in tax on each cigarette

5.9.3 a volumetric tax on alcohol

5.9.4 a tax on high-energy, low-nutrient foods (a junk-food tax)

5.9.5 abolition of bringing duty-free alcohol and cigarettes into Australia

5.9.6 oral health to be on the preventive health agenda.

### Plans for smart cities: urban environment and planning

The group discussed health and lifestyle plans for every city, with a focus on all areas, including suburbs—we need to connect places where people like to go, such as sports stadiums and water areas and parks—and a particular focus on socially disadvantaged groups.

A ‘wellness footprint’. There is a direct connection between the health of people in our cities and the nature of the urban environment. The group suggested the development of a wellness footprint to gauge the health prevention and wellness criteria in various areas, such as schools and the workplace.
In support of these ideas, the following suggestions were raised:

- connecting places within cities—for example, building cycle paths
- connecting places where people want to go (for example, lagoons for swimming) to places you’d like them to go to (for example, art galleries). The Thurangerry River plan is an example
- moving away from car-centric cities—base planning of future cities on cycle and walking paths, but based on linking areas of importance
- as part of urban sprawl, bringing jobs to outer suburbs and town centres. Do not concentrate the majority of jobs in the city centres. Decentralise
- health needs being on the agenda of urban planners
- a focus on disadvantaged groups.

**IDEA**

5.10 Develop health and lifestyle plans for every city.

**Positive social marketing**

The group agreed on the idea of positive social marketing strategies. It was considered that these types of strategies would need to take into account accessibility to products and to all population strata, especially the lower socio-economic groups. It was thought that social marketing of strategies would require strong political endorsement, such as from the Prime Minister. Additionally, this policy may be integrated more broadly with the corporate sector and industry, with a view to being engaged. Furthermore, these types of policies may be integrated with the smart cities concept and integrated more broadly with other social policy agendas.

The following views were also raised:

- It is not just about stopping some types of advertisements and marketing but also about positive marketing of healthy behaviour—social marketing.
- Use aspirational messages from high-profile people and personalities—for example, sports people.
- There is also a role for pushing negative messages—for example, making smoking unacceptable.
- It is not just about taxes: the change with tobacco was not just about increased tax but also about banning tobacco advertising.
- There may be a case for restricting the advertising of junk food to children. It is not just about advertising but marketing more generally and would cover alcohol and energy-dense nutrient-poor foods.

**IDEA**

5.11 Use positive social marketing to encourage healthy living by making poor health habits expensive and healthy living habits less expensive. Consider restricting advertising of junk food to children.
Education and schools

The following views were put forward about the place of education and schools in developing healthy lifestyles:

- If you can govern the behaviours of children aged between 5 and 8 years, you can govern them for a long time.

- Children don’t participate in sports because they are nervous about their skills, including coordination. There is a place for school-based sports skills-building activities—for example, running, jumping and ball skills—to prepare them for many sports later on.

- Extend the Active after School program to a program that happens within school hours. This would not necessarily occur through government but could also be supported by corporations.

- Whenever there is a problem, people point to education to solve all problems. But there is only a short time that kids are in schools. On the other hand, it has to be recognised that participation in physical activity does make kids more responsive at school.

- Active transport has decreased over past few decades. Incidental activity has also decreased. At the same time, participation in sports has not changed.

- Schools are not the cause of the obesity epidemic, so do not expect them to cure it.

- Encourage healthy food availability: introduce ‘fast fruit’ into school and preschool.

- A secondary school mental health literacy program is needed.

IDEA

5.12 Healthy lifestyles and education:

5.12.1 Introduce school-based sports skills-building activities—for example, running, jumping and ball skills—to prepare children for many sports later on.

5.12.2 Extend the Active after School program to a program that happens within school hours.

5.12.3 Introduce fast fruit into school and preschool.

5.12.4 Develop a secondary school mental health literacy program.

Workplaces

The view was expressed that the workplace is a place to explore psycho-social issues, including job control, empowerment and participation. There is an urgent need to build up the corporate health focus: occupational health and safety is not working well in Australia.

- Work is an opportunity to progress a modern health agenda and bring employers into the discussion.

- Bring occupational health and safety and health into the same agenda.

- Use the triple-bottom-line accounting system as a mechanism for change.

- The proposed National Preventive Health Agency has a role in establishing research and evidence to help employers establish healthier workplaces. This can encompass everything from workplace health checks to the built environment and how it affects health.
5.13 Bring occupational health and safety and health into the same agenda.

5.14 Commission the National Preventive Health Agency to develop research and evidence to help employers establish healthier work places.

A physical activity pathway for all Australians at all stages of life

It was suggested that there is an urgent need to address ‘inactivity’ as a major idea and that a pathway could be managed through primary care. The pathway would need to be a long-term funded and planned model so that people are not lost when they leave school. The ‘fitness industry’ could be integrated into a support program.

This concept also supports the idea of changing the language to ‘investing in health’: people invest in shares, why not in their own health? Australians nationally need to change their attitudes to what is OK and what is not OK, what is normal and what is not normal.

5.15 Develop a physical activity pathway for all Australians at all stages of life.

Strengthening preventive health in the primary health care setting

The group considered that there needs to be general awareness and a change of focus in the population to use primary health care providers as a preventive health care and screening strategy.

This requires education of the nation and how the Australian population uses its primary care facilities. It also raises the issue of workforce capacity and the ability of the primary care providers to adequately provide this service.

The following considerations were raised:

- In the United Kingdom preventive health care targets exist with incentives attached for reaching those targets—for example, the number of blood pressure checks.

- E-health also presents opportunities.

- We should also include getting the appropriate advice from primary care providers about screening programs.

- We need to educate both people and health care providers in seeking and promoting certain preventive activities.

- We need to know what to expect in terms of healthy ageing and how to deal with ill-health that might be linked to ageing.

- The workforce is forced to be reactive rather than proactive because there is simply not enough time to provide as much care as one would prefer. This will only get worse if workforce issues are not addressed.

- Any of the activities initiated by the proposed National Preventive Health Agency have to be integrated into the effort of primary care.
Secondary prevention can also be facilitated through primary care.

The view was expressed that there should not be an expectation that primary care can fix this problem: it is much bigger than this, and root causes need to be addressed. It was felt that too many preventive health issues have been saddled onto personal responsibility and back into primary care responsibility. There needs to be a shift of the focus and the language in health to focus on a positive wellness model. It was suggested that a single issue to address is alcohol abuse.

### IDEAS

5.16 Expand opportunities for providing ‘health checks’: at present the Medical Benefits Schedule provides only for a 45-year-old health check.

5.17 Use primary health care for health screening; that is, people could attend their general practitioner for a health check. At the moment GPs can provide checks for people who come into their surgeries for other reasons.

### Regulation of food content and use of a ‘traffic light’ system in food labelling

The group agreed that the traffic light system and regulation of food content could be immediate and cost neutral. This could change production of food items. The carbon impact of foods and the carbon footprint of each food item produced could also be examined. This would provide another reason to alter food consumption patterns; this is, the food that turns out to be cheapest in terms of the carbon footprint is the food that is healthiest to eat. This concept gives people an additional reason for making healthy food choices.

It was suggested that food manufacturing could be better regulated. Price elasticity is such that even heavily taxed food items would still be purchased by some people. Instead, certain products, such as palm oil, could be banned and manufacturers could be encouraged to make products with ‘good’ rather than ‘bad’ carbohydrates.

### IDEA

5.18 Food content should be regulated and a ‘traffic light’ system should be used in food labelling.

### A whole-of-life wellness model

The group felt there is a need for a whole-of-life wellness model (to include activities and food consumption) supported by the government. It should be a structured program to provide the opportunity for inclusion at all stages of life. It was felt that this is an area of health that has galvanised a significant amount of interest in the community as a whole. The use of existing building blocks within our communities at various stages of life would allow for physical activity and social engagement, and the promotion of wellness could be used.

The following considerations were raised:

- Is there a broader social issue that needs to be addressed about why people stop socialising via sports and more by doing dinner?

- Does there need to be some more thought given to sports that would be more suitable for older people?
• We need a structured program for an unstructured activity. For example, we have had to build a structured program to get kids back to walking to school which used to be an unstructured activity.

• We need to think about promoting activities that people can do that are social but also promote healthy lifestyles.

• The focus cannot just be on what government can do about this: it also needs to be on what the broader community might be able to do.

• Corporations can also be involved here.

**IDEA**

5.19 Establish a whole-of-life wellness model incorporating whole-of-life activity pathway.

**A ‘wellness footprint’**

Along similar lines to a carbon footprint the concept of a wellness footprint was discussed, which identified the contribution various things make to the wellness of the community—for example, urban planning, workplaces, schools, and so on. It would be necessary to provide a tool to come up with a score to use internally, or possibly made public so that there is greater public accountability.

It was noted that retirement is very damaging to health. In retirement – older people need a reason to stay engaged. Consideration should be given to abolishing retirement and reinventing different types of productivity.

**Out-of-the-box ideas**

The group also agreed on the following out-of-the-box ideas.

**IDEAS**

5.20 Introduce the concept of a health and wellness footprint (most votes for this suggestion).

5.21 Expand existing national literacy and numeracy assessments to include physical fitness and health literacy, supported by ‘catch-up’ programs for ‘high-risk’ children, delivered away from healthy peers.

5.22 Price foods according to their carbon costs. This would involve production (energy and water use), packaging, transport, storage and disposal of waste. It automatically shifts the average diet to healthier foods.

5.23 Create a child and young person’s commission (or similar body) to allow education, social and health issues to be coordinated.

5.24 Australia should bid to host the International Conference on Patient and Family Centred Care in 2011.
GROUP 2: HEALTH WORKFORCE AND SERVICE PROVISION

Discussion of ambitions

Group 2 discussed five ambitions for 2020.

Ambition 1: By 2020 Australia should aim to become the most healthy, health literate, physically active and health conscious nation

This includes:

- focusing on wellbeing, which will change the focus of how services and policies are developed and implemented
- closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians as an imperative
- addressing the gap between rural and urban health
- ownership of health outcomes: there must be a sense of mutual ownership to enable people to make choices and direct their own health outcomes, but without losing compassion
- education of children as the key to changing the future. Start at ages 5 to 8, which are the most important years for influencing future diet and exercise behaviours
- increasing the levels of physical activity and having in place a structured framework to support this
- rewards for efforts to reduce health risks at the individual level
- health and safety in the workplace, which also promotes wellbeing. For example, the Victorian Work Health model is funded from the surplus in Workcover and focuses on improving health and wellbeing in the workplace. This shows huge productivity benefits.

Ambition 2: By 2020 there need to be greater links between health and all sectors

The group considered that health has links across all areas of endeavour in Australia. In considering health and linkages, the group canvassed the following matters:

- integrated infrastructure for health and education
- a healthy environment needing infrastructure that supports healthy lifestyle choices, and town planning needing to be more aware of the impact it will have by including activity-consciousness in future community planning
- health being considered in all decision making across the economy and in government, a ‘health impact statement’ being required for all new policies.

Ambition 3: By 2020 we need fair distribution of health.

The group was concerned that recent evidence shows that the best health outcomes depend on where people live and that this is something that needs to change. In discussing this goal, the following suggestions were made:

- There is a need for a National Institute of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing to coordinate the health effort in Indigenous communities.
• A healthy nation needs healthy children. We need to focus on both health and wellbeing. Healthy children are the seeds for healthy adults.

• All children must get off to the best possible start. Antenatal care for all mothers in the first trimester is essential for healthy babies, with good child health surveillance to support good policy decisions.

• Health is a right, not a commodity, but this requires commitment from individuals, communities and government. Education is a key to informing children about what they can do to maintain their own health to become healthy adults.

• Whole-of-life health approaches should be an underlying concept of all preventive health measures.

Ambition 4: By 2020 we need a single integrated community-centric health care system with one set of legislation and common data across the nation to inform resource allocation based on needs

The group considered that the health system should be owned by the community, not just the medical profession. It was said that patient-centred care is not good enough and that Australia needs to aim for community-centred health that:

• is responsive to the needs of the community and the consumer

• is citizen-centric, with community ownership of local needs and models of local provision

• enables individuals to access their personal health records

• empowers communities to enable provision of services based on local needs

• makes use of data to develop new business models to enable professionals to respond to these changed needs

• is founded on a needs-based model at the community and regional levels

• considers the capacity to pay and creates a sense of worth and value

• challenges health industries to meet community and individual health needs

• uses integrated systems of service models—for example, private and public sector collaboration

• achieves the highest standards in health delivery

• provides information on outcomes for the patient—not just at discharge.

It was noted that the health system must also make better use of information to inform decision making. It was considered that there is a need for:

• better measurement of health outcomes to determine what works and use of performance measurements to evolve the health workforce and guide future investment

• the best possible information—transparency and openness about health information and health systems

• good information management systems to link state and Commonwealth systems and allow timely passage of information

• good information that enables improvements in safety within the system.
Ambition 5: By 2020 we should be self-sufficient in producing our workforce and assisting in enhancing health throughout the region

The following ideas were canvassed:

- Australia should be providing health professionals to the region by 2020 and no longer be a net importer of its health workforce.
- Australia needs a workforce system where citizens and patients have access to the health infrastructure needed for optimal outcomes.
- The funding system should be structured to provide incentives and to ensure an integrated health workforce and its flexible use.
- Australia must be responsible for producing the workforce it needs and helping its overseas-trained workforce to acculturate into the new health and wellbeing model.
- Australia’s role should include leading the development of improved health services in our region and supporting and educating those countries’ professionals to assist their development. This also strengthens our relationships in the region and aids in strategic positioning.
- It needs to be recognised that health resources are always going to be finite and delivery cannot always be to everyone.

The group considered that the form of the health workforce should undergo radical change. The new system should have:

- less hierarchy and a workforce that is collaborative, integrated, flexible and cooperative
- the best use of innovation in health technologies to revolutionise health care and delivery
- a future focus: convergence of genetics, robotics and nano-technology will revolutionise the way Australia treats and manages health care
- better alignment so the best provider provides the support needed by the individual at the lowest cost and with less demarcation and better use of allied health professionals
- better retention: employers need to be employers of choice, which calls for a more respectful approach to employment.

Finding the new workforce will require strategies to encourage young people to consider health as a career option. The group considered the following ideas:

- Education in schools should include information on both how to help yourself and the different types of health work that are available.
- Secondary education should focus on the science, maths and other subjects that underpin the skills and knowledge for tertiary-level medical training.
- A ‘gap year’ experience in the health and community services workforce should be encouraged.
- Older workers and people returning to the workforce after a long absence should also be encouraged to consider becoming ‘hands-on’ health care workers.

The group considered that education of the new workforce should be through:

- tertiary education of the health workforce in a format that inculcates a team-based approach throughout education
• a single nationally accredited modular medical degree that focuses on producing generalists who can expand their knowledge to meet work needs

• a competitive training system to encourage greater flexibility in the options and delivery of medical training

• developing and attracting people to health work and contributing to the region, to achieve and maintain a high standard of education and delivery of services.

The following idea was identified but was not further developed.

IDEA
5.25 Establish a National Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing.

The group developed numerous ideas to support its goals and ambitions.

Improving the quality of decision making and policy development

In considering this goal the group thought Australia needs to use data and evidence better as the basis to promote better health outcomes and to design better health policy. The following challenges would be evident:

• A large amount of system and outcome data is held by governments and the specialist colleges but is not being released and used.

• Information is needed from all parts of the continuum, including the citizen’s perspective on their treatment and concerns. For example, there is a need to look at which treatment provider is most effective for different treatments; for instance, some forms of incontinence respond well to physiotherapy and do not require surgery.

• There are capacity constraints in the workforce, but data is needed to work these out rather than continuing reliance on anecdotal evidence.

• Timeliness of data is a significant problem.

IDEA
5.26 Use of the health system information to improve the quality of decision making and policy development:

5.26.1 combining the data held by governments and specialist colleges with state hospital data to look at the effectiveness of treatment outcomes

5.26.2 reducing the system input and output data to focus on consumer and community outcomes, to provide better targeted treatments

5.26.3 national online access to a system of health information for tertiary, secondary and primary health care providers and individuals.
A flexible, multi-disciplinary team–based approach to health care

In considering this goal the group agreed that health care needs to become more about person-to-person connections to enable the gathering of information to make the best care decisions.

The view was put forward that a multi-disciplinary team approach would be the best way of meeting the population needs for 2020 and that this would need different approaches to training and education. To support this there needs to be an examination of how to use specialists better and what the right number of specialists is. The workforce must be planned, and changes to support this approach can be delivered through improved education and training, funding and legislative frameworks.

In considering this approach, participants raised the following challenges and suggestions:

- Australia needs to decide what social and health needs must be facilitated by its health system.
- The current response to workforce shortage is to produce more of the same. The response needs to be different and needs to look at occupational distribution.
- The specialist colleges are a barrier to changing the way we do things. They have a vested interest in limiting change and controlling how training is done.
- One option is to use health care workers best suited to tasks at hand and save the specialists for what they need to do.
- Enable the system linkages between the public, private and community care sectors of the health system to interact seamlessly and deliver cooperatively.
- The health and wellbeing role, especially for ageing in place, will need new skills and different types of workers. But we also need to ensure we do not lose human interaction from the equation. Human touch and caring remain an essential element of health care.
- A new form of education and training of health professionals will be needed, but at present the competencies have not been defined. Boundaries between the health professions are a significant issue that will need to be overcome to develop the new type of health worker. Professions and colleges do not help by hiding data.
- Retention within the current workforce and recruitment of appropriately skilled professionals will require significant input and planning.
- The current health system is not sustainable. The expectations of the community need to change to a point where they share responsibility for their health and wellness.
- There is a need for a review of medico-liability, which stops doctors from accepting responsibility for teams.
- The fee-for-service model restricts the way services can be delivered and which services are available from a specific practitioner.

Educating the population to share responsibility

It was considered that the following ideas would assist in achieving a literate society that takes responsibility for wellness at the individual and community levels. A concern was raised that in Indigenous communities people may not be as literate and may be afraid to speak up. There is therefore a need for different approaches and for ensuring that every health worker has training in promoting prevention.
It was suggested that there is a need to train all the population in first aid and promote the volunteer model. Having someone who can help limit the damage has huge benefits for the individual and the health system impact. This needs to include mental health first aid and what to do in situations where there is a concern that someone will self-harm.

**IDEAS**

5.27 Measure citizens’ wellbeing as a health performance indicator and report it, to hold governments accountable.

5.28 Doctors should be funded to educate for prevention, first aid, wellness and chronic diseases.

5.29 Initiate a gap year for the health and community sector, allowing young people to experience the health system and how it supports the community. This could include placements in an aged care facility or with other community-based care providers.

5.30 Train Australians in first aid and mental health first aid.

**Teamwork**

The group felt that medical practitioners need to work in teams, where a range of nursing and allied health practitioners support the new treatment modalities and deliver a diverse range of care.

Delivering a team-based model of care would require changes across the current health system, as captured in the following ideas.

**IDEA**

5.31 Develop and deliver a team-based model of care.

  5.31.1 Change legislation to support a team-based approach to health care.

  5.31.2 Remove the barriers between Commonwealth, state and community care services and vest legal identities in group care teams.

  5.31.3 Change funding models to remove current barriers and facilitate team-based care delivery.

  5.31.4 Establish data sets on patient outcomes that enable decisions on the most effective means of treatment for the best patient outcome.

  5.31.5 Deliver team-based care through a new model of service delivery, one that incorporates the community, general practitioners, aged care, childcare, after-hours care—one-stop shop.

**The right people to do the right job**

It was considered that workforce planning needs to be more focused to ensure that Australia has the right people to do the right jobs. There is a need to be able to work out how many and what type of health workers are needed for 2020.

In considering workforce planning, the group canvassed the following:

- Taking into account lead times, a model should be developed to guide where additional undergraduate places are needed.
Australia needs more generalist-trained doctors, but that they should be able to upskill in specific areas of interest or need—similar to general practitioner proceduralists, but with more options.

We need to match people and jobs better—too much specialisation—and we need more teamwork. We might need more physician assistants and nurse practitioners with competency-based training. We need generalists that can be moved around the system as needs change.

IDEA
5.32 Develop a model to guide where additional undergraduate training places are needed to support the health workforce.

Using technology

It was considered that the future workforce would see nurse practitioners as being at the forefront, supported by the general practitioners and accessing specialist support via e-health in rural and remote areas. Virtual consultations would be widely available. In considering this, the group discussed the following:

- We need to change how we work—e-health—and we need incentives to improve uptake and access. We need incentives, not necessarily monetary, to get people to work in rural and remote Australia.
- Broadband progress will enable this but will need to be robust to avoid local problems.
- Electronic health records are now being trialled to enable information flows between hospitals and general practitioners.
- Dealing with service delivery in rural and remote areas will require changes in practice to enable timely service delivery through use of IT systems and enabling nurses and others to prescribe and order tests.

IDEA
5.33 Develop incentives to improve the uptake of e-health.

Training the next generation of health care workers

The following issues were raised:

- ‘Health care teams’ should be educated from university on, to ensure students are used to working this way from the beginning. There is much duplication at present, and the system could be made more effective.
- Access to clinical placements is now at a critical point: the number of trainers is declining. There is a need to provide clinical training in the community and not just in hospitals.
- There is a need to change the model of education and move to a generic health degree with specialist training that can be delivered centrally and flexibly, is competency based, and links to a registration system.
- There is a need to be cleverer about how we train the medical and nursing professions. At the moment retraining is extremely difficult and can lead to people walking away.
- There is a need for common accreditation and registration for all health professions.
IDEA
5.34 Develop a model to deliver clinical training for the health workforce in communities.

5.35 Develop a generic health degree.

5.36 Develop and implement a system of common accreditation and registration for all health professionals.

Legislation to enable changes

In considering the legislation that is needed, the group canvassed the following:

- Legislative barriers should be removed to allow people with the right competencies to deliver specific services. We need to look at prescribing rights for non-physicians—for example, allow physiotherapists with appropriate qualifications to prescribe from a limited range of drugs for which they are qualified.

- Under a team-based approach it is imperative teams have a medico-legal identity. Present insurance would not be able to operate in a formal team structure.

- Currently legislation governs what physicians do and the Medical Benefits Schedule funds what they do. Examine the legislation. Can we provide incentive payments?

- We need a unique identifier for each patient for this to work. Medicare is to go live with this in 2009. Further information is needed.

IDEA
5.37 Examine prescribing rights for non-physicians—for example, allow physiotherapists with appropriate qualifications to prescribe from a limited range of drugs for which they are qualified.

Retention

The group discussed whether ‘job redesign’ could assist with retention of the health workforce—in particular, job redesign to make the most appropriate use of the highly skilled medical workforce and provide support to deal with the administrative needs. One participant raised the question of whether practitioners could be remunerated to provide lectures in schools or to community groups.

IDEA
5.38 Remunerate health practitioners to provide lectures in schools or to community groups.

Overseas-trained doctors

It was suggested that every overseas-trained doctors should be a physician assistant unless fully registered with an Australian state. One participant questioned whether there should be a transition year for these doctors. It was also suggested that developing a competency-based education and training system would enable overseas-trained doctors to fit in easily to gain competencies.
IDEA
5.39 Develop a competency-based education and training system for overseas-trained doctors.

Health, ageing and wellness: alternative models

The group felt that health care teams should support ageing in place. A major issue is how personal care is going to be delivered in the future. Frail older people need people to deliver their care. We need to look at how we train and how much we pay them. Currently many are from overseas, non-English speaking and with no training.

An alternative approach is to train up teams for such purposes—for example, keeping someone older and frail at home delivered by appropriate workers, funded horizontally, unlike current funding silos. Vertical funding should be removed. Use a capitation or block-funding model.

IDEAS
5.40 Undertake a review of the training and funding of aged care workers.
5.41 Train specialised health care teams to care for older people in the community.

Funding for future service needs

In considering the future funding of services, group members raised the following:

- There is a need to be able to fund evidence-based non-surgical alternatives. This could occur through a structure, similar to that of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, that could approve these alternatives.

- There needs to be a mechanism for removing services that are no longer cost-effective.

- Cost savings will be derived through better use of resources and focusing on prevention to reduce hospital admissions. Further savings will be derived by allowing competency-based non-GPs to treat and prescribe within the extent of their competence.

- Consumer-focused treatment means moving past current funding models to enable the best mix of services for the individual in the most cost-effective way.

- There is a need for a hospital benefits schedule. This could include equity issues and remove the state–Commonwealth divide.

- Move to a single funder, but be careful of the impact on rural and remote hospitals.

- The Medical Benefits Schedule could be reviewed to reduce the need for visits to the GP for repeat scripts.

- The Medical Services Advisory Committee and Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee models have been very effective. Could similar bodies be developed that look at effective treatments and recommend whether they should be funded?

- Perhaps funding should be allocated to areas and not to practitioners. Could other funding models, which get away from fee for service, be examined?

- Aged care is not financially viable in the current system. Nurse practitioners could be the answer under the supervision of a doctor, but they should not have access to the Medical Benefits Schedule.
There is a need to fund chronic disease management on the ground, which needs to be team based. Changing fee for service to allow for episodic care should be examined, as should different funding models for chronic disease management.

**IDEAS**

5.42 Develop a mechanism to examine the evidence for non-surgical treatments (other than medicines) with a view to funding cost-effective treatments.

5.43 Develop a mechanism to examine the evidence base of funded treatments with a view to removing services that are no longer cost-effective.

5.44 Review whether savings would be generated by allowing non-GPs to treat and prescribe medicines within the extent of their competence.

5.45 Develop a hospital-based schedule similar to the Medical Benefits Schedule.

5.46 Move to a single funder of health in Australia, taking care to minimise the impact on rural and remote hospitals.

5.47 Review the Medical Benefits Schedule to examine the need for GP appointments for repeat prescriptions.

5.48 Examine whether health care funding should be allocated to areas and regions rather than fee for service (that is, a fund-holding model).

5.49 Examine whether nurse practitioners could support health care provision in aged care.

5.50 Examine different funding models for chronic disease management—for example, episodic care funding.

**Development of national outcomes data to drive resource allocation**

- Slash red tape and stop collecting non-essential data. Get better outcomes data to drive resource allocation; note the example provided earlier of physiotherapy instead of surgery.

- Current resource allocation is based on systemic inputs. We need to shift the evidence base to focus on patient outcomes so we do not perpetuate the existing workforce but move to a responsive database.

- Change the evidence base from systems evidence to patient-, citizen-, community- and population-based evidence.

- There is a terminology problem because the use of ‘evidence based’ means clinical treatment regimes. Use the term ‘evidence guided’. Evidence shows that multi-disciplinary teams are the most effective way to manage chronic disease. This needs to be through regional funding authorities.

- We need a single funding authority for prevention and primary care at the regional level. This can fund the multi-disciplinary teams. We need pilot programs to encourage innovation.

- Build evaluation programs that report on what works and what doesn’t.

- Establish centres of excellence to use as training sites and to implement and trial new models of care.

- We need to fund health systems research; this could be combined with a centres-of-excellence approach, with working sites making use of innovative models.
• Move to evidence-based policies to support closing the gap with a funding model that is flexible enough to support evidence-based allocations.

Building the next generation of health workers

• We need the people to deliver the services: otherwise there will be no health service in 2020.

• If we want a healthy nation, let us be self-sufficient in producing our own health professionals. We need to develop a workforce that delivers the right care to the right people by the right professionals. The absence of doctors, nurses and health professionals in rural and remote Australia is a huge problem.

• We need to factor in the lead-time to produce professionals.

• We need to consider doubling the number of medical students now. Could we upskill the defence forces to assist in the health workforce crisis? This would also assist in meeting international aid situations.

• The number of medical students has recently doubled, but training places are now a barrier. We also have an overseas aid budget: could we partner with regional partners and build hospitals that can train both our students and theirs?

• The future workforce will look very different and needs a different legislative base. Changing the workforce will build a tiered health system that looks very different.

• Australia needs a flexible, generalist, engaged community-based health workforce providing the right care at the right time and the right cost.

• We need an interdisciplinary approach coming from a nationally accredited training system.

• Maybe a gap year system to engage school leavers in the health workforce.

• Remove legislative barriers to competency-based practice.

• A major issue concerns specialists: training them is complicated. We need to engage the colleges. Bring in competitive training models for specialists.

• We need to effectively evaluate and implement what is shown to be effective with the mechanisms in place to allow roll-out of these ideas.

The group came up with further ideas to build the next generation of health workers:

IDEAS

5.51 Develop nationally accredited, multi-disciplinary, competency-based modular training for health professionals supported by an appropriate legislative framework.

5.52 Consider doubling the number of medical students or upskilling the defence force to assist with workforce shortages.

5.53 Mandate minimum staff levels that are achieved by 2020.

5.54 Change what a specialist does so they only look at the most complex cases and provide advice to treat the less complex.

5.55 Develop and deliver community education on the role of the medical workforce.
5.56 Consider offering mature workers a 50 per cent salaried position and allow them time for education, training and research.

5.57 Consider training older people into the health workforce.

5.58 Improve support for health workers by providing administrative support that allows them to do their job and reduces red tape.

Out-of-the-box ideas

The group agreed on the following out-of-the-box ideas.

IDEAS

5.59 Health literacy for all Australians, including first aid for all Australians and how to help friends who are self-harming.

5.60 Healthy food leads to healthy nations. Model of food labelling (traffic light), label all food ingredients including trans-fats.

5.61 Develop a wellness rating scheme for all suburbs, towns and cities.

5.62 Establish a new preventive health strategy across life, with a major focus on Indigenous Australians.

5.63 A health impact statement for all new legislation and health impact studies across all portfolios.

5.64 A Health Equalities Commission, to be a high-level, ‘with teeth’ think-tank. Involved in monitoring, not delivering, services.

5.65 Organ donors: instead of opt in, make it an opt out option.

5.66 Promote better translation of Australia’s health research into both commercial and health outcomes underpinned by increased investment in research and development.

5.67 A substantial increase in private research and development.

Three big ideas

IDEAS

5.68 A National Preventive Health Agency, based on the VicHealth model (to be funded through taxes on cigarettes, alcohol and tobacco):

5.68.1 physical activity every day—30 minutes throughout the workforce

5.68.2 kitchen gardens in schools to enable school children to see how food is grown and experience truly fresh food

5.68.3 funding through taxes on cigarettes, alcohol and junk food.

5.69 An ASEAN-type collaborative health agency, including all regional neighbours, to address infectious disease, climate change-driven changes in disease patterns, and mental health.

5.70 Development of national outcomes data to drive resource allocation.
GROUP 3: ADDRESSING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

Equivalent health outcomes for all Australians

The group agreed they would like to achieve a healthy country where there is equivalent access to excellent health care for all Australians. There was agreement that a priority target should be closing the gap in life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the wider Australian population. It was acknowledged that it would not be possible to give every Australian exactly the same service but that it was vital to ensure that health outcomes (measured by mortality, morbidity and indicators of wellness) were equal and that there would be different methods and services to achieve the outcomes.

It was agreed that a range of issues need to be taken into account, including access and services and population diversity, and that outcomes are cross-portfolio and not just health (for example, for those in rural, remote and outer metropolitan areas); transport is inextricably linked to health issues. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, improved education and housing is likely to improve health outcomes as much as, if not more, than any direct involvement in health services. It was suggested that there needs to be ‘health proofing’—that is, to ensure that decisions made by government in other portfolios do not adversely affect health services and outcomes and vice versa.

It was noted that the determinants of health are not only found in the health system, but in areas such as housing and transport, education, social services, and that services in these areas need to be properly funded to help tackle all the determinants of health—for example, improving public transport in outer suburban areas.

The group felt it was important in determining health services to consider the diversity of the community and that there were many different views of what ‘health’ means, what being healthy comprises, and what is realistic to achieve in terms of health outcomes. Also raised was the need to consider the impact health services can have on people with disabilities or who suffer chronic conditions. These people must not be disempowered in any health decisions.

Adequate health providers

There was consensus that there needs to be sufficient funding for health providers (remuneration) and to train enough new providers to properly meet the needs of all communities—for example, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and rural and remote and outer suburban areas. This was considered particularly important in areas of high health need and it was raised that Aboriginal communities are often in areas of high health need and often, the best people to train and work in these areas might be Aboriginal people. Also raised was the importance of ensuring high-class education and training of providers. This included training to ensure they were competent in whatever community they were working in and this was particularly important for those who might work in underserviced or underprivileged communities.

Related points were the need to provide a work environment that will attract people to the health profession and the importance of providing social support for health professionals, particularly in rural and remote areas. It was noted that providers don’t or won’t want to go to rural and remote areas if there are not other adequate services and facilities, such as educational facilities for their children, and that these services also needed to be considered by governments.
Other points raised were as follows:

- Efforts must be made to get more health professionals into the health workforce to stop the ‘one person working 24 hours a day, seven days a week’ syndrome.

- Establish a second tier of providers (non-traditional) such as those who could take blood pressure readings, and so on. This was countered by discussion that many nurses were not in the workforce, that more needed to be done to bring them back and that it was more important to retain the health workforce that the country has, not create another stream within it. Connected to this was a point that the number of radiographers in Australia was falling, and efforts were needed to provide the infrastructure to train new ones.

**Rationalising governance, management and funding of the health system, including research**

Consideration was given to improving efficiency, providing funding for outcomes and providing rational allocation of resources. There was consensus that the governance of the health delivery system needed to change and that it was vital to rationalise governance and management and the way services are budgeted. Health resources should be allocated to meet identified needs in communities across the country. It was noted that there were seven governance systems with 10 000 administrative staff. The system was dysfunctional and there was much duplication of services, while at the same time there was not good information exchange or effective use of technology. A point was raised that so much money was invested in Medicare without the evidence base and that some of this funding could be redirected.

It was agreed that the system must be patient centred and it was important to empower individuals and communities and to provide them with tools to help achieve this. Other points raised were:

- Ensure that engaged and informed individuals are involved in health and wellness and devolve responsibilities to communities.

- Cascade health professionals into organised teams as appropriate.

- Ensure that safety and quality are measured by the experience of consumers. This was particularly important for those suffering chronic conditions and disabilities: their experiences of the health system were not properly being considered when determining health outputs and outcomes.

- Often health service providers spend valuable time doing work that should be done by others (for example, administration), and this needs to be addressed to ensure that the providers can focus on their core business.

**A person- and family-centred health system, collaborating across disciplines**

It was considered that there is a need to understand the needs of consumers, that consumers have a good experience of care and that there be outcomes-based measurement. There was agreement that health service providers needed to be better attuned to the needs of the patient; to see a patient’s illness or problem through the patient’s eyes, and to treat the patient, not the disease or illness. Health service providers need to make the paradigm shift to focusing on the person and their care and not on health as a service they provide.

It was raised that performance indicators should be measured on outcomes based on the patient’s experience of the care received. This should apply to primary and tertiary care. Australians need to be ‘incentivised’ and literate in their own health. This was considered important, as it was likely that only a minority of people were truly literate in the language of the health system.
It was suggested that preventive health care needs to be embedded in communities. There is a need for much more education within communities to help them help themselves with regards to preventive health care. One example covered was heart disease. It was easily prevented by changes to lifestyle, but currently there were not enough incentives for people to make the changes needed. It was also noted that some people just don’t know what to do to help themselves.

There was discussion that incentives, including financial ones, may be needed to encourage lifestyle changes—for example, to give up smoking or drugs. Other points included adopting successful interventions from overseas. An example raised was from Norway, where people from communities are supported to help themselves.

Another idea not directly related to preventive health care but considered useful was to provide medi-hotel accommodation instead of remaining in a hospital bed for the last one or two days of the average hospital stay. This would be cost effective and would ease pressure on the hospital system.

**A system focused on prevention**

The group canvassed the following issues in relation to preventive health:

- Targets in health care are often too lenient and there should be zero-tolerance stretch targets. An explanation was given of a successful project in Sweden, where the road toll was lowered by only changing the target.

- The focus should be across all people and all areas of government.

- Use opportunities from major life events. It was noted that there are certain times over the life cycle that people are more motivated to change—for example, women during pregnancy and when breast feeding—and that those times should be targeted for preventive interventions.

- Another idea raised was better management of infection control in hospitals by removing all carpets and installing negative ionisers.

**A system that prioritises health and wellbeing in the early years (from conception to adolescence)**

There was acceptance that, although a life course approach to health is appropriate (recognising that events at all stages in life can affect events later in life, and even in subsequent generations), the critical importance of the early years of life warrants that strategies to improve health, development, education and wellbeing in this period become a priority for all sectors (health and other). There is now good evidence that the years from conception through to age 5 set a pattern for the rest of life. Most causes of mortality and morbidity in later life have their roots in these early years, and negative experiences (ranging from exposures to toxins and infections through to emotional abuse or neglect) early in life can result in permanent damage to the child. However, experiences in health, education and socialisation in the school-aged years are also critical and should not be ignored. It has been well documented that an investment in health and wellbeing in the early years results in a net financial gain to society, whereas the benefit of investment in adulthood is substantially less.

It was also noted that the relative benefits of strategies to improve health and wellbeing in the early years—strategies that may include improved family planning and antenatal care, better delivery services, improved parenting, methods to improve cohesiveness of families and communities, access to high-quality early childhood education—will have the greatest impact for people with the worst health outcomes. Therefore, there was agreement that priority for these strategies should be given to Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander people, refugee groups, people with disabilities and other groups of high need as identified through indicators of health and wellbeing.

**An open sharing of health information**

The discussion covered the value of being able to link health records over life. It was noted that there were 25 different health record systems and was it even possible they could be merged? Two suggestions were to use a Google health initiative or to follow Denmark with a universal number.

**Becoming world leaders in the development and use of technology and research**

The following issues and ideas were raised:

- that research is valued. It was agreed that Australia should be a world leader in the development and use of technology and that we should be recruiting the best into the field
- recognition and promotion of a research culture. There was agreement that the health system had to embrace technology and about the importance of closing the gap between science and technology. All health departments should have a champion for research, and there should be networks established to ensure collaboration and interdisciplinary dialogue
- that health research is evidence based
- that research recognises the needs of consumers. There should be more rigour in what was researched and there should be more consultation between the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Consumers Health Forum to determine research that would be valuable for communities, although there was general agreement that there should be more focus on researching population health.

It was also noted that some incentives were provided to those who do the research, but not enough funds were provided to translating the research outcomes into practice. It was a ‘fragile funding system’, where researchers were not confident that their work would continue to be funded. It was also noted that, while funding might be sufficient for a young, single researcher, it was insufficient to sustain a researcher with a family and that was a reason why some researchers gave up the profession.

Rationalising governance in research was also raised. The research infrastructure varied from state to state and this should change to provide the necessary infrastructures to conduct useful research around Australia.

**Having a rapidly responsive health system to deal with emerging global health issues**

There was much discussion of the impacts of climate change on health. Carbon emissions are rising and the world is experiencing regular traumatic climate-driven events. It was felt that in this environment Australia will need a very different health system to respond to these issues, and it is not clear that the country is prepared for a mass deployment of people to respond to a major climate-induced health emergency. To this end it was agreed that support be given to communities to help prepare and strengthen their ability to deal with an emergency.

It was agreed that, by 2010, 50 per cent of the population would be trained in first aid and that, by 2020, 100 per cent would be trained. Training could be carried out by volunteers, who would go to schools, into the communities, and so on.
The following ideas were identified in the ‘Ambitions’ session but were not further developed in the ‘Ideas’ session.

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<tr>
<td>5.71 Support communities to prepare and strengthen their abilities to deal with health emergencies.</td>
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<td>5.72 By 2010, 50 per cent of the population be trained in first aid and, by 2020, 100 per cent would be trained.</td>
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<td>5.73 Rationalise governance in research to provide the necessary infrastructures to conduct useful research around Australia.</td>
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<td>5.74 Improve consultation between the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Consumers Health Forum to determine research that would be valuable for communities.</td>
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<td>5.75 Investigate successful preventive health interventions from overseas and consider incentives, including financial ones, to encourage lifestyle changes—for example, to give up smoking or drugs.</td>
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<td>5.81 Provide medi-hotel accommodation instead of remaining in a hospital bed for the last one or two days of the average hospital stay.</td>
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**One big idea**

The group agreed on one big idea.

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<td>5.82 Establish a Health Equalities Commission.</td>
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A Health Equalities Commission would address health inequalities across the health system. The first priority would be to reduce the 17 year gap in life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people and initial efforts should focus on improved health outcomes in the early years of life (including providing antenatal care to all Aboriginal mothers starting in their first trimester and continuing through delivery, providing continuity of health care in the early years of childhood, and focusing on preparing children for schooling).

The proposed commission would:

- be accountable to the Prime Minister or to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- have the authority to enforce its decisions. This includes ensuring that through the Australian Health Care Agreements, the states have performance indicators relating to removing inequalities; that departments report back against benchmarks set by the commission, and that it can conduct investigations and report back to government
• develop a funding model to be based on the need to address disparities in health and wellbeing

• define where health inequalities lie. The commission would create a broad definition of ‘health’ to include indices of remoteness, social inclusion, cultural competence and function. All affected groups would be included. The initial focus will be on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but other groups with unequal health outcomes, potentially including people with disabilities, the elderly, people living in rural and remote settings, would subsequently become priorities of the Commission.

• work with the National Health and Medical Research Council on strategic research targeted at measuring and reducing health inequalities. There was the view that Australia should spend at least the OECD average on research and development

• implement a task force as an initial activity, dealing with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health inequalities.

Discussion of the proposal also included the following:

• The Commission should take a whole-of-life-cycle approach to addressing health inequalities.

• The health system should be defined so that it is properly connected to health and wellbeing. It needs to assess where and how all people fit into the system (for example, people with disabilities), noting that services are not well designed to help people with disabilities or those who are disadvantaged.

• Access is a key inequality, and this occurs across age groups and is often connected to lower financial status. Examples of groups that can suffer lack of access are young people, children from disadvantaged families, Indigenous people, people in remote, rural and outer metropolitan areas, migrants, and older people. It was noted that the more remote community, the higher the costs. It was also noted that Western Australia has a remoteness index that helps to identify disparities.

• Some of the inequalities are also around how health is funded. It was suggested that Medicare is now a pro-rich system and that the Medicare safety net needs work. It was also noted that Medicare is under-used by Aboriginal people and that work was needed to close the gap on the differentials.

• Any new health financing model needs to address inequalities. The current top-down funding approach often leads to funding being diverted to interest groups. A bottom-up funding approach should be considered, with per capita funding for everyone. Needs should be accessed at a regional level and funds should be allocated accordingly.

• A point was also raised about managing Aboriginal health services. It was noted that every time the government changed, management of Aboriginal health also changed. It was suggested that the states should be removed from managing Aboriginal health with responsibility being with the Commonwealth.

• It was also noted that more resources may be needed for particular groups (for example, people with disabilities) to help them not only with care but in achieving quality of life and wellbeing.

• The health workforce should be developed according to community-defined need. It needs to be clinically and culturally competent and have the capacity to service different groups.

  - There should be universal health insurance but it should be funded according to need. It was noted that the data is available to do this.

  - Health should be included in all policies across government, and the Minister for Health should be responsible for ensuring this. One idea was that major portfolios include a health impact statement when planning policy.
- The commission could also deal with complaints in a more holistic manner than is happening currently. For example, it could consolidate issues so that if there were a number of complaints on one issue it would deal with the issue, not just the individual complaints.

- Members of the commission should be people from other health groups—for example, Indigenous Australians and people with disabilities. This point was also made and supported that relevant groups should be members or be head of agencies that affect them.

- The commission should identify specific equity groupings and advocate for more disadvantaged groups, such as the intellectually disabled.

- It should develop health and social impact statements on a whole range of issues.

- The group expressed the hope the government would set up a small working group to flesh out this proposal to assess its feasibility.

The other ideas the group agreed on were as follows.

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<tr>
<td>5.83 The establishment of an opt-out system for organ donation, as in Spain.</td>
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<td>5.84 The establishment of health literacy programs.</td>
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<td>5.85 Oral health promotion to have a national approach and well-known interventions such as fluoridated water to be put in place.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.86 The establishment of a health and education task force with the first priorities to identify risk profiles (those with chronic illness, disabilities, Aboriginal people, remote and the ageing population).</td>
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<td>5.87 The development of a national primary health care strategy.</td>
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**GROUP 4: FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN HEALTH**

**A human-centric single health system focused on wellness**

The group canvassed the following:

- Australia needs to change the way it thinks and to think creatively. A key idea is that we need to talk to the consumers.

- The health system should be tailored to the needs of the person, rather than jurisdictional funding requirements. There is a need for a human-centric focus.

- There should be a change of focus, moving from an emphasis on sickness to wellness. Fundamental change is required.

- The only way one can feed back to the health system is through a negative reporting system—when things go wrong. The system should allow a way of reporting positive outcomes as well.

- If we look at children and skin cancer, it is now socially unacceptable for children to play outside without being sufficiently covered or under shade. Smoking is no longer acceptable. This is about what we think we should be doing about our own health—what we have to do about our lifestyle. It is about doing something for ourselves. The emphasis is on collective responsibility along with personal responsibility.
• There needs to be a greater focus on prevention strategies (for example, tobacco use) where we can increase taxation while decreasing use. Care should, however, be taken with how strategies are defined, because a narrow definition may cause a different set of problems; for example, 50 per cent of people with mental illness smoke, so they would be targeted.

• In looking forward Australia is facing climate change and harm from alcohol and obesity. There will be further isolation of our rural communities and Aboriginal health issues. There needs to be an examination of what could be achieved by 2020. Technology will give Australia the opportunity to develop a health network throughout the country that will take these opportunities and run with them. Many services will be able to be provided via the internet. It will help us cut down isolation. It is about linking rural medicine with city medicine and sharing information and expertise around the countryside.

• There needs to be a focus on shared information, where patient records can be shared and each individual’s information is gathered in one place. It was added that this was particularly needed in veterans’ affairs.

• Australia only needs one health system. There are all these different systems around the country and a need for refocus. It should not matter where people come from, whether they are from one state or another: they just need to be fixed.

• There should be more focus on children and their future, so they are more aware of what they need to do now. From early teenage and school years, they need to be involved and engaged with education and training.

• But it is not just individuals. There also needs to be a wider focus on communities—on the children, on the elderly. It is taking seriously the dialogue with the community, and if you are serious about staying well we need to ask how does the community actually participate in staying well? It is not just about how health professionals advise them to stay well.

• We need more community involvement in health, where regional entities determine the needs of their region. A regional approach that focuses on the community, that brings together things such as Medicare, rural health. We need a different system: rather than state, federal, general practitioners, and so on, it has to be one system and community driven. It has to be one funding agreement. Abolish the states.

• It is about strengthening the responsibility of those in health. We need emphasis on a whole-of-government approach to health and we need government to be accountable for it. We should have health outcomes impact statements on all decisions taken by government. However, it is a whole-of-society, not just government, approach.

Measurement of outcomes and health practices based on evidence and outcomes

The group considered the following: ‘By 2020 let us reduce the gap from what we need to know from evidence and use this to create incentives for wellness’. Participants raised the following points:

• Measurement should be conducted at a national level of key public health outcomes to determine what is being achieved. States and territories have been identifying health targets for years and they have extensive lists.

• It is not just about measurement, though: it is also about closing the health gaps. Evidence-based practice is needed. Areas that are not based on evidence should not be funded.
The health system is always going to be seen as a cost. We need to change that and view it as a societal investment in health. It is about cost–benefit analysis: health produces economy-wide benefits. We have to have that entrenched in the way we view health spending.

By 2020 we need to be considering investment by government in health care spending as an investment strategy rather than an expenditure strategy. We need to change our view and see it as investment for health gains.

But we also need to reappraise that from time to time. For example, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme: is it possible to determine if that investment is well spent?

The health system needs to be sustainable, whether it is achieved through a percentage of our GDP being spent on health care or not. Spending on health needs to be reasonably targeted as economies grow people choose to spend more on health.

The bigger question is where that money is going to come from: Individuals? Taxation? Private corporations?

Everyone has to be aware that we have a responsibility for our own health. It has to be sustainable.

**Productive ageing**

In relation to productive ageing the following points were raised:

- There needs to be a focus on opportunities. The current focus on the costs of an ageing population is distorted; there are also opportunities.

- Abolish retirement. The concept of retirement should be replaced with the notion of older people moving to other forms of productivity, and they need good health to do it. We need a new concept in which they need some type of health vision to achieve. Retirement would go as a notion. We are talking about new and different styles of participation—new forms of work, new forms of contribution. We are definitely living older and are generally healthier.

**A diverse workforce with new boundaries**

Participants raised the following:

- We need to acknowledge that we have an ageing population and that its members are the largest consumers.

- The training of all health professionals has to be mainstreamed; we need a system that is much more orientated to the needs of the older generations.

- One of the things that underpins all this discussion is that we need to have an entirely different workforce to achieve those community-centric ideals. We have to start amending that now, to develop the types of jobs and system we want. We have to change the workforce. It will be a different type of workforce.

**Research**

The group considered the following: ‘By 2020 we will need to have a whole different health research system. It will need to be globalised and integrated across disciplines’. The following points were raised:

- The number of researchers in Australia is falling, and this is a problem. Australia should have a global health care industry, but for that to happen we need to have our own vibrant industry sector.
• Overseas much of the research is being conducted in national institutes of health. Those institutes have seen tremendous success, and health is not seen just as a health issue.

• Hospital-based research has seen a steady decline over the past 20 years. While we have an idea that research institutes and universities do relevant and beneficial research, hospital-based research, where care is delivered, is lacking. There is a UK-based model of hospital-based research that could be adopted.

• Health research needs to be re-focused across the whole sector, not just hospitals and not just research institutes but the whole sector.

The following ideas were identified from the ‘Ambitions’ session but were not further developed in the ‘Ideas’ session.

**IDEAS**

5.88 Establish a system of allowing reporting positive outcomes in the health system.

5.89 Measurement should be conducted at a national level of key public health outcomes to determine what is being achieved in public health.

5.90 Abolish retirement. The concept of retirement should be replaced with the notion of older people moving to other forms of productivity and for this they need good health.

The group considered the following themes:

• regional engagement

• workforce

• wellness centres

• preventive activity

• electronic health records.

After general discussion, the group agreed to a list of ideas.

**Regional engagement**

The following points were raised in a general discussion of ideas:

• We are very close to Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. We can learn something from the veterinarians, and the agricultural people. They learnt a long time ago that we needed to engage with neighbouring countries to safeguard our animals and crops, but we haven’t learnt to do the same with human health. We need a national approach to dealing with dangerous pathogens—and not necessarily a physical structure; there could be a virtual way of dealing with this.

• A number of countries are crying out for help, particularly our poorer neighbours, not only in infectious diseases but also chronic diseases.

• We need to engage more with our geographical neighbours. For example, there is the World Organisation of Family Physicians and others that we could engage through. We have a low capacity in research and development, so we could develop links with regional partners to progress this. We can engage on various fronts—education, for example. We don’t seem to capitalise on these opportunities very well.
• Could we have an equivalent of ASEAN but it’s about health? We need a regional health leadership role. There is a new stream on health in APEC but it has only just been created. A health ASEAN should take a leadership role on health in the region, and we need to develop the health conversations between nations. Australia should take a lead role.

Workforce

The following points were raised in a general discussion of ideas:

• What will hit us in 2020? What will we have to deal with? It is the chronic conditions, heart disease, lung disease, and so on. How will the system deal with these issues? Mental health issues are increasing. Unless we deal with workforce issues, we won’t be able to deal with these challenges.

• What sort of health professionals do we want in 2020? If we’re talking about regional Australia, you’re not going to get a specialist workforce outside city-based areas. What is it that we can do? What has to change so that we can have health professionals that can interact with city-based specialists for support (for example, nurse practitioners with prescribing capabilities)? What needs to change to overcome the stresses and challenges that they will face in 2020? A nurse practitioner that adds value to a general practitioner, intervening earlier and connected via broadband—‘super-nurses’ or ‘super-paramedics’.

• We can’t afford coronary disease. Technology is often inappropriately used. Cardiologists could cripple the system if we allow them to. There’s a ‘dumbing-down’ of the system. We need training and investment in health professionals.

• One of the biggest battles we had in the last decade was the nurse practitioner: we were given all sorts of doom and gloom scenarios. But that isn’t what has happened. What we’ve seen instead is that nurse practitioners have filled a particular need. University training will take years to get those people into the system, and in the meantime we’re going to have shortages. Technology can enable you to provide an on-the-spot service: we need to use the basic technology, such as the laptop, better.

• In Australia one of the barriers is that every state and territory does things differently. We need to have one vision, and then we look at how we develop the workforce, and the other issues flow from there. We move from state to state and the waste of time with registration is considerable. We can do this better.

• There is a need for monitoring and intervention earlier to prevent the high cost at the end of the system. It’s about making use of what is a mobile workforce now and adding to the skills of what we’ve got now. We’re not going to get there in 2020 without dealing with what we need now.

• Practice nurses are an idea that is already there, already in existence. In New South Wales there are about 100 000 nurses. The workforce is there: it just needs to be tapped and exploited. There are some very positive outcomes from a small trial that uses two nurses as care coordinators for over 300 veterans. Perhaps we should look at these sorts of models more closely.

• There should also be some recognition of the role of carers and equipping them to better help manage health conditions. With an ageing population—which is also a population that takes up the bulk of costs—we need to train people to better handle their needs, thereby reducing the impact on the health system.
Wellness centres

Wellness centres should be in schools and local community centres. We need to develop a model that assesses wellness as we go. The following points and views were raised in the context of generating ideas:

- There is a Canadian program to help young mothers with children—early intervention by placing parents in parenting classes, while the child gets placed in care (not taken away) while mum is learning about how to become a better mother. The system is showing results. It is not a low-cost solution, but it is a solution.

- There are super-clinics in New South Wales where every mother of a newborn baby receives a nurse visit to assess post-natal depression and the baby’s eyes, ears, and so on. Further follow-up is then conducted two weeks later. It is about wellness and constantly feeding into that—assessing people as they go. We could create, for example, integrated primary care centres.

- Part of the baby bonus could be tied to antenatal and postnatal parental training, including for Indigenous communities.

- There needs to continuity of care from birth to death.

- We could pull together existing services to construct a ‘one-stop shop’ for health and wellbeing. This has been done previously. We could develop a program now in five- to 10-year gaps that adopts a holistic approach.

- We could build wellness centres in shopping centres for older people, so that they can access all-in-one services. Day clubs and social clubs are good developments for older people, to encourage them to remain active and engaged.

- What we need is integrated health, wellbeing, and disability centres—regional hubs of wellbeing. Funding specifically for preventive services—we need a separate funding stream for prevention services.

- If we want to affect behaviours we need to stagger interventions in the earlier part of life. People put their money into kids, corporations put their money into kids. We need to target kids and take it from there.

Preventive activity

The following points were raised:

- We know what the five main killers are, but we’re not focusing on them. There have to be incentives for general practitioners to spend time to address preventive issues. However, why does it have to be GPs only?

- Levy taxes proportionate to the damage they do—for example tax alcohol by its strength (proof)—to create a separate funding stream for prevention.

- What about workplaces? We could work on improving canteens, ensuring there are more stairs in workplaces to encourage people to avoid using the elevators. We need to design buildings and public spaces better to promote walking and exercise.

- Examine integrating health issues into education: create a mandatory health and wellness curriculum and program. Societal norms have changed and we need to redress them. A performance indicator for educators should be health improvement.
• We are moving to a stage where people need high-care provision in residential care. Suggest individuals contribute a percentage of their superannuation to residential care funds. Employers could also make contributions, and we could start building new high-care facilities with the funds generated by the scheme. We could also begin using hotels or step-down facilities to free up high-cost medical beds.

• One of the main things we should be ensuring is that healthy food should be cheap. We know in Queensland that healthy food is about 25 per cent more expensive than non-healthy food. That should be addressed.

• We have the technology now to create a ‘carbon account’ for individuals. We need to realise that if we buy oranges from California they have a carbon ‘weight’ attached to them. We need to look at models such as carbon trading. By reducing the amount of carbon we use, we get money back. However, we need to be equitable with carbon trading system and take into consideration lack of public transport infrastructure, and so on.

• We need to have a coordinated approach with organisations such as cancer funds and health funds that adopt targets and initiatives for five years as opposed to 10 years—a coordinated approach where all these organisations are working together under one boss and that has a coordinated clinical framework body, where they set measurable goals and targets.

• We need regionally integrated services and peak national bodies working to a common script. We need a nationally integrated strategy around health promotion and illness prevention, with the integration of organisations such Centrelink. The disease management and prevention framework should be evidence based.

• Indigenous health: focus on clean water and housing; make clean water a public good, promote research and development on clean water; promote hand-washing campaigns.

Electronic health records

The following views and ideas were raised in relation to electronic health records:

• Consideration could be given to everyone having an individual electronic health record. They should have information and resources for people to make informed decisions; that, no matter where you are, you should be able to access it; and that you don’t have to actually see someone in person to gain access to treatment.

• There are a number of tools and resources we need to build to enable us to do this. We could develop and implement an electronic health environment—one that will enable people to participate in their own health care. We could create a system just like Facebook, a ‘Healthbook’ where you need to have permission to access it. Individuals would choose whether to share their data with their family, friends or doctor.

• The Healthbook concept is not necessarily an agency-based initiative: it could be a social networking consideration. This is something that can be led from the community. Five years ago a web-based system was implemented in Walgett. It is already in existence, so it is not a 2020 issue.

Some participants considered that there would be difficulty in implementation and doing this over time. Systems of this nature have been attempted by Microsoft and by Google Health, where they extract clinical information. These are not covered by the privacy requirements, so privacy is not protected. The system needs to enable consent to be given and withdrawn. It was felt that the core issue would be control
of the information and where the control would lie. If people are going to share their own data there needs to be strong safeguards.

In further discussion these additional points were raised:

- The only information that is relevant is clinical information, capturing prescription, referral, discharge, and so on, and copying it to an individual record. There needs to be integrity of the clinical record.
- In about five years we’ll be able to map our own genetic information and profile. If you have certain risk factors, the genetic information means you’ll be able to intervene earlier. It is not so much to share your genetic information: it is so that people can take control of their own health.
- The core element is that it is a personal health record, not a patient record. The role of government is to make it accessible; the more dislocated you are, the more this sort of system is of importance.
- Healthbook is a web-based personal health record. It should be the person’s individual choice whether they share this information. It should be able to include both clinical and experiential information.
- It should be controlled by users but validated by clinicians as appropriate. Authenticated and endorsed by government. Government would need to develop guidelines.
- There would need to be money on the table for this. It requires national infrastructure, and if it is a national system you need national guidelines and a national framework.
- If it is linked to prevention it will pay for itself.

Following these discussions the group agreed to a list of ideas.

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<tr>
<th>IDEAS</th>
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<tr>
<td>5.91 A health ‘ASEAN’ for regional collaboration on infectious and chronic diseases and mental health, with Australia as a champion.</td>
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<td>5.92 An Institute for the Future—smart communities for better health, forecasting emerging health challenges.</td>
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<td>5.93 Research and technology for clean water in Australia and the region (in the face of climate change).</td>
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<td>5.94 Integrated health and wellness centres, regionally based, for children.</td>
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<td>5.95 A separate funding stream for prevention, funded by tax on alcohol, fat, and so on.</td>
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<td>5.96 An individual e-health record, plus ‘Healthbook’ (like Facebook) to share health information.</td>
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<td>5.97 Education scholarships for young people with mental illness, to enable re-engagement.</td>
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<td>5.98 Joining up initiatives in early life (testing, intervention)—integrated primary care centres for children, regionally hubbed.</td>
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<td>5.99 Incentives for prevention—employers, healthy food in canteens, exercise.</td>
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<td>5.100 Designing healthier buildings and neighbourhoods.</td>
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<td>5.101 Allow residents to contribute to high-care beds.</td>
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<td>5.102 A hypothecated superannuation charge for aged care.</td>
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<td>5.103 ‘Medi-hotels’ to be built into hospital precinct planning, thereby freeing up funding.</td>
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5.104 Performance indicators and mandatory curriculum for health and wellbeing in schools, including the ethics of health care.

5.105 Gyms and social clubs for older people.

5.106 Personal carbon trading for better nutrition and exercise.

5.107 Training health professionals in caring.

5.108 Coordination of health and social services organisations: a national framework of targets, measures audited, with a regional focus.

5.109 An ecological health survey to forecast disease burden.

5.110 A national hand-washing campaign, including a hand-washing campaign in Indigenous communities to reduce blindness.

The group then discussed some of the ideas further and added the following points:

- **health ‘ASEAN’**
  - focusing on shared challenges and addressing inequalities to deal with infectious and chronic disease and mental health
  - an ASEAN-like structure that operates at a high level across all developing and developed countries
  - Australia’s contribution underpinned by consortium of Australian research, training and public health institutions to extend and coordinate existing individual relationships
  - a ‘good neighbour’ focus for day-to-day health needs, including aid
  - real expertise, pulling together virtually—the best
  - research and clinical minds from the region.

- **‘Healthbook’**
  - a web-based personal health record, that gives the user choice in who they share the information with
  - information about you for managing your health
  - controlled by users, but validated by professionals (as appropriate)
  - enabled by government
  - in future, may be able to buy and load a genetic profile to share with trusted health ‘friends’
  - especially useful for Indigenous and dislocated communities, to ensure continuity.
An out-of-the-box idea

The group agreed on the following out-of-the-box idea.

IDEA

5.111 Health impact statements of all new government policies and an immediate audit of taxation for adverse impacts on health (for example, FBT—fringe benefits taxation on vehicle leasing that encourage more driving).

GROUP 5: HEALTH RESEARCH, RESEARCH TRANSLATION AND RESEARCH TRAINING

Key goals

1. The research agenda should be set to reflect the key health issues—for example, obesity and mental health (the ‘2020 Grand Challenges’). Research should involve vertical and horizontal integration (that is, be across disciplines).

2. The next paradigm shift for research involves ongoing leverage of Australian research in a global commercial environment, with a view to capitalising on intellectual property developed in Australia. Multi-national investment in Australian research is needed. This is seen as a no-cost idea and a major income opportunity to bring researchers back to Australia.

3. Restore and enhance the capability and capacity for clinical research as part of clinical and health services in teaching hospitals and across the health system more broadly.

4. Strengthen the interface between research and clinical practice to deliver better health outcomes by harnessing the opportunities presented by better knowledge of diseases in a more timely way.

5. The federal government should play a leadership role in a national, coordinated approach to infrastructure (indirect research costs and capital works) funding support.

6. By 2020 research will be recognised as a valued professional career path through encouragement of recruitment and retention.

Themes

The three themes the group identified for discussion were as follows:

1. Research. This included the appropriate structure to deliver research being based around achieving key 2020 health outcomes. While new ideas for research are important, it is also important to build on existing areas of research.

2. Translation. This includes across the areas of commercialisation and ownership of intellectual property; use in clinical treatment, health care services, health care systems and policy settings; and appropriate infrastructure funding support.

3. Training. This includes capacity building associated with research, including education, learning skills and working to ensure a career path in research.
Challenges

It was recognised that research with commercial outcomes and public good outcomes are necessary. The need for ‘blue sky research’ was also recognised, noting that this may also lead to a quality health outcome, although not directly linked to a defined outcome from the outset. Recognition that funding for research could not be solely driven by the number of patients affected was raised in this context.

A key issue identified as being critical is the need to bridge the gap in the research and development pipeline between the first stage of development and the commercialisation of research.

It was suggested that ‘silos’ exist in current training and that, while capacity should be built within particular disciplines, in 2020 it will be necessary to have greater ability for dialogue and integration across disciplines.

There was discussion about greater involvement of end users in all stages of research. Some group members raised the issue that end users may not always understand research issues, and this may result in the research being less effective. The link between recruitment and job satisfaction was noted as part of this, particularly the importance of research in the clinical hospital setting and the need for training. This was raised as of particular concern for some Sydney-based hospitals, and the group agreed that this is an issue nationally.

The need for cross sectoral and cross disciplinary research was recognised, as was the need for a cross government approach for investment in health. The group agreed this requires a more creative approach to achieve a common outcome. For example, addressing obesity may require significant input from agriculture.

Research

The need for sustained input into research was recognised by the group, and there was general consensus that a fixed percentage of GDP should be spent on R&D, aspiring to at least the OECD average, noting that bipartisan support should be sought.

It was suggested that current spending levels could be used as a benchmark, which would be cost neutral in being a commitment to current funding levels, not a request for additional funding. It was recognised that this would relate to overall R&D, not just R&D in the health sector, and that a further decision regarding an appropriate allocation from the health budget for health and medical research would also be required.

Once a fixed percentage is locked in, the best way to distribute funding was seen as being through peer review to deliver appropriate funding towards the research most required in, and across, particular areas.

Locking in a future level of funding is seen as different from agreeing that the amount of funding cannot be reduced. It was noted that setting the amount of actual funding tied to economic prosperity.

*Research reflecting key health issues and involving vertical and horizontal integration*

To solve key health problems, it was recognised that it will be necessary to move outside traditional ‘health research’ areas into, for example, aspects of lifestyle. It was suggested that having a ‘research champion’ in every health-related government agency at federal and state level could achieve a greater profile for and focus on health research.
The importance of evidence-based decisions as the basis of a good health system was discussed, noting that if research dwindled knowledge would also dwindle and this would reduce the ability to identify better preventive health measures. Good research was seen as giving the ability to fill preventive gaps with evidence-based solutions, noting that research is never static.

It was recognised that the top of the ‘house’ being created through the summit was about health outcomes and that research is part of the process to achieve the outcomes. Articulating how research underpins the big issues for 2020 (for example, mental health) was seen as very important. Identifying key 2020 priorities and then setting the research agenda to deliver key health outcomes by 2020 was proposed. It was noted that research may show that some key issues identified are obsolete.

The group posed a question about whether in funding initiatives to achieve 2020 health outcomes research should be structured to include disciplines outside medicine (for example, the impact of dysfunctional families). An example was raised of the Aboriginal Research Cooperative Research Centre not employing researchers but playing a collaborative role and outsourcing the specific elements.

It was seen as crucial for research to be linked to a purpose through performance requirements. Capacity building for senior researchers and improved career paths for junior researchers were seen as important to achieving excellence and a better health system in 2020.

It was seen that, while there are currently good researchers in health, there is room for improvement in working across disciplines. Determining a way to cluster interdisciplinary research capability was seen as important.

Historical inbuilt physical, geographical and regional silos in the structural organisation of research were discussed.

The group agreed that vertical integration of science (from the lab through to population) on key challenges is needed. The connection between the generation of the research agenda up front and the translation of knowledge at the end (also linked to the doing of the research in the middle) was seen as an area that could be improved.

As noted, a clear goal agreed by the group was that a proportion of GDP should be established as dedicated funding for research and development. It was noted that the challenge is working out how best to spend the funding, given that knowledge generation and delivery into the clinical and business arenas are a continuum. The analogy of this continuum being a ‘pipe with blockages’ was discussed, noting the importance of identifying where current blockages are and working out how best to spend available energy and time in fixing the blockages and redesigning the pipe. It was seen that it might be best to throw out some ways of doing things in the historical system. Finding blockages and gaps was seen as the first priority to fix or, if the pipe is broken and there is no delivery occurring between systems, then this needs to be done better.

There was discussion about having national institutes for key issues such as cancer and mental health. The system in Canada was raised, and the group was of the view that this system is working well. It was noted that this is different from the ‘pipe’ system in Australia. It was seen as being outcome focused, with directed base institutes. In an Australian context there was some discussion as to whether this could be done under the National Health and Medical Research Council but ensuring that a range of input factors are brought together.
It was also recognised that the United States does this well, having institutes that are mission directed and get public support. In this way major health challenges are turned into a targeted agenda and instituted. One issue with this approach was that one discipline might receive more funding than another. It was recognised that this occurs now without the ‘targeted institute’ approach and that having a purpose-based objective to be achieved could still be beneficial.

One point of discussion is whether the US institute model is good because of its structure or because there is extra funding in the system. It was recognised that this approach could drive funding outside the government.

In the context of discussion on the value of the targeted institute approach, one model proposed was that end users should be included from the beginning in establishing the research agenda. This was seen as being beneficial, with end users seen as being able to drive the nature of the institute programs. For example, if there is a 2020 outcome to be achieved on mental health, then the end users who work in and are affected by mental health would be involved in that demarcated institute. This was not universally supported across the group.

In general discussion the group agreed that excellent research should be funded appropriately, whatever discipline it is in.

Translation

The next paradigm shift

Research is global, and it was recognised that an Australia-centric view should not be taken. Existing problems with linking domestically need to be addressed before we can effectively link globally. It was recognised that Australia needs to be part of international research community and that every opportunity should be taken to link better with the emerging scientific powerhouses of India and China.

It was recognised that the focus of the Health stream of the 2020 summit is health outcomes for Australians. While research is global, we need key learnings in an Australian context which can be used to provide influence and collaboration outside Australia.

The group recognised that the level of government funding for research and development in Australia was comparable to OECD standards and that the big gap was in the private sector research and development. This was seen as also having an impact on the lack of solid career opportunities for researchers in Australia.

In discussing how to get increased research and development funding in Australia by multi-nationals, the group felt that if this could not be achieved by companies establishing research activities in Australia, then at least having them contribute to a fund to help government support excellence in research was seen as an option. It was agreed that this constitutes a form of taxation and was suggested that it be placed into an R&D endowment fund.

Achieving effective translation of research was not seen still to be inadequate. The group agreed that there are significant gaps in funding for early development. Greater ability to commercialise research was also seen as a way to improve the career structure in research.

There was extensive discussion on the concept of ‘angel investment’ by reference to the United States, where start-up money is more readily available, which helps to avoid research outcomes falling into the ‘valley of death’ in which the opportunity to commercialise the research is lost. It was agreed that this is
not just about funding; it is also about mentorship to address the gap in the middle between initial research and a fully commercialised outcome.

The group indicated that currently government invests half a billion dollars in base research and proposed that government funding be made available to work up propositions to put to private industry to get the end result of commercialisation. There was a suggestion that the Future Fund invest in this.

The need for government recognition and investment as seed development funding to support the proof of principle research was seen as very important. The group suggested that $100 million a year could bring about 250 commercial opportunities. It was also agreed that this support could not be just another pre-seed fund as the issue is not just money. The way intellectual property is developed and then frequently lost from Australia needs to change.

An example of cancer research in the United Kingdom was discussed as a good concept. Funding is provided by Cancer Research UK and commercial development oversighted by its subsidiary Cancer Research Technologies.

The group discussed the cervical cancer vaccine created by Dr Ian Fraser, there being some disagreement as to the degree to which this was ultimately commercialised off-shore.

There was some difference in the views on seed funding, with some viewing this as supporting the interaction between basic science and small clinical trials driven by the excellence of the discovery. Other members of the group were of the view that current seed funding provides the opportunity for researchers to take ‘time out to progress bad ideas’ and that this funding is not being used effectively. Building a stronger government link between the funding and what is done with it was seen as worth exploring.

It was suggested that government support to stimulate ‘angel investment’ would not require significant additional funding as current approaches for seed funding could be replaced with this new approach. Angels would bring both money and act as mentors, which would assist with the current failure to get commercial skills in research. The group generally agreed that this should not occur for drug research because of the long lead times required, but are more appropriate for devices.

A key step was seen as being able to better manage the intellectual property we generate. Once that is achieved, then there are various routes to translate the research, which requires skills, not just money.

The view was put forward that universities have expert transfer offices to assist in commercialisation, but that smaller institutes cannot afford to have this expertise available. Structuring funding and research around generating critical mass for commercialisation was seen as important. It was recognised that universities are developing commercial arms and that money is coming back to these universities through this process that is then available to further research. It was also recognised that even at expert places, income generated from commercialisation was a very minor proportion of total funding.

The importance of sustained investment in research over a long period of time (noting the UK cancer model has now been in operation for 20 years) to address health outcomes and meet commercialisation needs was stressed.

By 2020 the group wants to see greater success in commercialisation of health and medical research. This will need improved entrepreneurship, management and funding mentorship. The group agreed that government should balance investment in base research versus commercialisation support to get a return on investment through commercialisation. This was seen as the next paradigm shift.
How to attract multi-national investment in R&D into Australia was the subject of much discussion, with direct investment and a tax to be put into a dedicated fund being discussed.

The Australian Research Council Business Linkage grant to small R&D private companies was seen as a good model, with one example of encouraging a link between a pharmaceutical company and a university veterinary school which has had a positive outcome for both raised.

If early seed funding could be provided through the business sector, possibly through the Business Council of Australia, then this could be at no cost to government.

By 2020, the group wished to see big improvements in the translation of new knowledge into changes in policy and health services.

**Restore and enhance the capability and capacity for clinical research**

The group agreed that teaching hospitals have lost all support for doing research with research now just occurring in universities and institutes.

A creative research environment was seen to be a very positive factor for recruitment of high quality health care personnel, particularly for teaching hospitals. Good teaching hospitals were seen as critical by the group noting that, for those starting medical school and also commencing a career, understanding a medical career, research is of great importance to them.

Restoring and enhancing the capacity for clinical research in teaching hospitals and health systems was seen as critical for introduction of new evidence-based treatments to the clinic faster, improve health outcomes and saving overall health costs.

The group agreed that teaching hospitals are now wholly focused on service delivery and not on clinical research, with no time to do anything other than deliver on the bottom line.

Current blockages are seen as including indemnity, stem cell research and Commonwealth–state tensions. There was general agreement that state health departments are concerned about risk in relation to human trials and that there is a strong need for greater reassurance in relation to risk. A national approach to ‘first in human’ trials was seen as one way to assist in this area. Encouragement of ‘first in human’ trials was seen as a very important mechanism for translating research outcomes into better treatment.

**Strengthen the interface between research and clinical practice**

The need for a good health care system to be underpinned by a good research system was a key area of focus. Lack of recognition of this in the public submission process was highlighted, with, for example, around 30 per cent of submissions focusing on the need for preventive health and only 3 per cent focusing on research.

The current system of ‘gates’ opening up in research being based on publishing papers was seen as a barrier in the current structures to achieving better outcomes across the health sector.

Getting research into practice was seen as a major blockage. The group was of the view that the people delivering health care are not receiving the outcomes of research. The group agreed on the importance of research in a teaching hospital, with the view that if a person is research trained and has that philosophy they will provide better treatment.
The group agreed that if Australia wants good health care outcomes in 2020, including the system to achieve these outcomes, then this must be underpinned by a good research base and research capacity. Knowledge gained through good research is critical because health and research are always evolving. To achieve health outcomes it was agreed that health services need to be based on a world-class evidence-based system that is constantly evolving.

Improved organisation of delivery of research outcomes was seen as critical for the group. Closing the gap in translation to reach the point of delivery is seen as necessary.

There was discussion about translation being more achievable if end users of research are involved from the beginning in setting the research agenda. Examples where this had worked in the Indigenous health space, with government and Aboriginal health services being involved from the outset, and also in research for hospitals, were put forward by the group. In essence, this was seen as organising research to inform outcomes to be achieved so that the agenda is set, and translation is assured, according to the needs of the end users.

Developments in knowledge around diseases are rapidly changing because of research, and many more opportunities and new ideas that could have positive outcomes for patients exist that are not being taken up in the current system.

Cancer treatment was used as an example: currently in hospitals there is no time to use the best available tests or the best available knowledge of which type of treatment best suits which patients.

The federal government to play a leadership role

The need for improved infrastructure funding (indirect costs and capital works) for health research was highlighted, noting a need for rationalisation of the multiple inputs across Australia. The US model, where indirect costs are directly attached to research funding was discussed.

Infrastructure funding was seen to be a state responsibly. The group sees the federal government has having a key role to provide some consistency across jurisdictions through a nationally coordinated research platform for infrastructure.

Training

Research recognised as a valued professional career path

There was extensive discussion on improving the career structure in research, with the need for it to be better recognised as a ‘profession’. There was also discussion of the lack of a clearly defined entry path, noting research was not recognised in the same way as, for example, law and medicine.

The importance of having the ‘best and brightest’ being more disposed to return to Australia and work here was seen as critical. Development of a more secure career structure for researchers was seen as a way of achieving this. The current lack of a clear career path was seen as an issue for retention of young researchers, with issues including ensuring job security and meeting changing demands for work–life balance to take account of family needs. The difficulty faced by current researchers in accessing credit for mortgages was identified, noting poor funding and lack of job security currently.

Public recognition of science was seen as critical. Promotion of science education in schools to increase interest in working in research was seen as important to ensure a solid research base into the future.
By 2020 the group is looking for research to be a profession with clear leadership and mentorship, with a professional body to drive it. There is a clear need for a shift in how we see research as a career path and not just as being tacked onto the end of a science degree. Well-established mentorship is seen as important.

Better recognition for research will encourage recruitment and retention, including retention of women at senior levels, which remains poor.

**One big idea**

The group was tasked with further refining one of the top ideas put forward from the voting session on the Saturday. Following discussion, the group agreed on the following improved wording.

**IDEA**

5.112 Promote better commercialisation of intellectual property, by taking the lead in developing innovative health technologies, such as inventing a ‘bionic eye’ by 2020.

The group expanded on this to include promoting better translation of Australia’s research efforts into commercial and health outcomes, underpinned by initial public investment and supported by increased private and philanthropic investment in R&D.

This would be achieved by:

- building Australia’s skills and capacity in scientific entrepreneurship and intellectual property management
- developing philanthropic partnerships
- significant increases in partnerships with industry
- integrating state and federal infrastructure funding—for example, the indirect costs of research
- financing and mentoring nascent health care and health technology companies
- national and international IT interoperability—computer systems using same language.

This is to improve the health of all Australians by 2020. Examples of aspirational goals include the bionic eye, more biotech companies the size of Cochlear by 2020, and new Australian treatments of illnesses such as type 2 diabetes, dementia and cancer.

Key points from the discussions on the Saturday that the group provided further comment on included the need for:

- more expertise in commercialisation and management of intellectual property, in order to progress translation—both commercial and clinical
- centralised and coordinated management of intellectual property across all areas
- a new way of thinking in delivering research
- determining what problems can be solved and how research to address identified problems can be made commercial—that is, choose a research agenda that will be commercially viable and that research institutions have the knowhow to deliver
- a research system that matches the scale of the importance of health to this nation
• sufficient investment in research infrastructure in Australia to use effectively any additional funds that come from multi-national or philanthropic investment, noting that if this is not available then overseas funding cannot be accepted. Government is seen as having a clear role to ‘match private sector offers’ to provide for appropriate infrastructure

• staged and sustained public, private and philanthropic increased investment in R&D, possibly including benchmarking with other major innovative commercially successful industries and growth in health R&D expenditure should be proportional to growth in total health expenditure

• leveraging off foundations—such as ‘Gates Grand Challenges’ in the philanthropic space

• recognition of the importance of global integration and interoperability.

Other ideas the group put forward in the session were:

• improving genomic diagnosis and treatment—for example, making gene space part of the ‘Healthbook’ concept

• all major Australian research institutions having responsibility to develop partnerships with Indigenous communities to build the Indigenous health and medical research skill base and focus research on addressing major Indigenous health problems.

Following are the group’s ideas.

### IDEAS

5.113 A fixed percentage of either GDP or the health budget to be directed to health and medical research and development, aspiring to at least the OECD benchmark.

5.114 The research agenda to include the key health issues—for example, obesity and mental health. Research should involve vertical and horizontal integration (that is, be across disciplines).

5.115 Establishment of national institutes for key issues such as cancer and mental health. This could be done under the National Health and Medical Research Council but ensuring that a range of input factors are brought together.

5.116 Encourage R&D funding by multinational companies in Australia, either by establishing their own research activities in Australia or making tax contributions to a R&D endowment fund to help government support excellence in research.

5.117 Commercialisation of research:

5.117.1 improving the commercialisation of research in Australia to improve the research career opportunities

5.117.2 government seed funding being made available to work up intellectual property to the commercial ready stage

5.117.3 government encouragement for funding for ‘business angels’ to support the early development

5.117.4 that the Futures Fund invest in this with a figure of 0.5 per cent being raised to get base research to commercialisation
5.117.5 Government recognition and investment as seed development funding to support the proof of commercialisation for base research. $100 million a year could bring about 250 commercial opportunities. Government support to stimulate ‘angel investment’. This should not occur for drug research but would be more appropriate for devices. One option for delivering this was a grant scheme for translation.

5.117.6 Government to balance investment in base research versus commercialisation support to get a return on investment from commercialisation. If this involves the business sector, possibly through the Business Council of Australia, it could be at no cost to government.

5.118 Restoring and enhancing the capacity for clinical research in teaching hospitals and health systems was seen as a way to take new evidence-based treatments to the clinic faster, improve health outcomes and save overall health costs.

5.118.1 A national approach to ‘first in human’ trials was seen as one way to assist in this area.

5.119 Strengthen the interface between research and clinical practice to deliver better health outcomes by harnessing opportunities presented by better knowledge of diseases in a more timely way.

5.120 Development of an improved career structure for researchers:

5.120.1 Promotion of research education in schools to increase interest in working in research was seen as important to ensure a solid research base into the future.

5.121 Promote better commercialisation of intellectual property, by taking the lead in developing innovative health technologies, such as inventing a ‘bionic eye’ by 2020:

5.121.1 Building Australia’s skills and capacity in scientific entrepreneurship and intellectual property management

5.121.2 Fostering philanthropic partnerships

5.121.3 Integrating state and federal infrastructure funding—for example, indirect costs of research

5.121.4 Financing and mentoring nascent health care and health technology companies

5.121.5 Centralised and coordinated management of intellectual property across all areas

5.121.6 Determining what problems that can be solved and how research to address identified problems can be made commercial—that is, choose a research agenda that will be commercially viable and that research institutions have the knowhow to deliver

5.121.7 Infrastructure in Australia to be sufficient to effectively use any additional funds that come from multi-national or philanthropic investment, noting if this is not available then overseas funding cannot be accepted. Government is seen as having a clear role to ‘match private sector offers’ to provide for appropriate infrastructure

5.121.8 Staged and sustained public, private and philanthropic increased investment in R&D, possibly including benchmarking with other major innovative commercially successful industries and growth in R&D expenditure that is proportional to growth in health expenditure

5.121.9 Leveraging off foundations such as ‘Gates Grand Challenges’ in the philanthropic space

5.121.10 Recognition of the importance of global integration and interoperability.
5.122 Improving genomic diagnosis and treatment—for example, making gene space part of the ‘Healthbook’ concept.

5.123 All major Australian research institutions to have responsibility to develop partnerships with Indigenous communities to build the Indigenous health and medical research skill base and focus research on addressing major Indigenous health problems.
Strengthening communities, supporting families and social inclusion

Co-chairs:
Mr Tim Costello AO
The Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP

Lead Facilitator:
Mr Hal Bisset
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OVERVIEW

The Strengthening Communities, Supporting Families and Social Inclusion stream examined the challenges facing Australian families and communities in the context of enormous social change. The group was asked to consider the following questions ahead of the summit:

- Community and family life can give people the support, resilience and outlook they need to play a full part in Australia’s future. What can we do to enable local communities to provide social networks and support to every member?
- What are the root causes and consequences of social exclusion? What roles can different sectors play in tackling them?
- What measures can we take to ensure that people feel safe in their homes and communities?
- What roles do the government, business and community sectors play in helping families care for older Australians, children and people with a disability?
- How do we ensure that all Australians have access to housing that is affordable, secure, safe and accessible?
- What can be done to help new Australians settle and participate in the community?
- Some localities experience chronic disadvantage. What needs to be done to ensure that communities have the appropriate physical and social infrastructure to foster people’s health and wellbeing?

This stream’s deliberations began with an address from the co-chairs, along with one from the 2020 Youth Summit representative. Participants then split into 10 groups to discuss three questions:

- What are the key characteristics of Australia in 2020 that support communities, families, social inclusion?
- What are the key challenges we face in reaching these goals by 2020?
- What are the key questions we need to ask?

The groups regathered to report on the outcomes of their discussions. Scribes’ notes of the points raised in these initial discussions are included at Attachment A. Based on these reports, the stream identified six main themes for further discussion. Each of these themes was then considered in turn by rotating groups of around 20 participants, with each participant asked to present their ‘big idea’ relevant to that theme. Groups then voted in order to produce a list of three or four top ideas to present to the whole stream in a plenary session on the Saturday afternoon.

An initial report, prepared by the facilitators and the co-chairs on the Saturday night, was distributed to participants when the stream reconvened on the Sunday morning. There was much debate about the direction the discussions had taken on Saturday and the extent to which participants’ ideas were being captured.

After this, the stream split into groups again to refine their themes and ambitions and to come up with ‘top ideas’—a big idea, a big policy idea and a cost-neutral idea.

The stream came together for the final time on Sunday afternoon, when the lists of top ideas from each group were narrowed down to the final ideas for presentation to the entire summit.
AMBITIONS

Discussion about the ambitions for the stream continued throughout the weekend, reflecting the diversity of opinions within the stream. The ambition statement agreed on the final day of the summit was as follows:

- By 2020 Australia is known throughout the world for its diverse, compassionate, fair and respectful society.
- By 2020 every Australian:
  - is valued by and participating in society
  - has meaningful access to education, health, housing, work, justice, care and life opportunities
  - has a safe, healthy and supported childhood that allows them to fulfil their potential
  - feels a sense of belonging.
- By 2020 Australian society:
  - embraces and celebrates Indigenous people
  - focuses on long-term prevention and is experiencing the benefits of a return on social investment
  - regards social inclusion as equal and integral to a buoyant economy and a healthy environment.

THEMES

After the first small-group discussion session, the following six themes were agreed upon:

- responding to disadvantage
- building community ownership
- leadership structures, processes and partnerships
- our common values
- social inclusion as a first-order issue
- stronger families.

During the weekend these themes were discussed and refined, with the following four themes presented to the entire summit on Sunday afternoon:

- making social inclusion a top priority
- building and strengthening local communities
- supporting and empowering families
- reducing poverty and disadvantage.
BIG IDEAS AND COST-NEUTRAL IDEAS

Over the course of the two days almost 200 individual ideas were raised by participants. The following big ideas and cost-neutral ideas were agreed by the stream as a whole.

**BIG IDEAS**

- Place greater emphasis on early intervention and prevention.
- Develop a National Development Index underpinned by specific measurable indicators of social inclusion.
- Establish a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

**COST-NEUTRAL IDEAS**

- Develop a micro-finance scheme.
- Establish a national housing foundation, with a small percentage from the sale of every property in Australia to go to public housing and homelessness.
- Develop a non-violence statement, sponsored by the Prime Minister, including a compact with the media.
- Introduce a volumetric alcohol tax, with revenue to go to treatment for alcoholism.
- Recognise same-sex civil unions.
- Reform funding arrangements for the community sector (including longer term flexible and responsive funding).

Most of these ideas were discussed by multiple groups during the two days. The ideas were refined, amended and added to through these discussions. In the record of discussion that follows, new ideas are numbered as they arise. To avoid duplication of numbering, however, those ideas that have already been identified and numbered are presented with a reference to their original number.

**RECORD OF DISCUSSION: SATURDAY**

In opening the discussion, the co-chair Minister Tanya Plibersek noted that the summit provided a historic opportunity to think big and to think in the long term. She said social inclusion was a main theme for the stream and defined the term to mean that one’s birth does not determine one’s destiny. Another theme was connectedness—how do we build connectedness to family, community, society and the nation?

Co-chair Tim Costello spoke about the three sectors of society. Government, or those who seek power, is generally known as the first sector. The market, or those who seek profit, is known as the second sector. And, while the community sector is known as the third sector, it is actually the foundational sector. He proposed the following measures be considered: increased taxation on alcohol, restrictions on alcohol sales and a national campaign against intoxication, as well as a rent-to-buy scheme to help young people own homes.
Sam Haddid relayed the main messages from the Youth Summit. Among others, these were:

- In thinking about hopes for the future, it is easy to forget about early intervention strategies.
- Policies should be founded on prevention, differentiating symptoms and causes.
- Funding models for the community sector must be streamlined to allow efficiency and innovation.
- By 2020 families must be able to spend time together without losing the opportunity to work.
- Children should have more opportunities to spend time with their fathers.
- Australia should have a publicly supported system of paid parental leave.
- Develop a national strategy for migrant and refugee resettlement, with extended support.
- Encourage classroom discussion of gay, lesbian and bisexual issues, including gender roles and diversity.
- Replace sex education in schools with compulsory ‘safe relationships’ studies.

**Theme 1: responding to disadvantage**

Discussion under theme 1 focused on ways of including the most at-risk members of Australian society, including those living in poverty, migrants, prisoners, Indigenous Australians and young people.

There was broad support for the development of a national strategy or action plan to address poverty, including the establishment of an independent Poverty Commission to set minimum standards for income and entitlements. The strategy could be called a National Inclusion Plan and would involve clear evidence-based targets and goals. It was envisaged that a Poverty Commission would be independent of government. There was support for the inclusion of an Accommodation Guarantee within the national strategy, to increase the amount of low-cost and rental housing available in Australia. Some participants also argued that any such strategy must take into account the role of drugs and alcohol as a major cause of poverty in Australia.

Another key topic for discussion was the level of services provided to migrants and refugees in Australia. There was support for the development of a coordinated Migrant and Refugee Resettlement Strategy, which could include a residential induction program covering basic English, culture and values, an introduction to Australian institutions such as banks and the health system, and ‘how to’s’, such as ‘how to get a job’ and ‘how to find accommodation’. It was also suggested that volunteers run workshops on citizenship and life in Australia, replacing the current citizenship test and the time-based qualification rules to become a citizen.

There was broad discussion of the establishment of community hubs as one-stop shops for government services. In particular, participants noted the need for hubs to include employment services, primary health services, and pharmacy, housing and early childhood services. Hubs were also seen as a tool through which data on the structural causes of disadvantage could be captured. While there was general support, some participants noted the risk that access to hubs would be restricted in rural communities. It was also argued that hubs would not be able to provide the specific services that children require.

Participants expressed support for an early intervention strategy to provide support for children, at key transition points in their lives. It was argued that any approach to children and young people should be holistic and include technology and parent education. Participants noted that, without support from family or other significant adults, programs aimed at children were unlikely to succeed.
On the basis of these and other discussions, the participants who considered this theme voted on the following top ideas for responding to disadvantage.

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<td><strong>6.1</strong> Develop a national poverty strategy, including an Accommodation Guarantee, with clear targets and goals, to be oversighted by an independent Poverty Commission.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6.2</strong> Establish community hubs as one-stop shops for all services.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6.3</strong> Develop an early intervention strategy at key transition points, including early childhood and adolescence, and increase the budget for this by 2020.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6.4</strong> Develop a Migrant and Refugee Resettlement Strategy.</td>
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<td><strong>6.5</strong> Establish a micro-finance scheme in the form of an investment capital fund to help disadvantaged people set up small business.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6.6</strong> Create a National Disability Insurance Scheme, similar to a superannuation scheme, to support the families of people with brain injury from birth or from non-insured accidents.</td>
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<td><strong>6.7</strong> Develop compact agreements, underpinned by goals and targets, between employers, government and community enterprises to support the unemployed into jobs and housing.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6.8</strong> Create an ‘education passport’ for parents, outlining what children need from a developmental perspective at each milestone. This could be similar to the immunisation passport but provide more detailed information covering broader issues facing parents with young children, including practical, tangible advice for parents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6.9</strong> Provide free access to vocational education and training programs for every unemployed person.</td>
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<td><strong>6.10</strong> Replace the language of disadvantage with positive words.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6.11</strong> Close the gaps in Indigenous health and, until these gaps are closed, provide financial assistance to deal with funeral costs, as well as community support.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Other ideas raised under this theme were as follows.

**IDEAS**

6.12 Make early childhood centres more community based to identify the most disadvantaged but at the same time relevant for the community, all children and all parents.

6.13 Address institutionalised exclusion such as prisons: reinvest what is squandered in the formal justice system on inclusion programs.

6.14 Legalise all drugs in Australia: this would reduce crime.

6.15 Sponsor interventions and assistance from an education viewpoint for young people at risk or of disadvantaged background. Use aged and retired workforce as mentors to support this.

6.16 Ensure that young people have appropriate representation so they don’t fall behind.

6.17 Bring all Indigenous Australians out of disadvantage from early childhood through to old age and address current service gaps for Indigenous Australians.

6.18 Enshrine constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians as the first nation.

6.19 Develop a campaign on what we do with tax to revive the concept of ‘the common good’—why tax is good for the community, what we do with tax, how it is used.

6.20 Provide tax incentives for businesses to support the social inclusion agenda.

6.21 Establish a social investment fund by corporate and voluntary individuals, matched dollar for dollar by government, to fund innovative social inclusion programs.

6.22 Equip early childhood teachers to deal with child protection and child abuse.

6.23 Establish a coordinating body and plan of action to combat violence against women.

6.24 Create a ‘day in the life of … being disabled/disadvantaged/Indigenous’ to allow others to understand the reality of social exclusion.

6.25 Develop a matrix of problems when working with the homeless to better fund services and lead to integrated solutions.

6.26 Provide special support services specifically for children, including 24-hour youth centres and safe places to escape violence and sexual abuse.

6.27 Establish programs for young offenders across a range of industries, such as the automotive industry, where cars are repaired and rebuilt by offenders and then are given to sole parents who have had their car stolen.

6.28 Ensure that prisoners receive the education and trade skills needed to secure employment after their release from prison, as a way to reduce the number of re-offenders. A secure job needs to be available for each prisoner (with appropriate conditions), upon release from jail.

**Theme 2: building community ownership**

Discussion of theme 2 focused on ways of encouraging and supporting community engagement, particularly at the local level.

There was strong consensus that local solutions are crucial and that decision making needs to occur where issues are faced. Participants across the groups recognised a need for community organisations to be well resourced, and there was support for capacity-building initiatives. There was also strong shared view that funding for community organisations was excessively regulated. A Charter of Community
Engagement, supported by an Office of Social Innovation, was seen as a way to devolve decision making, with the government providing support but not advice.

Participants also discussed the idea of establishing one-stop shop–style community hubs, similar to those proposed under the theme of addressing disadvantage. Participants looked to the example of Services Canada, which provides Canadians with a single contact point and telephone number for a range of government services, such as immigration, employment and education. However, while some participants supported hubs as a way to provide integrated service delivery across all levels of government, there was also a view that one-stop shops were an antiquated approach that risked excluding those who could not access the physical hub. Rather, it was suggested that hub-style ideas be moved out of the physical space and into an online space.

The top ideas voted on under this theme were as follows.

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<tr>
<td>6.29  Establish an Office of Social Innovation and a Charter of Community Engagement. The office would have equal government, corporate and non-profit funding, and its first task would be to develop a Charter of Community Engagement to outline how the government goes about engaging with the community in the process of developing and delivering public policy. This would include an agreement to take a national approach to community facilitation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.30  Establish Services Australia—a street-level one-stop shop with integrated governance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.31  Establish a corporate community insurance scheme or ‘community chest’ strategy. This would leverage economic activity to community building, including a Life. Be in it–style campaign to encourage workplace giving. This would also include broadly applied tax incentives for social inclusion activities and for businesses that employ homeless people.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.32  Deliver solutions locally, and take work away from governments.</td>
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<td>6.33  Develop a mentor system based on the role elders play in Indigenous communities.</td>
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<td>6.34  Remove constraints on community organisations and reduce regulation in funding agreements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.35  Develop a national leadership learning agenda, with certificates and diplomas in leadership to train people to harness ideas and energy in community</td>
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Other ideas voted on under this theme were as follows.

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<td>6.36  A new form of national service for young people to travel through the country, visiting a variety of places and performing some sort of community service while in that location.</td>
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<td>6.37  Provision of community infrastructure to create centres for community life.</td>
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<td>6.38  Develop age-friendly communities. Recognise that aged people have much to offer.</td>
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<td>6.39  Instigate a campaign to ‘wipe out’ fences from suburbs and a program to bring back the neighbourhood.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.40  Develop an early intervention scheme, not just focused on childcare but focused on engaging the community.</td>
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</table>
6.41 A new, national approach to community facilitation, with funds to train facilitators with specialised skills in consulting and engaging with the community so that they can help extrapolate what the community is seeking.

6.42 Change tax laws to expand the definition of ‘charity’ to increase charities’ access to these benefits.

6.43 A national promotion of Workplace Giving.

6.44 Establish a national housing fund so that a proportion of every house sale is contributed to the fund (through stamp duty). This would be an endowment fund in perpetuity to address homelessness.

6.45 Develop national codes of practice, so that local government organisations can share best practice and overcome inconsistencies.

6.46 Use the Neighbourhood Watch program to run different programs and activities for households.

6.47 Activities to encourage communities to start work.

Theme 3: leadership structures, processes and partnerships

Participants discussing theme 3 focused broadly on the way community organisations are governed, funded and staffed. Participants discussed ways the community sector could better interact with the government, the corporate sector, and itself.

Participants voted on the following as top ideas.

IDEA

6.48 Review government governance structures for the community sector. The review would examine how government works with itself, within and across departments, as well as how accountability works within government.

It was envisaged that this review would look at how government works with itself—for example, how branches in departments work on a policy across agencies and how accountability works within government. In addition, the review would focus on:

- increasing joined-up-government, with a target on early intervention approaches;
- ensuring that the health and community sectors are not disenfranchised by Treasury
- streamlining the governance of government over the sector—for example, a financial empowerment model—through
  - focusing on qualitative data
  - centralising funding
  - valuing social inclusion—redefining success)
  - creating trust with the organisations
  - streamlining funding.
IDEA 6.49 Develop a network of hubs in the community.

Participants thought this could be in the form of a one-stop shop for integrated service delivery (Centrelink, employment agency, health) and would provide centres for learning for local communities. Hubs would also be a place to gather data to analyse the structural causes of disadvantage in the area, with data to be fed back to government through local social inclusion boards. The hubs would be similar to the Services Canada approach.

IDEA 6.50 Develop a community service national attraction and retention workforce strategy.

It was suggested that this strategy would:
- professionalise and raise the profile of work in the community sector
- consider issues specific to women, who make up majority of the workforce in the community sector, such as maternity leave, paid parental leave and carer leave
- include leadership strategies—such as scholarships for management courses, particularly for women
- attract more men into the community services sector
- include strategies to assist and recruit volunteers
  - assistance for volunteers
  - removal of barriers such as public liability
  - assistance with transport costs
  - removal of HECS for those who work in the community sector
  - government scholarships for 50 people who will be working in the community sector, matched by the corporate sector
  - partnership with the private sector—for example, back-filling of key positions by private sector into not-for-profit sector while people are studying
  - subsidies for organisations that provide management opportunities.
- Other ideas that were voted on include the following.

IDEA 6.51 A single national office for the ‘first sector’—a regulatory regime to create a single entry point for all organisations.

It was envisaged that this office could involve the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and the Office of Fair Trading, as well as a national third sector peak body. It would seek to maximise the already thin resources available to the sector. The office would be a key engagement point for the community and would include rural and regional perspectives. It would provide opportunities to coordinate and connect organisations, possibly through a web portal. It would also focus on capacity building. In addition, the office would provide a streamlined funding model and centralised point for the distribution of grants.
IDEA
6.52 Set up a ‘social stock exchange’ that allows small organisations to opt in (that is, become ‘listed’) and subject to the rules (for example, standards).

This would allow people to ‘invest’ on the social stock exchange, allowing amalgamation and consolidation of the smaller non-government organisations. There would be listing rules and corporate organisations could put their corporate social responsibility funds into this stock exchange. The exchange would be parallel to the financial stock exchange and would help with accountability and investment in the sector.

IDEA
6.53 Induct ‘community mentors’ through registered courses and set up a database.

Participants suggested that business and individuals could attend courses and receive a certificate from the local shore. A database of available mentors would create better linkages and share advice on submissions and best practice. It could be used to create leadership ‘heroes’.

IDEA
6.54 Establish a Community Service Commission (like a Productivity Commission) that assesses and lays out plans for the community sector.

The commission would review the state of the sector (including data analysis, consultation, planning, create visions, develop structures) and provide independent research and advice. It would address current capacity restraints for the sector, allowing it to reflect and plan, as well as looking at research and development–type investment grants and tax relief for social inclusion ideas.

IDEA
6.55 Develop a National Development Index.

This group envisaged that the index would develop a series of performance measures for social, environment and economic factors that should be included in all entities’ governance agendas for reporting. It would include a specific focus on social inclusion and making reporting more transparent and accountable.

IDEA
6.56 Encourage social investment funds—sharing responsibility between government, corporates and individual philanthropists (for example, through grants or tax deductions).

Theme 4: our common values

Under theme 4, participants discussed the rights and responsibilities of social citizens. There was general agreement that all members of society, including individuals, organisations, the government and the media, were responsible for cultivating and contributing to shared values.

It was argued that rights such as the right to work, to receive education and health care, are fundamental rights for all Australians to share. However, while these rights are assumed to be given, not everyone in Australia has them in reality. One participant argued that we should rethink the notion of democracy in Australia and redefine it not as the rule of the majority but as the defence of minorities.
The priority ideas were as follows.

**IDEA**

6.57 Define social citizenship and promote it—active, responsible social citizens, including organisations, not just individuals.

Participants noted that this definition should include human rights, values, relationships, support for the less advantaged, and community consultation.

**IDEA**

6.58 Teach social values through the school curriculum.

In particular, participants agreed that schools should teach ‘respectful relationship’ values, rather than narrow sex education (building on the idea from the Youth Summit). Schools should also value early intervention and prevention and offer training on diversity and inclusiveness to foster a supportive culture.

**IDEA**

6.59 Engage with the media to profile socially inclusive values and diversity.

Participants agreed that media responsibility needs to be mandated and monitored in relation to the values of sensitivity and inclusiveness (for example, racial vilification). There is a possible need for a monitoring agency, with a legal obligation for the media to abstain from vilification. There was also support for funding for high-profile people and organisations to put out good messages.

**IDEAS**

6.60 Recognise same-sex civil unions: give same-sex relationships equal legal recognition across Australia.

6.61 Hold a national ethics and values convention every 10 years or so to converse about our national key values.

6.62 Establish media awards to recognise responsible reporting—an existing example is the Eva awards around preventing violence through the media—particularly in promoting responsible reporting for children and in children’s programs.

6.63 A forum or audit to identify good practices and programs on values in Australia and internationally, using these to develop national programs.

As a start, participants suggested using the listed values that are pinned up in schools as well as programs about active citizenship for young people (such as www.actnow.com.au). There was also a suggestion to build on the Victorian assessment tool for young offenders in custody and the UN model of values.
**Theme 5: social inclusion is a first order issue**

For theme 5 the following top ideas were put forward.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDEAS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.64  Develop a National Development Index containing social inclusion indicators—with social, economic and environmental measures—and publish a government report with the budget each year to measure progress. Consider voluntary reporting by other organisations on the index as well. Government should model good practice in social inclusion and diversity. Apply a social inclusion test to all policy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.65  Provide government funding for independent organisations to monitor and promote media coverage of positive community and social issues and strong images of diversity in Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.66  Ensure that by 2020 every child in Australia can speak a language other than English and will learn about the contribution of other cultures to Australia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.67  Develop and implement a charter of rights and National Action Plan for Social Inclusion in partnership with civil society, to enhance social inclusion and combat poverty, backed by measurable and evidence-based goals and targets. Discuss and promote social inclusion values in the community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.68  Establish community hubs—starting with known postcodes of disadvantage—which have one-stop shops to provide income support, housing, legal advice, and so on, and operate as centres of solidarity and learning. Harness data on structural causes of exclusion in that area and successful local approaches. Have a Social Inclusion Board for each of these areas, with specific targets to reduce disadvantage. Data from the hubs feed into the National Social Inclusion Index.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.69  Modify curricula from kindergarten to postgraduate education to include civic and moral education and engagement, and social inclusion in the education system, which will ensure children are exposed to diverse value systems, other cultures and levels of disadvantage, with a specific focus on Indigenous issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.70  Encourage language and cultural respect programs and local inter-faith fora, especially to help new migrant groups and emerging faith groups to share their values and feel less isolated, as well as to preserve their identities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.71  Include specific measures in climate change strategies to support low-income households to adjust (for example, funding for household modifications). Take a methodical approach to rolling this out locally (for example, house-to-house approach, tradespeople going street by street) and increase local employment and opportunities for community enterprises to implement this.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other ideas raised were:

**IDEAS**

6.72 Develop a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

6.73 Ensure that people with disabilities have the same opportunities and supports as everyone else in the community.

6.74 Run two-week camps for young people (aged 15+) in disadvantaged communities. (There was disagreement on this idea because some communities are not safe.)

6.75 Social inclusion as a first order issue has to be fundamental to all Cabinet decisions and government processes (see the South Australian and Queensland legislation).

6.76 Apply a social inclusion test to all policies to prevent social exclusion. The test is whether the community is strengthened.

6.77 Develop a National Development Index that has three streams—economic, social and environmental development—as measures of progress rather than GDP. It may include sub-indices.

6.78 Hold the government accountable against corporate social responsibility standards in the same way the private sector is—government to do triple-bottom-line reporting.

6.79 Government has to model encouragement of diversity. Politicians and the media should speak responsibly about minority communities and the positive contributions of minority communities (not integration), and children need to learn other languages and about the contribution of other cultures to Australia.

6.80 Need to develop workforce retention strategies for the community sector to build a sustainable sector.

6.81 Older people need to be included and encouraged to rejoin the workforce, particularly to address skill shortages and gaps.

6.82 Develop a social inclusion framework to guide work by all levels of government on issues such as income, housing, environment, education and workforce strategies. Have a matrix of issues that affected by social inclusion and develop strategies for each.

6.83 Target 5 per cent of the most disadvantaged communities with a range of interventions that can be skilfully managed within the community and in consultation with the community to build social and economic development.

6.84 Develop social inclusion performance indicators to measure progress, particularly child social inclusion indicators such as literacy and numeracy benchmarks.

6.85 Improve public transport for people to access opportunities for work, recreation and community involvement.

6.86 Undertake economic analysis of community interventions to demonstrate economic benefits of social inclusion through economic modelling of returns on investment. This is the way to make it a first-order issue.

6.87 Universal free access to early childhood education.

6.88 Change the rhetoric on ‘working families’: many non-working families are disenfranchised. The largest family type is single people.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6.89</th>
<th>Provide a well-trained and well-resourced workforce. Address ageing workforce, lack of skills, lack of parity in wages—for example, mining versus community sector.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.90</td>
<td>Teach Indigenous languages in schools.</td>
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<td>6.91</td>
<td>Recognise the long-term economic value of social inclusion and costs of exclusion. Long-term investment in eliminating discrimination and disadvantage offers economic benefits.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.92</td>
<td>Understand the metrics of investment: introduce the language of investment to policies that address disadvantage. One dollar investment equals an eight-dollar pay-off. Long-term returns.</td>
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<td>6.93</td>
<td>Tax incentives for companies to participate in social inclusion strategies—for example, employing homeless people or the long-term unemployed.</td>
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<td>6.94</td>
<td>Families who care for family members should not be isolated economically and socially because they care.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.95</td>
<td>Introduce a levy on business—for example, 1 per cent of superannuation contributions—and put the money into a social investment fund.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.96</td>
<td>Change frequent flyer programs to allow contributions to non-profit organisations (philanthropy).</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.97</td>
<td>Promote corporate social responsibility.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.98</td>
<td>Value all people and decriminalise drugs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.99</td>
<td>Run citizenship workshops in local communities to bring alive the idea of social inclusion and citizenship in local areas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.100</td>
<td>Provide additional support for the community sector to build capacity to deliver on the social inclusion agenda.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.101</td>
<td>Hold a government inquiry into the needs of the sector, looking at competition policy, and so on.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.102</td>
<td>Teach ‘cybersafety’ to families, to ensure that children are safe when online. Have a CyberSmart program in schools.</td>
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</table>

**Theme 6: stronger families**

There were a number of themes common to each of the groups that contributed to the debate on stronger families, such as legal rights and the legislative framework affecting families, the role of carers, the rights of children, the need for greater financial incentives, and the need for more housing.

There was broad agreement that families should not be kept together at all costs, recognising that violence in families is destructive for both parents and children. There was also concern that too often children’s rights are ignored. It was argued that responsibility for making contact should be placed on parents not children.

Participants also expressed the view that Australians should nurture respect for choice. People should be valued, not stigmatised according to drug use, sexual preferences or family structure.
The top ideas identified under this theme were as follows.

### IDEAS

#### Legal rights and framework

6.103 Recognise all families and their diversity, not privilege one type over another, change the Family Law Act, and recognise the rights of children.

6.104 Show equity to same-sex unions irrespective of gender.

6.105 Develop an alternative to the Family Court system. Currently, as soon as a matter is in the Family Court it becomes an allegation. This becomes a disincentive to report.

6.106 Empower single mothers: this will reduce pressure and child abuse. Develop mentoring programs—for example, grandparent programs.

6.107 Children’s issues should not be in the Family Court: need a different court system.

#### Strengthening families

6.108 Trainers of family programs should have a competency-based framework—for example, for family violence, education.

6.109 People who have multiple caring responsibilities are often not recognised and should gain added support.

6.110 Provide a tax incentive if parents choose to remain at home rather than work.

6.111 Encourage parents to stay together and share their parenting duties towards their children, by making divorce more difficult by law.

#### Parenting and carers

6.112 Rostered-day-off time should be banked for parents to take a day off when the family needs it

6.113 Twelve months’ paid parental leave, three months’ quarantined for mother, one month for father. Increase the opportunity for parents to be on parental leave at the same time.

6.114 Advertise every job in government as a flexible work arrangement to encourage conversation about why it would have to be full time for one person. Flexible work conditions for carers and parents, opportunity for re-skilling on return to workforce, encourage job sharing.

6.115 Provide training for parents. The current focus of programs is on birth, not on parenting. The training should be postnatal: antenatal does not work. Also, develop a mentoring system, rather than just mothers groups, especially since the extended family is generally not around.

It was suggested that idea 6.113 could include intensive support, home visiting or centre-based training, covering return to workforce and parenting skills. This could also be part of a one-stop baby shop that extends for all parenting.
The following top ideas were put forward.

**IDEAS**

6.116 Replace the current Immunisation Passport with a Health and Learning Passport for children.

6.117 Support the Prime Minister’s idea of children’s one-stop centres, such as those in South Australia. These are hubs of education and care and can include mentoring as well as both acute and secondary services and preventive programs.

6.118 Develop a National Family Action Plan, with the full breadth of services across all ages.

**Financial incentives**

6.119 Actively assist the many who are hidden, who think they are doing OK but in reality are not.

6.120 Give financial incentives to attend parenting classes: if optional parents will not attend.

6.121 Ensure money is spent according to intent.

6.122 Provide a minimum payment for one parent to stay at home, because two incomes are needed to buy a home.

6.123 Provide 12 months’ paid parental leave for all parents. France does this for three years.

**A Commonwealth body**

6.124 Recreate federal a Commissioner for Children and Youth that covers all aspects—health, education, whole of government, participation, rights of child.

6.125 Increase the status, training and support for those who care for and educate children, including parents, foster parents, care workers, teachers, childcare providers. Recognise children as people so that they will become happy, healthy adults.

6.126 Develop a cohesive National Youth Policy that goes across all departments.

**Incentives**

6.127 Provide tax deductions for volunteering in a mentoring program.

6.128 The baby bonus to be targeted to the outcome government is trying to address—for example, providing the bonus as assistance with education expenses.

**Ageing and carers**

6.129 A community hub could be provided for older people in community; for example, cook extra meal in the family for an older person; establishing a neighbourhood framework. Communities begin to care for self and all in it. This could be staffed by volunteers.

6.130 Introduce a tax deductible ‘fidelity levy’, whereby all Australian workers pay 0.25 per cent of their incomes towards a pooled fund for financially disadvantaged pension-aged parents (assets tested.) Workers without living parents would pay a reduced levy.

6.131 Allow financially disadvantaged aged-pension recipients to receive their Australian aged pension overseas, provided they are Australian citizens and have paid their taxes in Australia for a set number of years.
**Family violence**

6.132 Create a national violence prevention plan that will enable consistency across the nation. The plan will also acknowledge impacts on children, rather than focusing only on women.

6.133 Designate male role models to address violence in families, especially for older children.

6.134 Build a male mentoring program into schools to educate young men.

6.135 Develop a whole-of-government response to capture Australian values of non-violence. We must work with all to regain respect and value, including male victims, as this is a whole-of-family issue.

6.136 Review family law legislation on 50–50 shared care because this is too philosophical.

**Housing**

6.137 Introduce a rent-to-own scheme that will enable families to have a home.

6.138 Boost share housing—for example, a house is overseen by a central person but is shared by a number—as there are too many empty houses.

6.139 Extend the first homeowners grant. There are families in housing crisis who are a second family union. We should support families in need, even if purchasing their second house. Young people also need to be able to share ownership of housing.

6.140 Amend legislation to allow Indigenous communal ownership of land to be maintained.

**RECORD OF DISCUSSION: SUNDAY**

After considering the initial report prepared by the facilitators and co-chairs, participants engaged in substantial debate in a plenary session on Sunday morning. There was a view that, in trying to bring together the ideas presented during the Saturday sessions, some of the specific, practical elements of the ideas had been overlooked. There was also concern that the idealism expressed on Saturday morning had been lost.

One participant presented a framework for a ‘Vision for Social Inclusion’ (see Attachment B), which he had developed with other participants at an out-of-session meeting. A key element of the framework was the proposal that social inclusion is a basic human right.

While there was broad support for the framework presented, participants also noted that concrete, specific ideas were required to fill in the framework. Based on this, participants agreed to continue refining the themes and issues already raised and again broke into small groups for discussion.

**Group 1**

Group 1 felt that it was important to build a social structure that is better than the economy, to provide security in times of economic downturn. The group agreed that key ambitions should be to reduce disadvantage and inequality and to build and strengthen communities.
The key ideas agreed by this group were as follows.

**IDEAS**

6.141 All children should be taught a non-English language in school, with additional funding for state schools.

6.142 Develop an early intervention and prevention strategy across family violence and homelessness.

6.143 Provide 24 weeks of paid, universal parental leave.

6.144 Eliminate violence by 2020 with a national strategy on sexual assault.

**POLICY IDEAS**

6.145 Require the government to lodge an independently audited annual social responsibility report.


6.147 Measure social wellbeing through a National Development Index.

**COST-NEUTRAL IDEAS**

6.148 Encourage companies and corporations to support a micro-finance scheme to create employment opportunities for marginalised people.

6.149 Introduce same-sex civil unions.

**Group 2**

Members of group 2 discussed the way the summit was panning out, as well as their aspirations for Australia in 2020. Some members expressed concern about the way discussions from Saturday had been represented. Other comments from this group were as follows:

- Social inclusion means that everybody fits in. Some people have not reached this point, and there are many people in Australia who do not want to fit in. The main issue is a sense of belonging and for the disenfranchised are brought into the community and engaged.

- Racism remains rife in this country among all groups. We have to accept that there is one human race, and multiculturalism does not work. We have not heard from young people as a group; need to see each other as brother and sister. Because someone holds particular religious views should not change our relationship. The reason racism is a problem is that it is entrenched in large institutions—education and employment. Community programs are on a small scale and change things; need to extend the reach of these.

- We must value human dignity first before anything else and the government must lead by example.

- We should recognise diversity: do not the use word ‘difference’. Diversity does not have to cost anything.

- We should add children’s rights because they have been missed out totally in human rights. Children need to feel they can contribute and have rights. There should be a Minister for Children.

- We need to create a policy that will take care of all living things, imagining a world where all have a better life.

- From these discussions, the group agreed to the following ideas.
IDEA
6.150 Withdraw from wars overseas and redirect funding to homeless people.

POLICY IDEA
6.151 Develop a National Diversity Plan, supported by a National Development Index. The Australian government would be held accountable to and report against this index.

COST-NEUTRAL IDEA
6.152 Recognise same-sex civil unions.

Group 3

Group 3 discussed the ambitions and themes agreed so far by the stream. They also discussed the idea of community hubs and were concerned that, while most groups indicated broad support for this idea, there was no clear understanding about exactly how they would function. A question was raised: would hubs be just a conglomerate of existing service types under current funding structures or will they just be about restructuring governance of funding and delivering services?

The ideas agreed by the group were as follows.

IDEA
6.153 Develop a National Development Index that profiles progress on social inclusion, in the same way that GDP measures economic progress.

POLICY IDEA
6.154 Develop a National Diversity Plan that informs the National Development Index and is influenced by the results of the index. The plan should focus on workforce shortages and challenges.

COST-NEUTRAL IDEA
6.155 Recognise same-sex civil unions.
6.156 Volumetric tax on alcohol, with proceeds to go towards combating alcohol problems.

Group 4

Group 4 participants noted that there was a need to have a common understanding of the language we use and the values we need to work towards as a country. The group felt that holistic service delivery was important and that social inclusion should be a whole-of-government priority.

The group agreed to the following as an ambition for 2020: ‘In 2020, Australia is a diverse, inclusive and respectful society that provides all people with security and opportunity’.
The key ideas agreed by this group were as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDEA</th>
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<tr>
<th>POLICY IDEA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.158 An early intervention policy drive.</td>
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<tr>
<th>COST-NEUTRAL IDEA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.159 Promotion of non-violence as a value, sponsored by the Prime Minister.</td>
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</table>

Other ideas raised by this group but not taken further for discussion were as follows.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDEAS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.160 Develop a national coordinating body for families and communities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.161 Rethink urban design to encourage social connectedness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.162 Develop a comprehensive resettlement strategy for refugees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.163 Establish a Centre for Social Inclusion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.164 Streamline governance in the community sector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.165 Embed a non-discriminatory clause in the Constitution (not the preamble).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.166 Develop a school ‘twinning’ program—for example, pairing schools from different regions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.167 Encourage workplace flexibility.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Group 5**

Participants in group 5 expressed a wide range of views on the ambitions and goals, including that Australia should be known:

- for a spirit of social inclusion and for regarding social inclusion as a human right
- for acknowledging the contribution of all cultures—particularly that of our Indigenous peoples (noting that they represent the most disadvantaged group in our community)

Participants expressed concern that none of the draft statements adequately captured their overarching ambition and goals for the Australian community, failing to adequately incorporate fundamental principles such as social connectedness, community engagement, social inclusion, social innovation and socially responsive governance.

It was agreed that the final statements should clearly and positively express participants’ vision for the Australian community in 2020. In particular, participants agreed that by 2020 Australia should be known and respected internationally in this area.

Participants suggested the following amendments to the themes agreed earlier by the stream:

- Priority theme 1, Making social inclusion a national priority. The following rewording was suggested: 'Making social inclusion and human rights a national priority and establishing a human rights base for social inclusion'.
• Priority theme 3, Establishing a new framework for leadership and governance to achieve social inclusion. It was suggested that this theme should incorporate the concept that leadership can come from anywhere in the community.

• Priority theme 4, Building and strengthening local communities. The following rewording was suggested: ‘Strengthening and engaging communities to have influence on government’.

• Priority theme 5, Supporting and empowering families. The following rewording was suggested: ‘Ensuring personal and financial security for families’.

• Priority theme 6, Reducing disadvantage and poverty. The following rewording was suggested: ‘Ending disadvantage, poverty and discrimination’.

It was also suggested that the following additional theme be added: ‘Re-imagining the relationships of all institutions to all the people of Australia so they become people centred and human rights based’.

Participants then considered the biggest ideas to come from their discussions. In considering the biggest idea of those proposed, participants noted that the concept of a comprehensive, centralised hub for a variety of services and purposes had been broadly supported on day 1. They raised the concern that, in actioning this idea, funding might be diverted away from existing community agencies. As an alternative to a centralised arrangement, the idea of better linking existing services through a ‘hub and spoke’ model was canvassed.

After discussion, the group agreed on the following big idea.

**IDEA**

6.168 Establish hubs—well funded, holistic and integrated; building on existing services; supporting local community action; and providing a possible role for philanthropy.

There was broad agreement amongst participants on the group’s policy idea, as follows.

**POLICY IDEA**


There was support among participants for a range of cost-neutral ideas.

**COST-NEUTRAL IDEAS**

6.170 Hold the corporate sector responsible for the community and set them up as mentors to community-based organisations.

6.171 Encourage partnership arrangements between private enterprise, government and the community sector to support social inclusion.

6.172 Establish a Charter of Community Engagement (similar to a Charter of Human Rights).

6.173 Support for same-sex civil unions. (It was noted that this could be covered under the Charter of Human Rights recommended by the group as their big policy idea.)

6.174 Develop early intervention, which was seen as cost neutral in the long term.
After discussion, it was agreed that the group’s main cost-neutral idea was the following:

COST-NEUTRAL IDEA

6.175 Longer term, secure funding for non-government organisations, in fewer funding streams, with greater flexibility and responsiveness, and with support from the corporate sector.

Group 6

Participants in group 6 expressed support for a range of ideas that had already been raised, including integrated community hubs, a Charter of Human Rights and National Action Plan on Social Inclusion, a National Development Index, an early intervention strategy, promotion of non-violence, and a volumetric tax on alcohol. This group added to the list of ideas the following.

IDEAS

6.176 Establish early childhood education and care centres that are integrated and community based.
6.177 Create a National Housing Foundation, where a small proportion (for example, one-twentieth of 1 per cent) of the sale of every property goes into a foundation or endowment to be used for public housing and homelessness.

It was suggested that contributions to the foundation could be voluntary or compulsory, and there could be a higher level of contribution for investment properties.

Group 7

Group 7 supported the main ideas raised by the stream, including the National Action Plan on Social Inclusion, community hubs, the National Development Index, a volumetric tax on alcohol and civil unions for same-sex couples. In discussing these ideas, the following issues and concerns were raised:

- Community hubs
  - General concern that the stream did not agree on what these would mean.
  - Is it the integration of services, such as a network or co-location of services? Or are hubs about devolving governance to the local level?
  - Concern that hubs are a lower level idea, not a big idea.
  - Concern that the concept of hubs would be lost in translation to the media and public.
  - Why would the hubs include only childcare, not everything?

- National Development Index
  - Concern on how the index would afford weight to certain issues. If the index were to include economic, social and environmental factors, it may lose the ability to measure issues specific to social inclusion.
  - It was asked whether the National Action Plan and the National Development Index could be included under the same idea. However, participants felt that the Plan should be developed by the community, while the index would be developed by experts.

- Taxing alcohol by volume
  - In the Northern Territory, domestic violence was reduced when a tax on cask wine was introduced. It went up again when the High Court struck down the excise.
- There would be winners and losers across the alcohol industry. It would increase tax on wine, which would affect South Australia. A wine-equalisation tax makes no sense for social purposes.
- In Scandinavia similar policies have had a huge impact.
- This would involve a major paradigm shift.
- Young people drink the most expensive alcohol, such as ‘Breezers’, because of high alcohol levels, not because of volume.

• Anti-violence statement
  - There was concern that the media would not agree to a compact regarding coverage of violence.

The group proposed the following additional ideas, which were seen to be cost neutral.

**IDEAS**

6.178 A national coordinating body for the community sector, which would represent the sector and hold the government accountable. Existing roundtables could be subsumed within this body.

6.179 Flexible working strategies for families and the community sector.

It was argued that this would ultimately be cost neutral, as it will save money in the long run. Participants argued that there would be a long-term cost if nothing is done to attract workforce to the sector: indices will be meaningless if there are no people to work in the sector. It was noted, however, that there will be a short-term cost, which should be acknowledged.

**Final plenary session**

The ideas from each of the small group discussions were presented to the entire stream at the end of the day. While time pressure meant that there was little opportunity for further discussion, the ideas presented here in the ‘Ideas’ section were broadly agreed by the stream.

Although the idea of hubs generated broad support across the two days, there was no agreement reached on what these would look like in practice. The stream therefore decided not to include hubs in their final list of ideas, reflecting that disagreement.

In her concluding remarks, co-chair Minister Plibersek asked the group for agreement to include the National Disability Insurance Scheme as an idea for further work and consideration. There were no objections to this proposal.

**OTHER IDEAS**

A number of ideas were expressed during the stream’s discussion but were not developed further.

**IDEAS**

6.180 Private sector and business sector and community (plus individuals) coming together to define what leadership should look like across all sectors.

6.181 Management system: design, build, test and implement a coordinated social inclusion management system (borrowing ideas from the business sector to drive social sector outcomes differently).
It was envisaged that the management system could focus on managing the workforce as an effective resource, including through managing research and funding. An issue for consideration was the fact that, while the business sector is able to deliver huge change, the social sector is passionate but cannot deliver as much.

### IDEAS

6.182 Establish an organisation that develops and assists in mentoring across the sector.

6.183 Social inclusion in government agencies—to be included in reporting, with all organisations to be open, accountable and transparent.

6.184 Repeal voluntary student unionism and fund student organisations that build up skills and development for non-government organisations.

6.185 Bring young people into organisations to learn skills that can later be contributed to non-government organisations.

6.186 Develop a code of practice for local governments: the grass roots is reliant on how local government community engagement happens.

6.187 Create a national standards framework, including an alignment of rules, regulations and standards on charitable organisation across the jurisdictions. This would not necessarily be run by one group.

6.188 Increase representation of women in all management roles in society, including the not-for-profit sector.

6.189 Provide scholarships for principal carers to obtain a management qualification after having children.

6.190 Create incentives for organisations to create innovative ideas for community sector work: could be a research and development social investment fund.

6.191 Take a whole-of-organisation approach to funding.

This would include:

- core funding for small community organisations, so managers don’t have to seek funding year on year just to keep the organisation going

- long-term funding for programs.

### IDEA

6.192 Develop greater inclusion strategies at school to reduce exclusion and racism.

This idea was raised by a participant of Muslim background who was concerned about Muslim children in Australia. The participant said that, while Muslim children want to be part of Australia, the media constantly link Muslims with terrorism, which has caused fear and division between Muslim and non-Muslim children. Muslim families are anxious about their children growing up with this divisiveness.
6.193 Act to restore the value of the victims and perpetrators of sexual abuse, so both don’t get locked in denial and power.

6.194 Give victims choice in how they resolve their issues beyond the adversarial court model—for example, restorative justice, mediate safe resolution, counselling for male and female victims.

6.195 Legalise/decriminalise drugs.

It was argued by some participants that legalising drugs would take the profits out of the hands of criminals that fund terrorism. It was argued that we should:

- Allow users to have known doses rather than unknown doses resulting in preventable deaths.
- Expensive prisons and rejection are not the answer: put money into health and education instead.
- Label drug users as valuable, rather than bad or sick.
- Destigmatise experimentation and foster parent–child communication. This will prevent children feeling guilty and hiding their drug use, which increases the risk of addiction.
- Regulate drugs and tax at point of sale, with all taxes to help addicts who want help,
- Decrease drug-related suicides resulting from addicts feeling worthless.
- Send a clear message that drugs are bad, but people, choices and life are valuable.

6.196 More help for carers.

This would include:

- a carer’s (family) superannuation scheme to reward unpaid work
- family carers seeking accreditation toward entry to the workforce
- establishment of a neighbourhood framework, so that people with caring responsibilities who cannot access full-time paid work can offer life services, for a fee, to others in their community who require assistance.

6.197 Rethink refugee and asylum seeker policy to recognise our shared humanity as well as Australia’s international obligations.

6.198 Reformulate refugee resettlement as per the ideas at the end of day 1 of the summit to ensure integrated, long-term (10 years+) support.

6.199 Local government should be strengthened as the closest tier of government to the community, to act on ideas to strengthen community participation

6.200 Parents and children should be given back the boundaries of the family unit, to be able to work through family problems without the ‘law’ being used as ammunition.
6.201 Apply a social (inclusion) impact statement to all policy development.

Under the Neighbourhood BUDdy scheme:

- Neighbourhoods would be divided into groups of a dozen households called the ‘back-up dozen’, or BUD.

- When a crisis arises in a BUDdy group, a family member of the household in crisis can go to an appointed BUDdy group member who will rally the assistance of the rest of the BUDdy group to help that family through the crisis—for example, making meals, buying in food, childcare.

- Benefits: helps family overcome short-term crises such as hospitalisation of parents. Connects people with the community.

- Disadvantages: will not work in all neighbourhoods but will work in many.

**IDEAS**

6.203 Change the Australian Taxation Office ruling on deductible gift recipient status. This should include prevention of poverty as well as relief of poverty to give smaller community non-profit organisations the chance to benefit from philanthropy.

6.204 Recognise that the ageing of the population by 2020 has been overlooked. The aged need to be part of the response and priority.

6.205 Issues of youth: create mentoring programs for young people to address the gap in education that can be created. Volunteer mentoring programs are beneficial to both young people and older people.

6.206 Make sure all new buildings, houses and renovations are a universal design: retrofit houses, including through the provision of incentives for landlords and owners for energy efficiency.
ATTACHMENT A  SCRIBES’ NOTES ON INITIAL DISCUSSIONS

What are the key characteristics of Australia in 2020 you would like that support communities, families, social inclusion?

Scribe 1

- Better support—both better services and making sure policy does not create the problems
- Support for migrants and refugees. Society that is welcoming and supportive of refugees and migrants in a way that recognises their needs, our international obligations and our shared humanity.
- Support families to support themselves. The nation should identify opportunities to support families to be strong and address developments that weaken families—consumerism, lack of childcare, lack of support for families.

All Australians should be valued

- Value everyone. All people should have a ‘sense of being valued’. Equip people to contribute meaningfully and then value their contribution meaningfully.
- Value the young. Young people should be seen as assets to society, not just problems that need to be fixed. This can be achieved by programs that build the capacity of young people and then value that capacity. Young people should feel like they have a genuine voice in their community. Binge drinking among young people is because they believe no one is listening to them.
- Value diversity. All people should be valued. Diversity should be reflected, respected and promoted.

Equality for all

- Narrow the gaps between rich and poor. Australia should be a more socially inclusive society with less of a gap between the rich and the poor, the privileged and the disadvantaged.
- Australian democracy. In 2020 Australian democracy should be about the defence of the minorities, not the rule of the majority. Australia should have a particular brand of democracy that looks to the rights of the minority.
- Locational equality of access to services. An educated and tolerant society that gives equity of access to key services across Australia, regardless of location. Turn the lucky country into a clever country.
- Right to safety. Women should feel safe in their own homes.
- Equal support for all relationships. We should support all relationships, including gay and lesbian relationships. There should be access to early relationship counselling for all relationships.
- Representative governance. Parliament is not representative at the moment. Everyone should have the opportunity to participate.
- Long and quality life for all. In 2020 every child that is born should be able to expect a century of quality life.
- Equality for those with impairments. People should not be treated differently because they have an impairment.
• Equality, not tolerance. We should move from being a tolerant society to an equal society. Tolerance is prejudice with a smile.

**Scribe 2**

Every Australian spends significant time and resources working for community.

• Free education for all.

• Caring families.

• Integrated government structure, no silos.

• See communities, businesses and government working together to support people with disabilities and their carers, especially during transition times.

• Carers are ageing; they need the same opportunities as others.

• Strong and supportive structures in the social housing sector.

• Acknowledge many speak non-English. Vision that every Australian child will speak another language by 2020 as this one thing will break down many barriers.

• Everybody feeling safe and relevant so they can contribute and feel they matter.

• Moving from ‘Indigenous problem’ to ‘our problem’.

• Strong family units that are networked into community units.

• Families are given access to affordable credit.

• Better resettlement services.

• No minority group will be stigmatised.

• All sectors of government connecting.

• Generosity and diversity becoming normal.

• Focus back on family unit and strong connections in community.

• Diversity of families needs to be nurtured and respected; once we know how connections operate then we can build on this. Diversity is about valuing diversity, but people can be connected and yet not accept difference.

**Scribe 3**

• Service delivery seen as human right/social investment.

• Understand the link between social and economic wellbeing.

• Citizens can combine work and care over their lives without being disadvantaged or disadvantage those they care for.

• No stigma for alcohol- and drug-dependent people.

• Every person is engaged with at least one community that cares for their wellbeing and that they contribute to.
• Better / safe future for kids.
• People treated as whole, not fragments or only part of one group.
• Relationships based on respect equality, non-violence, violence-free home and community.
• No silos in government service delivery.
• Services appropriately funded and work recognised and valued.
• Child-friendly environments for study, work and leisure.
• Cross-cultural awareness.

Scribe 4
• Acceptance of difference (costs nothing but can’t be bought).
• Society that values children and young people (fulfilling conventions under UN Rights of Child, value those that care for children, value carers and teachers).
• Children and parents valued in their role in the next generation (support mechanisms for parents and families).
• Healthy future: ‘best start in life’.
• Equity of access, especially for rural communities (doctors, support services) (no cost, but rather the will to do this).
• Older people are no longer marginalised and are included in decision making, rather than ‘doing to us’.
• Recognition of the gay community at the federal level.
• Connectedness of all people.
• Value people and respect choice and honesty as society is currently built on a ladder—for example, ‘rich better than poor’, ‘straight better than gay’.
• Celebrate diversity (seen as a strength not a threat).
• Compassion as a driver for policy (compassion impact statement)—for example, ‘fair go, mate’.
• Australian to be known for social innovation (paradigm shift in the late 19th century)—symmetry from community, government and corporate sector.
• Collaboration and innovation for structural policy for sectors across the community and business and government (including researchers) to collaborate (be allowed to take risks, try new ideas), including focus on technological solution.
• Respect and celebration of difference (not just acceptance and tolerance).
• Building the community together.
• Sustainable communities.
Aspirational characteristics

- To combat exclusion
- Inclusiveness
- Innovation/resourcefulness
- Community engagement
- Collaborative and cooperative
- Access
- Equal power
- Value all people
- Value children and parenting
- Removal of stigma
- Respect

Scribe 5

Aspirations

- No one is left behind, not the youngest, oldest or weakest. There is opportunity for everyone. Opportunity is not weighted towards prior status or prosperity.
- Australians are content with their lives, family and communities. They have time for each other, time for the community. They work fewer hours.
- Australians are positive about the future.
- Australians have a full sense of community. Everyone belongs, is connected, the community is cohesive, including young, culturally diverse, etc. Not feeling you belong is self-defining and is behind most social tragedy and problems.
- Equal recognition of rights of people as citizens (not taxpayers): everyone can identify with being an Australia without having to justify themselves. To illustrate, the question should be ‘Where are you going?’ not ‘where have you been or where have you come from?’
- Heal racism.
- There is a sense of common humanity between individuals. Australians hold common values about how we relate to each other.
- Our society is youth friendly.
- All Australians are physically and emotionally safe.
- Parenting as a role is much better valued and we support and advance better parenthood (for all children).
• The marketplace must service humanity, not the reverse. We must have a full appreciation of social capital, not just economic capital. Investment must involve moral obligation towards society.

• Sustainability needs to underpin all action: governments, business, community all need to be working together.

• ‘Sorry’ provided its possibilities: we should be able to ‘name’ other things that cause damage and begin a journey of healing.

• Tim Costello’s notion of the ‘third sector’: families and communities being instead Australia’s ‘first sector’ is fundamental for the future.

• A strong and capable community sector is very, very important.

• There should be processes for continuous consultation—‘Town Hall’ meetings, MPs spend more time where people are.

• There are no longer labels such as Gen Y and we avoid labels in general.

• Value: we care for one another as we would for ourselves.

Scribe 6

• Sense of belonging to the whole.

• Mutual respect and engagement, being responsive to different needs, particularly adapting to local community needs.

• Enabling communities in which everyone can reach their potential, belongs, can contribute and is valued.

• Equity (in a non-financial sense).

• Society that respects and seeks to understand differences.

• Everyone has access to supports and services that address the complexities of people’s needs—assistance provided based on individual needs.

• Focusing on better opportunities and protection for the most disadvantaged.

• Building people’s and communities’ capabilities.

• Respect and opportunity for the most disadvantaged.

• Government to keep past promises, especially in relation to child protection and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

• People need to have a role to play in society.

Scribe 7

• Elimination of poverty as an end; vehicles for people who are excluded to have a voice in decision making.

• Human person is at the centre of all our considerations, whatever it is we do. Valuing their personal consideration is important.

• Embrace and celebrate difference, starting with a lack of fear of people different from us.
• Equality of opportunity (general not just economic).
• Building connected and involved (inclusive) communities, supporting all people to be involved and their families enhancing choices—community development.
• People highly responsible to each other, beyond taxes and working but also involved in social engagement with each other—engaged in social movement and integration. Connected with each other. Sense of social civic mutual obligation/ responsibility.
• Great access to tailored programs, bottom-up consultative approach by government, private and other providers.
• Answer the question: Are we an economy or a society? The vision is we are a society served by an economy.
• Elimination of poverty, measured.
• A society where people have an equal opportunity to participate, regardless of place of birth.
• People are valued, all have the same intrinsic value.
• Difference is not limited to cultural and religious, but also different family types of units, gender and relationships.

**Scribe 8**
• Justice: Australia is a just society.
• Diversity: supporting alternative lifestyle choices.
• Respect.
• Valued society: valuing children and families.
• Freedom of choice.
• Everyone can contribute.
• Integration of social and economic.
• Cooperation.
• Protective society.
• Ability to be heard.
• Justice: at the moment we have a legal system, but not a justice system.
• Diversity: whatever path chosen in life, supported for it.
• Respect: fundamental to everything. Don’t value diversity unless have a basic respect for everybody.
• Valuing: about supporting—support, nurture, resource.
• Choice: education and opportunities. Given opportunities.
• Ability to contribute. Social inclusion is whole community. Everyone has opportunity to contribute
• Social and economic: too many are being left behind as they can’t engage in the economy. Ageing demographic means we have skills shortages, which provide an opportunity.

• Cooperation: community level and organisational level. Individual society: how do we have individual choice but also function as families and communities? Linking levels of government.

• Protective society: need to bolster and protect those people who may be left behind.

• Heard: ability to contribute. Need to be heard before can contribute—engagement and opportunities.

• Lots of connections between these ideas.

What are the key challenges we face in reaching these goals by 2020?

Scribe 1

• Diversity: How do we ensure that diversity is welcomed, promoted, valued and reflected in institutions and society? How do we engage the private sector and the community in valuing diversity?

• Knowledge/diversity/implementation: how do we become better informed, with better data, to learn the lessons of the past, to hear bad news and allow people to speak for themselves so that we can deliver sustainable programs with a long-term vision? We cannot improve on what we are doing or what we have done in the past without learning from these.

• Equality: how do we empower all Australians with the full opportunity to participate in the social and economic life of the nation?

Scribe 2

• Three tiers of government fragment services. We need national consistency to deliver.

• National family action plans; schemes in one place; national leadership.

• Biggest challenge is ageing population of volunteers; real challenge is how to deliver. Not valuing volunteers, can’t afford to be volunteers, too much government focus on paid employment. Fragmentation in volunteer and community worker sectors.

• Don’t have processes and structures universally, need process to distribute values.

• Issue is materialism—all for ourselves rather than for community. Is problem our view of wanting or are we a society that does not like giving. In the United States philanthropy, giving and putting self out are more evident; Australians look to government to do this. In the United States giving is built into value system, messages that buying will give happiness are counterbalanced in US media by showing heroes as giving back to society.

• These are symptoms: Need to take to layer below: lack of understanding and awareness; need to experience difficulties in society to understand.

• Education a huge issue; problem is that education needs restructuring.

• In the United States Spanish is the second language; this breaks down barriers. Language: we all come from different countries, yet our kids don’t know own language, not taught at schools, this can link families and communities.

• No communication between leaders and local areas.
• Nuclear families are small.

• Takes all the children to raise communities, need to create environment of village, need a greater child focus in Australia. For example, one area developed an action in the street; this had subgroups to ensure vacation care, and so on.

• Have 180,000 children who are carers, struggle with complex family care issues. We should nurture these children, they get lost.

• Deep cause is appropriate education, economic prosperity, jobs.

• Challenge for many people is their sense of power over self; this ripples into communities. Needs to be more ability to be self-directed to access assistance and support.

• Assuming federal government will sort out all the problems, this is unrealistic, need people to take more responsibility for self.

• Lack of sense of belonging to whole nation.

• Migrants and refugees struggle with who self is—Australian or birth country?

• Need to become a republic.

• Private agendas are a problem—for example, how do you establish programs that are acceptable to all the community. Lack of community engagement. People assume there is another tax or levy that can go into aged care, mental health. Unless there is an awareness of what goes on in other people’s lives can’t change buy, buy, buy characteristic and counter individual interest.

• Stigmatisation of people who do not succeed.

• Consider rather how do you incentivise people to give—for example, how to adjust tax to encourage good.

• Big challenge is working much longer hours: what are the incentives to change this?

• History in country of survival that was translated to government, in the United States do it ourselves, therefore incentives of self-reliance different.

• Therefore need incentives from tax rules, but also come from experience and awareness. Six key ones: set of rules and regulation around behaviour (civility); tax; permission-based behaviour (governance); learning compassion, understanding, awareness; happiness from giving; Australians are fundamentally generous, how do you give people in safe way without threatening to access this. Thirty per cent do give via philanthropy.

• Data does not support this, except disaster situations, don’t think culture has strong foundation that giving gains more than receiving.

• Thirty per cent volunteering is primarily sport, marginal volunteering for those who are disadvantaged.

• Youth want to go into volunteering, if we can create avenues to go out to regions may change future. Private schools have encouraged this, but there has not been funding for this in public schools.

• Migrants are not giving to society is the public view presented. Migrants give to own community but this is not recognised.

• Not using own skills and resources.

• Many families struggling with parenting.
• No reason for communities to get together.
• Building developments that encourage family and communities.
• We don’t have role models in third sector, generally business leaders focused on profit, not on care or time for others or community.
• Most generous people are low to middle income: sad indictment, problem is that public humiliation does not work, need incentives.

Scribe 3
• Services that value qualitative outcomes, not quantitative.
• People are treated as whole people and issues dealt with in integrated way. This means no silos at all levels, including government, bureaucracy, third sector services, public opinion. See this as a fundamental right (cross-cultural, gender etc).
• See as well as changed expectations for people with vices that respond holistically to a person’s crisis or issues.
• Communities self-determine what they need. Currently services are not grounded in community aspirations.
• Mechanisms do not exist to give excluded groups a voice—for example, in law.
• Women don’t have a voice.
• Economic outcomes are short term, this doesn’t fit well with social outcomes and social inclusion isn’t prioritised. Social wellbeing needs to be measured in its own time frame.
• Need to underpin social inclusion with economic measures.
• Social wellbeing is not measured in a time frame that community can easily understand. Need to measure it and have targets that communities can engage with, agree to and work towards. How to get agreement that no one be left behind.
• No system of service mediators: need individuals who can provide a range of supports or help excluded people find these supports.
• Problem is that services often sit outside the communities they serve.
• Workforce challenge: ageing service worker population and ageing population in general.
• How to reconcile women’s increased work participation with the other tasks (such as care) they have traditionally performed. Need inclusive work cultures to support this; also recognise that women do too much work now and this needs to change.
• Shift culture of services from ‘business’ KPIs to community outcomes.
• Challenge: whole-of-government solutions are not supported by government structures and silos. Need integration or different grouping along social lines, not just subject or economic areas.
• Not enough focus on early intervention and prevention: how to identify a better balance between early intervention investment and crisis investment?
• Challenge: kids perspective not adequately represented (because no national Children’s Commissioner).
• Current culture doesn’t value difference or reward diversity.

**Scribe 4**

• How do we engage the community?

• Mechanisms to engage policy development.

• Licence for Australia to engage in policy development (‘create new habits’).

• Community experience can be devalued to influence public policy.

• Sector agreement to work together with government.

• Ownership: how do we create active citizenship from all (compared to the individual)? Note that people who are disadvantaged have difficulties in making choices.

• A strong community can still be excluding those on the outside.

• Creating the tools to engage.

• Would be advantage to develop a neighbourhood network.

• Structural issues in how organisations are set up (funding, reporting, etc); structural challenges of NGOs.

• Improve capability building, skills (IT, financial management) so they can flourish, innovate and are accountable.

• Barriers to collaboration.

• Short-term funding schemes.

• Funding on a competitive tender process.

• Life-long commitment to work.

• Remove political divide.

• Knowledge of older people is forgotten in how they created innovative and inclusive communities, would like to help the changes needed for today through engaging their experience. Wasting their experience and knowledge. How can we do this? For example, neighbourhood participation.

• Don’t currently look at the cause of the problem to then create the solution (for example, don’t give choice to the solution). Restoring the golden rule of ‘me treating you as to how I would like to be treated’). For example, response to crime where punishing people for what they might do, not what they have done.

• Not addressing the root cause of the problems—only acting on cause of chain.

• Challenge to re-establish the basic skills of living.

• Challenge: people who don’t have the choice to ‘do unto others as you would have them do to you’ but would dearly like to.

• Punish the behaviour rather than creating respect.

• Work–family balance is a core challenge.
• Loss of self-confidence and self-worth among community members (the feeling of being valued) too many people are being marginalised. (Would like to see a community where older people and younger people are working together.)

• Undervalue of community—where all people are then valuable in their community.

• How do we re-establish the glue for the community?

• We don’t make time to establish the connections.

• Government doesn’t recognise the new ‘communities’ that are emerging (for example, volunteering over the net) because of technology and mobility (that is, communities of interest). For example, work communities, hobby communities.

Fundamental big questions that need to be answered:

• How do communities get heard (particularly in defining the new diverse communities)?

• How do we strengthen the bonds within communities?

• How do we build the bridges between communities?

• How do we include the excluded within communities?

• How do we address the growing or new inequality of opportunity (for example, mental illness)?

• How do we support all families to achieve a good standard of day-to-day living and quality of life?

• How do we ensure every child has the best start in life (implementing Rudd’s vision)?

• How do we bring together communities and engage them in what they want for their children?

• How do we create a structural environment in which the community sector, private and governments social innovation can flourish?

• How can we ensure that every person of every age is empowered to speak for themselves rather than be spoken for?

Scribe 5

Overarching view that in this policy area there are many difficult challenges

• Need to move from individualism to community focus; relevant across all themes at the summit, including climate change. Some good examples of how unconscious our individualism is: all farmers have tractors and use them a few days each year but people don’t share. Discounts, tax, etc, all support people having their ‘own’, rather than sharing resources. We don’t realise how insidious this individualism is; affects organisations as well.

• But we still want to hold individual identities; our differences offer strength, not difference.

• We need to put in place a ‘floor’ of what is acceptable (opportunity, poverty, respect etc).

• Has multiculturalism failed? Need more of a sense of connection of ‘brother to sister’.

• Individuality trumps community at every turn (for example, right to be drunk versus right to be safe).

• People have abdicated personal responsibility; everything is everyone else’s fault—the government, etc. Media role here as well and loss of civic engagement.
• Broad community has accepted as normal (or do not get involved) re a lot of stuff as long as its not happening to us—for example, poverty, abuse.

• We need for it to be OK to do what is ‘the right thing to do’.

General comments on connectedness

• People want to be emotionally safe so they stick with the people they know, travel long distances to get together; often they don’t identify with or meet or socialise with their neighbours. Therefore they don’t leave their social comfort zones. This leads to prejudice and lack of community. From all directions.

• Connectivity: service groups are declining. Young people are not connected to the community via formal groups.

• Need to shift from a focus on economic resources towards spiritual priorities; argument that Gen Y wants this in order to be engaged.

• But they feel they’ve been ignored, left at home while parents work/career or do bad stuff.

• But Gen X (and others) also regarded as the me generations. In fact, Gen X are not particularly connected either; that is, people in their 40s are not in community organisations either.

Children, young people, parenting

• Relationships: people all need to be safe and free from abuse and they currently aren’t, particularly children and young people. Child abuse massive—660 notifications a day in New South Wales. Kids are in major trouble.

• Youth infrastructure is really, really needed.

• Valuing parenting, mothering, etc, not currently good: need to not just fund parental leave but parenting as a job.

• Working longer and longer hours is bad.

• Kids create their own families and that results in gangs. Parents are disconnecting from kids, not vice versa. Some families working long hours, others substance/gambling/violence/mental health, poor parenting originally. Again community doesn’t value kids and parenting, so many parents don’t value parenting.

• Households are really locked into surviving; need two incomes to keep their homes, pretty bad situation for families, communities, children, environment.

Community sector

• The community sector: if the business sector was in the same state as the community sector there would be a national outrage. Community sector doesn’t currently resource or plan well; agreement on objectives, but we don’t approach capacity building like economics or defence.

• The sector is too competitive; government policy encourages competition and this has to end [gave examples].

• People who work in the sector are of a type that put up with less than ideal situations and resources—we put up with it’. Community sector theme problems of acceptance of status quo, acceptance of internal competitiveness.
Community and family sector often seen as a burden on the community or economy, not the crucial generator it is. Permanent jobs, permanent funding is needed if it’s to be valued and effective.

**Strategies**

- There is a need to separate causes of problems from outcomes; for example, poor parenting by a young mum with many problems of her own leads directly to many, many of our very marginalised youth whose situations then become ‘the outcome’.
- $$ creates a lot of the divide but we seem to believe that economics is going to save things. Can’t just throw $$ at issues. The solution is often achieving commitment, re-engineer, reframe, etc, etc, rather than $$.
- Brings us to leadership: need vision/leadership to create local community change.
- Absence of a community vision theme that draws us together.
- No indices or impacts are visible—unlike GDP etc, safety, integration/diversity etc—this makes for invisibility and lack of ‘news’. [For example, given in session next day: ‘if we were able to say that 800 homeless kids were housed today as well as we can re daily financial and economic indicators, would make a big impact.’]
- Lack of connectivity underpinning the way our communities are designed. Community is very poorly designed for people, heart and networking. We have to find ways of dealing with unprecedented disconnect, and some of these ways are transport/community/urban design.

**Scribe 6**

- Widespread family and community violence.
- Competing interests—individual groups competing against each other for the small resources available. This impedes social inclusion. Contestable approach to funding.
- Capacity of community sector and communities themselves to respond.
- Sector joins up at the local level but funding does not.
- Sector would be happy not to compete: funding comes from fundamentally how we view the individual. Sector reflects funding streams, which compartmentalise people. Need to respond to whole person.
- Structure of funding streams and general capacity of community sector to respond adequately to the needs today. For example, disability, housing, aged care—no way for sector to work across these issues.
- Funding stream approach is siloed: limited imagination.
- Fifty-two per cent of workers in the community sector report that they won’t be in the sector in five years.
- Seen as the third sector: should be the first. Notion of ‘third’ is a challenge.
- Federal vs state funding: responsibilities between Commonwealth and state and territories an issue—ref Family Court.
- Narrow and short-term approach to economic policy.
- Poor distribution of work: some with too much work and some with too little.
• Lack of hope in communities that things can be different: Australians know that things can be different but have lost hope.

• Recently, diversity reined in, restricted and not respected. Policies have restricted diversity—policies of exclusion and punitive measures as a tool in social policy. Homogeneity imposed.

• Lack of links between resources and family policy: volatile era in cost increases (food, water) and the impact on family. Impact of rising costs of climate change on families.

• See people holistically.

• Need to understand root causes of disadvantage: get to the fundamentals and understand causes behind disadvantage—for example, homelessness has many root causes.

• Imbalance in investment: focus on crisis and not on prevention.

• Social inclusion seen as a secondary priority and reactive: need to think about prevention in the first place.

• Understand and engage in causes of disadvantage. Rebalance between crisis and prevention, to the prevention end.

Summary

• Social inclusion as a first order policy area.

• See the interconnectedness between social inclusion policy and all other policy areas.

• Social inclusion is the most important work we do: lift the whole sector to focus on social inclusion. Social inclusion has to be the first priority of government; it has to be the main game of policy—work with environment, economy and other major issues. Social inclusion policy has to be conspicuous in its goals; for example, no mention of migration and issues in social inclusion agenda.

• Social inclusion to include combating poverty and increasing social cohesion.

Scribe 7

• Fear—inequitable allocation of resources (if I give to you I will have less); personal loss/self protection (I can’t give too much of myself).

• Change people’s and government perceptions about the disadvantage.

• Materialism, accumulation of things—need to shift the culture of materialism.

• Individualism and competitiveness.

• Over-subjugation (predominance) of the market. Market has a role - but gone too far in prominence.

• We don’t yet have the answers (for example, mental illness and violence within families and communities). We are not there yet.

• The lack of a framework for success—national vision, goals for social development.

• Need to create subjects in school to educate young in the lesson of moral obligation, civic understanding, and good behaviour.
• Everyone today in our society is so busy. They do not have time. Lack of time—busyness. Lack of time for rest and reflection. Important because the imbalance underpins many of the challenges, and one that government can do something tangible about.

• Change government commitment to longevity and flexible funding support programs.

• Our language: it keeps people separate, excluded. The way we talk about family. Needs to become more inclusive.

*Scribe 8*

• Disconnect between the individual and the wider community.

• How do we bring people into this, such as migrants and refugees? How do we induct people into the community rather than leaving them on the edge?

• Life circumstances—for example, for Aboriginal people, people on the fringe of society - development affected from outset of life.

• Opportunity: need equal opportunity for everybody. Everybody needs a hand up.

• How do we help people to participate. How do use build people’s capacity to participate in economy and social, vocational skills, personal skills and social networks, resources (transportation).

• Language skills.

• Don’t want just a safety net.

• Geography is a challenge. Need to take into account huge disparity in access to resources, education.

• Need place-based approach for disadvantaged areas.

• Getting broader community to accept these are characteristics that we want as a society—business, academia, family. Need acceptance across whole community.

• Also about responsibility for this. Belief in it.

• Misunderstanding amongst groups. There are people in genuine need in a period of transition.

• Money: a lot of this is going to cost. Resources.

• Is also about structures: about how we share resources, silos; short-term versus long-term funding. Need to get act together cooperatively.

• People rarely have a single issue: come with multiplicity of problems.

• Whole-of-government approach.

• Silos in sectors. Getting business world to work with community sector.

• In community sector there are also silos.

• Need cross-sector approach.

• We want everything now, but these issues are long term.

• Business, government and community sector: need to avoid pointing to government all the time. Government hasn’t delivered a whole lot all the time.
• Government is not necessarily the best to deliver.
• Government—funder, policy adviser to help get there.
• “Now” generation affects way things are funded. Funding for two to three years. Communities don’t want to engage: they know program will be pulled out, can’t attract good workers, community left to fund. Three years not long enough to help change communities. Need a long-term vision.
• Disconnect/tension between individual goals—for example, for car versus care about climate change.
• Common theme around disadvantage and opportunity.
• Want to start from bottom up, draw from families and communities. Role of community and sectors within community to work with them in finding responses.
• Community acceptance: something missing, disconnect, blame game, not understanding why people behave in a certain way.
• How do we get community ownership?
• How to respond? Government processes, government responses are often short term. Need to change the way we respond to this. Silos in structures and processes.
• Champions: need leaders across sectors.
• Workforce, skills—how to respond.
• Prejudices are a real block—prejudices about city versus country, faith versus faith, migrants versus people who are here, private versus public sector—another way of talking about silos. Is about the personal; the view that this is all well and good, but ‘they’ won’t fit in.
• Big-ticket items versus cross-cutting linkages.
• Not-for-profit sector has problems because doesn’t measure its outcomes. Need to measure social return. How are we going to measure and become credible? Then can’t start building long term.
• Need rigour about how we measure: use language, but don’t necessarily understand.
• Social return on investment: need this as well as economic return on investment.
• We work in specific cultural contexts: this excludes people—we, ‘other’ people. We don’t step back and say, ‘if it’s not them, then what are we doing to cause this?’ For example, Aboriginal communities, new ethnic groups that come in, but also with bikies, teenagers, etc. Way of looking at world where we look at what we are doing.
• It’s about personal responsibility.
• Can do this at all levels—government, community, personal.
• Simplistic thinking, often focusing on symptoms rather than underlying issues.
• Alcohol: need to look at why people are drinking.
• Need to look at underlying causes.
• So need to not just address problem but underlying issue.
• Early intervention is important: prevention not cure.
Summary

- Connection between disadvantage and opportunity—from life circumstance we are born with to how this affects life opportunities.
- Link equal opportunity, geography and disadvantage.
- Prejudice and other linked with community acceptance and ownership.
- Connection and partnership between different levels.
- Links champions, not assuming government will always do, linking across tiers of government and society.
- Longer term thinking.
- Early intervention and prevention links with social return on investment.
- Long-term thinking—prevention and social return on investment—the now, reactive not proactive.
- Return on Investment—should keep as both economic and social return; need both. Economic inequity drives social problems, social inequity leads to economic inequity. Improving social outcomes also leads to economic returns.
- Social inclusion should be in centre, with links in and out, linking with other groupsstreams. Are there overlap relationships with all other streams? Influence is two-way, both into other streams and from those streams into this one.
- Governance: so many of these issues need an integrated approach. How do you bring together different resources at different levels, so can have an integrated approach?

What are the key questions we need to ask?

Scribe 1

- How do we empower different people with different needs?
- How do we get equal outcomes for all, taking into account their different needs?
- How do we achieve equity of access?
- How do we achieve equal outputs with different inputs?
- How do we deliver equal treatment?

Scribe 2

- How do we reconnect our community?
- How do we inspire people to volunteer, to give resources and time?
- How do we get people to understand what is needed and a shared common prosperity in this?
- How do we get people to see where they fit in this?
- What are the barriers that can be removed? How to build incentives?
- What can we do to give communities a voice to say what they want?
• How to leverage our diversity to develop our own community and how this can be used in rest of world.
• How does each family have a plan for the future instead of living day to day?
• How do we control media to build value of family?
• How do we shape the leadership heroes, that value community, sharing?

Scribe 3
• Why does social inclusion matter?
• What do we need to do to build services that are holistic, respectful, integrated, grounded in community aspirations from level of policy development, bureaucracy, service structure and delivery? How do we fund, resource and deliver these services in light of workforce challenges, ageing population?
• How do we measure and value social wellbeing and social inclusion? What targets can we use to improve these things?
• How do we ensure every Australian is included in and feels connected to a community? (Two way: supported by community and contributes to it.)
• How do we ensure women have an ongoing voice that influences the agenda for social inclusion and other issues in Australian society? Children?
• How can we make sure everyone shares in the power of society and can exercise their rights as a member of a community? Including basic human rights, operating in practical situations and in theory.

Scribe 4
• How do we rediscover core beliefs?
• How do we build a new vision for our community?
• How do we create the imperative/call to action? For example, we don’t want a war, but this works!
• How do we get people to take individual responsibility, to create acceptance, then generate response?
• How do we better value parents and parenting?
• How do we reconnect? How do we motivate people to want to be part of a community? For example, if they are rich or already marginalised how do we bring them in? Otherwise ‘profound loss’ of being not connected.
• How do we overcome negatives? They are very, very hard—poverty, violence, racism.

Scribe 5
• Primary question: how do we ensure social inclusion is a first-order issue linked and integrated with other first-order issues like the environment and economic development?
• Second question: how do we develop a structural framework for delivering on social inclusion?

• Third question: how do we ensure social inclusion focuses on those who are most disadvantaged and respects diversity?

• Fourth question: how do we strengthen the community sector to deliver on social inclusion?

• Fifth question: how do we strengthen communities to deliver on social inclusion?

• How do we create a culture of non-violence in Australia and re-sensitise people to violence?

• What is the nature of family in Australia today? How do we respond to what family is and what it needs—for example, family reunion for refugees and restrictions on what family means (cultural differences).

• How do we create partnerships between government, clients, community and other stakeholders?

• Government is a major audience: the state (government) needs to provide leadership.

• How do we provide better opportunities for a balance between work, family and community lives?

• Issue: whether Australian governments will commit to a European model of social inclusion.

• How will social inclusion be put at the heart of policy—for example, economic policy?

• Issue: essential ingredient of social inclusion is the economic approach.

• Issue: how to define disadvantage—material deprivation, poverty or other? Closing the gap; could use measures of participation—economic, employment, community, etc.

• How to define ‘disadvantaged’: it’s about resources (the means), opportunities, protection and rights.

• ‘Social inclusion’ is a broad term: it means protection of basic human rights?

• How do we ensure social inclusion provides access to resources, opportunities and protection from abuse of rights, freedoms and safety?

Scribe 6

• How do we become a society served by the economy, rather than vice versa?

• How do we eliminate and prevent poverty and its pervasive negative impacts?

• How do we become a society that embraces and celebrates the reality of our diversity?

Scribe 7

Opportunity and disadvantage

• How do we equalise opportunity to live fulfilling life? Has to be economic and social participation—not equalising?

• More than equal access and opportunity: how do we raise people?

• How do we focus on the individual as well as raising general position of overall community?

• Disadvantage—location, economic, capacity, cultural, disability.

• Capacity covers a whole range of issues.
• Community attitudes, prejudice.

Final questions

• How do we respond to disadvantage to create capacity for participation?
• How do we build community ownership, acceptance, responsibility for the benefit of all?
• How do we change our focus to longer term, prevention, underpinned by an understanding of social and economic return on investment?
• How do we establish structures, processes and partnerships across the community—government, sectors, non-government organisations, business, local communities?
• How do we make social inclusion the central objective of the Australian community?
Options for the future of Indigenous Australia

Co-chairs:
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OVERVIEW

The Australian Parliament’s apology to the stolen generations provided a historic opportunity to consider how Australia might, as a nation, achieve fundamental change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The 100 members of the stream discussing options for the future of Indigenous Australians were asked to consider the following questions as background to their discussions:

- What is required for Australians to come to understand the complexity of Indigenous disadvantage, so that they will have a better understanding of the resources and time frames required to close the gap?
- What would improve access to mainstream services for Indigenous Australians living in urban and regional areas?
- What targeted interventions have the best hope of achieving change in remote communities?
- What is the role of Indigenous leadership development?
- What can be done to best promote and preserve Indigenous cultures, languages and traditions?
- Where will Indigenous culture be placed in 2020? What is the Indigenous role in what Australia as a whole aspires for in terms of identity and culture?
- What is the role for non-Indigenous Australians in working with Indigenous communities towards shared goals?

The format adopted by this stream was to break into 10 groups over the two days of the summit, each discussing and contributing to the stream’s three topics:

- ambitions
- priority themes
- top ideas.

After each discussion group session, groups reported back to a plenary session and ideas were brought together for a stream summation by the facilitator. There was no formal process of endorsement by the entire stream, a reflection of the diversity of opinions in the group. Rather, the themes, ambitions and ideas discussed here are those that had commonality across groups and on which broad consensus was reached. To ensure the completeness of the record, summaries of each of the group discussion sessions are provided. The membership of the groups was fluid, changing often during each day. As a result, this record does not reflect ideas from discussion groups with the same membership during the two days.

Finally, the chapter provides a summary of the outcomes of an out-of-session stream on Indigenous economic development and a message sent to the summit by Anangu Pitjanthjara Yankunytjatjara community members.

AMBITIONS

The ambitions of the stream were discussed in each of the sub-groups, and a number of themes and aims were identified in plenary sessions:

- Following the historic and significant apology a new national, bipartisan dialogue between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and government should begin.
• There should be a new form of engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in public policy and planning that affects them, as well as formal national recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their place in the national identity and national story.

• By 2020 we will have capable, productive and confident families, young people and children who are proud, independent and contributing members of society.

• By 2020 there will be a high level of attention, energy and resources focused on the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

• By 2020 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will have parity with other Australians across the spectrum of measures—most importantly, in the strength and wellbeing of their families and young people, safety and security for families and children, decent housing, good health and education.

• By 2020 at least one person in each Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander household will be in ongoing employment.

These points were summarised by some participants as follows:

Our ambition is an Australia where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have formal recognition in the Australian legal framework and Australia’s global identity is one that is recognised as being enriched by a living culture that is 50 000 years old. In this Australia in 2020, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the same health, education and economic participation opportunities and outcomes as other Australians, are able to realise their hopes and aspirations and are affirmed in their cultural identity. This can only be achieved by taking measures now to urgently transform society to nurture today’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and children.

THEMES

The stream as a whole agreed on a number of priority themes, which were further explored by the smaller discussion groups during the summit:

• Enshrine formal recognition of Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

• Provide stronger support for families and their wellbeing and their role in keeping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and identity vibrant. This includes safe, private space in community life for families, so children can be nurtured and cared for and are able to get a good education.

• Encourage a new form of engagement that harnesses Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ability, knowledge and leadership.

• Overcome the complex arrangements at the national, state and territory and local government levels in relation to funding, infrastructure and some service delivery—for example, housing.

• Develop new, more comprehensive accountability arrangements.

• ‘Close the gap’ in all areas and capitalise on links between formal recognition and achieving better social and economic outcomes.

• Identify and maximise the interdependencies between housing, education, health and employment.

• Provide to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people an opportunity to be involved in developing policies and programs designed to assist them, recognising that these young people represent a substantial proportion of the Indigenous population.
• Ensure that young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, in urban and regional areas, are involved in decisions that affect them, rather than being invisible to policy makers and planners.

• Speed up the pace of economic development, redistribution of resources and clarification of property rights.

• Expand partnerships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander entrepreneurs and business.

• Place value on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and weave them into global identity.

• Give due recognition to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge of country, and recognise the relevance of this knowledge to the response to climate change, water and sustainability challenges.

• Confront racism.

IDEAS

Building on the small group discussions, the following key areas and corresponding top ideas were identified across the entire stream.

Families and children

Families need to be the fundamental building blocks for the planning and delivery of services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Families are the primary places for care of children and the primary sources of knowledge and learning about culture. As an aspirational goal, at least one parent should be in full-time, ongoing employment to provide a model to begin to break transgenerational cycles of poverty, disengagement and unemployment.

Governments at all levels need to become proactive in working with families and to develop family-centred services and family-tailored solutions. Services need to be able to deal with urgent and deep-seated intergenerational problems, especially in remote areas and where children are involved, to break cycles of poverty.

IDEAS

7.1 Develop an education policy framework that provides genuine choice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their parents and can integrate health strategies in an early childhood intervention strategy.

7.2 Provide options for children to obtain high-quality schooling—including boarding schools, hostels, away-from-home foster families to stay with at weekends, mentors for support, ABSTUDY, private scholarships and community schooling.

7.3 Introduce individual learning and health compacts for each Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child. The compacts should be compulsory and would be with state or territory authorities. They should be supported by case management to ensure that children who need help receive it promptly and effectively.
7.4 Establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Fund to tackle long-term problems through the development of services to redress unmet need.

7.5 Build, develop and reward the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educational workforce, and introduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander liaison staff into schools and childcare centres.

7.6 Introduce school exchanges to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and non-Indigenous children an experience of living in each others’ worlds, so there is a deeper mutual understanding among future generations.

7.7 Encourage gifted young professionals to work as teachers alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators in remote schools.

7.8 Re-establish and reinvigorate multi-functional childcare centres.

A new national dialogue and formal legal recognition

There was support for new national, bipartisan dialogue and formal legal recognition. Participants noted that a new philosophy was needed to redefine the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the nation and that this new philosophy and relationship should be reflected in the instrument of formal recognition. Some participants felt that such recognition would elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture to its proper place in providing the foundation for a national agreement between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the Australian nation.

Formal legal recognition was discussed in various terms—as an agreement, pact, treaty, Bill of Rights or constitutional amendment. Some groups debated whether formal agreement was necessary or whether it was a priority; others were anxious that the notion of a treaty would raise concerns in some sectors of the wider community and that it was important that the dialogue represent an opportunity to allay fears and build trust throughout the Australian community.

IDEAS

7.9 Formal legal recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

7.9.1 A national education program is needed to support the dialogue.

7.9.2 Co-commitment to the agreement should be sought from the states and territories.

7.10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being recognised as First Nations Peoples

7.11 Establishment of a national meeting place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and events, a place that could be the centrepiece of Australia’s national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander institutions

7.12 Establishment of a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative body after considering the nature of its role and relationship with government, the corporate sector and the wider community and the options for its structure

7.13 Support the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

7.14 Some groups suggested that there be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander seats in parliament, as in New Zealand; others recommended greater encouragement of and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to stand as candidates in elections.
Government reform and accountability

There was wide support for rigorous accountability of, and transparency in government, including new, independent mechanisms, with ‘teeth’ and sanctions, to monitor accountability. There were also calls to streamline the way the Commonwealth, state and territory and local governments work together in relation to funding and the delivery of infrastructure and services.

It was felt that the government should commit to firm outcomes and indicators against which the outcomes can be measured. These indicators should not be changed at whim. Governments ought to support self-help, and for this to be effective families need to be able to work with government in simpler, more straightforward ways. The relationship between families and governments needs to be person or family centred.

IDEAS

7.15  Build accountability, reporting and monitoring in Indigenous policy initiatives, either through:

7.15.1 establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Productivity Commission, involving significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation; or

7.15.2 building on existing frameworks, such as the Productivity Commission having responsibility to monitor, be a ‘watchdog’ and report on progress; or

7.15.3 establishing a parliamentary committee, possibly a Senate Estimates–like committee, to examine government expenditure directed to the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Such a committee should be able to scrutinise expenditure in the areas of education, health, policing and law enforcement, and employment services.

7.16  Reflect a better relationship with the Australian government through changes in the machinery of government.

7.16.1 Establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander–led strategic policy unit to develop and drive a long-term National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Development Plan. Membership of the unit would be drawn from the public, corporate and non-government sectors and should have a whole-of-government perspective.

7.17  Include incentives for self-help and development of skills that support independence in government funding.

7.18  Develop service delivery mechanisms that are people centred and more convenient—for example, a community hub, ‘one-stop shops’—with services delivered by people who are enabled to coordinate across governments and agencies and are not confined to their service ‘silo’.

7.19  Assess senior public sector managers’ performance against Indigenous-specific outcomes and indicators.

7.20  Change the policy language associated with Indigenous matters. For example, move from words and concepts focused on disadvantage and dysfunction to strength-based words and concepts such as ‘development’ and ‘capacity building’.

7.21  Create a ‘clearing house’ in the form of a database that includes all Indigenous programs, to provide a central link in the Indigenous community for the provision of services.
Health

There was general agreement that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service delivery models need to be renewed and reinvigorated.

**IDEAS**

7.22 Eradicate trachoma amongst Indigenous children within five years through a comprehensive health strategy, at a cost of possibly less than $25 million.

7.23 Establish an equity-based reconstruction fund to build infrastructure and services designed to promote better health, to build better housing and infrastructure, and to engage in innovative projects aimed at improving communities’ capacity to function well.

7.24 Place a child health nurse in every school, and give young mothers and their babies in the community access to this service.

7.25 Renew emphasis on and reinvigorate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service delivery models.

7.26 Establish a National Healing Foundation.

Economic development

Participants called for seamless regulation to enable Indigenous businesses to grow across state and territory boundaries, as well as for better Commonwealth–state coordination of government funding arrangements and services.

**IDEAS**

7.27 Provide tax incentives and concessions to encourage higher levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement in private enterprise and entrepreneurship. Some groups and individuals cautioned that tax incentives and concessions need careful consideration because they do not always achieve the desired results.

7.28 Conduct a national review of Indigenous businesses and an annual survey of them.

7.29 Provide incentives to encourage people to move into employment.

7.30 Explore options and opportunities for increased employment of Indigenous people in the private sector.

7.31 Establish an entrepreneurial fund, Indigenous Business Alliance clusters, corporate partnerships, performance targets and performance indicators in government contracts involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises.

7.32 Include an Indigenous business ownership target in the Closing the Gap annual report.

7.33 Develop clear individual property rights in relation to homes and businesses.

7.34 Fundamentally change property rights to allow for negotiation and establishment of structures for the recognition of prior ownership and future directions relating to native title.

7.35 Explore the idea of economic business zones to stimulate economic development in areas that currently experience little or no economic activity.

7.36 Re-appraise superannuation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: their shorter life expectancies mean they have less opportunity to enjoy superannuation after retirement. Explore options for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to use their superannuation to purchase a home.
Culture, art and symbols

There was general agreement that culture, art and symbols are vitally important both for preservation of culture and for recognition. To quote a report from one discussion group, ‘We know the summit will have been a success when the Prime Minister speaks an Aboriginal language in 2020’.

**IDEAS**

7.37 Create an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural framework for developing a strategic plan to expand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and other cultural opportunities globally.

7.38 Establish a National Knowledge and Cultural Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, showcasing the cultural contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Canada and New Zealand have such centres. Old Parliament House was suggested as a possible site now that there is a new building for the National Portrait Gallery.

7.38.1 A National Knowledge Centre Network should also be established to provide support to regional knowledge centres that recognise the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and to keep and tell the story of country.

7.38.2 These centres could be linked to community hubs so that resources can be shared. Digital technology provides opportunities to make Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures part of the digital revolution by using the technology to document, record and share cultures.

7.39 Provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language teaching in the early school years.

7.40 Establish a national cultural authority for the protection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander intellectual property.

7.41 Use Aboriginal artwork and symbols as national symbols and at commemorative events. Among the suggestions were a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Day (with reverence and significance similar to that of Anzac Day), Aboriginal place names, and public artworks created by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

7.42 Hold a memorial service to commemorate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who served in or demonstrated exceptional courage in war.

7.43 Consideration should be given to whether people with cultural knowledge should be accredited.

7.44 Use the term ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander’ people, not ‘Indigenous’.

**Low-cost and cost-neutral ideas**

The following low-cost or cost-neutral ideas were put forward. In addition, some participants suggested that tax incentives could be justified as a low-cost idea because they could ‘kick-start’ business activity to a level where costs could be recovered. This suggestion did not, however, receive unanimous support.
IDEAS

7.45 Support the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

7.46 Develop ‘sister school’ arrangements.

7.47 Include Indigenous business, employment or outcomes targets in government contracts.

7.48 Bring in local elders to share cultural practices at schools. Make sure every local school is involved in gathering and learning the stories and culture of their local country. This would also be appropriate to all communities—not just those that have retained their traditional language.

7.49 Share information about good practices, so as to keep families functioning well and staying together.

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

The 10 groups in this stream dealing with options for the future of Indigenous Australia discussed a broad range of subjects, as follows.

Group 1

A formal relationship

In connection with the idea of a formal relationship, group 1 came up with a number of points:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need to establish their place in a globalised world, and this could be achieved through a formal framework for the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and all levels of government.

- This would create a sense of security because arrangements would not be vulnerable to political change; for example, a national treaty could require government to consult with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on relevant policies.

- The process of negotiation between the government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is just as important as the outcome.

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have knowledge of the environment that can be of assistance in responding to climate change.

- There needs to be recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge, the importance of self-determination, Aboriginal-run organisations (including art organisations) and the role of the Community Development Employment Projects program.

A national representative body

There was debate about the role of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative body. Group members canvassed whether such a body should lead Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in relation to health, families and communities or whether it should be confined to guiding the government in relation to development and implementation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander law, culture and associated policy.

- Let there be formal representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through a body that could engage with governments in meaningful ways—that is, by means of a treaty, an Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Senate estimates committee and/or support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**Constitutional change**

There was a strong view that recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s rights needs to be included in the body of the Constitution, not just in the preamble.

- Amend the Constitution so that it encompasses Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander world views, recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and establishes a new relationship between government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people based on mutual respect.

**Racism and the national lexicon**

- Change the way some mainstream Australians think about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: tackle racism.
- Ensure due recognition of Indigenous people’s contribution to Australia.

**Symbolism**

- There are currently no national symbols representing Australia’s cultural diversity.
- Symbolism is important; for example, consider an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person for a future head of state.
- If the Prime Minister spoke an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language, this would afford respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and cultures.

**The importance of a vision**

- It is important to establish a vision to bring together all other work in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander areas. Leadership at all levels is important to this process, including through the family and local, state and federal governments.
- Policy should focus on family, community, land, people and livelihood and emphasise rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This should include constructive and active leadership, a healthy, wealthy community and strong, productive individuals.
- In 2020 the treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be world class. The Prime Minister should be able to say he is confident about his treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and that the gap of disadvantage has been closed.

**Involve young people**

- There is concern in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that, if action is not taken now to involve young people, culture will be lost.

**Micro-loans**

- Micro-loans represent an avenue through which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can gain a footing in the economic market.
Group 2

Further to the ambitions agreed by the stream, group 2 considered some other aspirational goals. In particular, the group hoped that by 2020 an Aboriginal person standing on St Georges Terrace in Perth will know their culture and value their cultural identity and will be as comfortable and capable as any other skilled person working in that city. The group also considered ambitions for 2020 from the perspective of a young Aboriginal family, which would have to face difficulties such as marginalisation, ensuring that their children are educated, getting at least one parent into a job, and being safe from violence and abuse at home and in everyday life. Finally, the group noted that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families are affected by similar difficulties wherever they live—be it in remote, regional or urban areas.

The following were among the main topics the group discussed.

A national framework and governance

- Create a national framework to begin the processes of developing policy, setting the rules of engagement, and defining the processes for moving forward.
- Create a new federalism, with Commonwealth–state relationships on a new footing. There needs to be a set of co-commitments between and across government, including with state and territory governments, to give certainty and clarity.
- Develop civil governance, with mainstream policing to protect and ensure safety and to set models and patterns designed to break the transmission of poverty across generations.
- Governance at the local level: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities must be resourced so that people can solve their own problems.

Philosophy

- The philosophy underpinning policy needs to be articulated. Choice is a central theme, but we need to refine the concept of choice—for example, the exercise of choice after obtaining education so that decisions can be made responsibly. The idea is to make it clear that choice involves responsibility and is not confused with willfulness.

Education, families, children

- Education of children is paramount. Education-related factors include the level of infrastructure, quality of education delivered, access to and the location of schools, suitability of boarding schools for remote students, levels of access to boarding schools, and strategies for encouraging students in remote areas to continue their education.
- Provide support for children who are away at school, both in an educational sense and in terms of culture and family.
- Provide support for families who cannot afford boarding school fees.
- Recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are bicultural. Learning and appreciating languages and cultures is vitally important to identity and belonging.
- Provide support for children who are not ready to go into high school for some reason and help prepare them for high school—bridging the gaps in their education and getting them up to speed, so that they can catch up, stay in school and gain their qualifications.
• Talented children can be supported through scholarships, but there is a need to develop support mechanisms for all children. Varying options and opportunities need to be created for a wide range of abilities and achievements. The opportunity to learn in a wider community context is important.

• Make school interesting so that children will go there and stay there.

**Breaking the poverty cycle**

• Enable at least one parent to gain employment—if possible, full-time, permanent sustained employment.

• Provide resourcing and infrastructure in local communities and regional hubs. In particular, focus on services that support the child.

• Recognise that urban communities have many of the problems that beset remote towns.

• Encourage governments to support self-help. To do this effectively, families need to be able to work in simpler, more straightforward ways with governments. The relationships between families and governments need to be person and family centred.

• Develop funding models that include incentives for self-help and developing skills that support independence. Home ownership is an important example of independence for some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

**Culture, language and history**

• Teach language and history well in school, beginning at kindergarten, to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and non-Indigenous children.

• Encourage urban Aboriginal children to live their culture—to learn it and practise it within their family and in the wider community.

**Group 3**

**Families and children at the centre of Indigenous policy**

• Establish mobile health centres and outreach for urban communities with poor transport and for communities in regional and remote areas.

• Develop a national health worker registration system in order to create a more mobile, more efficient workforce.

• Incorporate the UN Declaration on the Rights of Children in Australian legislation, so that it is enforceable.

• Attend to chronic health conditions for which early intervention and prevention are crucial—for example, trachoma, rheumatic fever and foetal alcohol syndrome. A combined health intervention program was suggested for tackling chronic disease: include in the program interventions starting with motherhood and fatherhood preparation at school.

• Develop programs aimed at increasing the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers-to-be receiving medical support in the first trimester, to the same extent as non-Indigenous women.

• Provide Indigenous health nurses in schools to support children, young people, their parents and the wider community.
• Review the role of allied health professionals in Indigenous medical services and other health services, with a view to enabling them to make a more positive contribution in areas such as prevention, education and protection.

• A combined health intervention program should be developed to draw together health and education strategies and options. It would include baby care and programs for toddlers and siblings and have a substantial focus on child-protection training for mothers and fathers.

Local councils

• Local councils have the potential to play a positive role. They could welcome a mother and her new baby back to the community with a basket of baby goods and introduce mother and baby to the local mothers and grandmothers groups.

Education

• Develop a mentoring system to support children who need to leave home to continue their education.

• Fund kitchens at schools for the preparation and serving of nutritious lunches.

An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Fund and a Healing Foundation

• Establish a 20-year endowment fund so that effort, resources and commitment can be mobilised for long-term projects. It was envisaged that this would consist of $1 billion invested by the government from the budget surplus. Income could be used to resource long-term programs that take on causes and be tailored to local needs in individual communities—for example, early intervention and delivery of programs, pregnancy programs.

• Establish an Aboriginal Healing Foundation similar to the Healing Foundation in Canada—although there was not full agreement about following the Canadian model.

• Alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs are desperately needed, especially residential programs where people can get away from the drinking or drug-using peer groups, which are powerful. It was considered that the Alert Bay Centre in Canada is a good model.

Aboriginal dads in cities and regional towns

• Develop programs that include fathers, provide parenting skills, deal with alcohol and substance abuse and personal trauma, and develop optimism and self-confidence.

Pathways to and from incarceration

• Develop different options so that communities remain safe and peaceful and young people have challenges and continue their education. Farm schools were suggested as an option that might help prevent incarceration.

Using art and spirituality in developing solutions

• There is evidence that children with a strong cultural identity do better than those without. Support for cultural practice is important for child health and emotional development as well as for communities and older people. Grant funding could be provided to support events such as Garma and Inma on large and small scales.
• Design prevention and other programs in creative ways that maximise the benefits of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s spirituality and artistic connections.

• Provide support so that elders and older people can preserve and convey to others their knowledge, culture and experience.

Group 4

A treaty

• A treaty is the fundamental thing. Without a clear place in this country, nothing else will happen.

• The treaty structure needs to take account of major, persistent problems such as alcoholism and deaths in custody, commit to resourcing the solutions adequately and in a sustained way, and be enforceable.

• A treaty will give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a ‘level playing field’.

• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation in parliament must be increased. This would not necessarily be through separate seats: rather, Indigenous people should be supported into local government seats then through the state and territory level and into federal politics.

A Reconstruction Fund

• Develop a Reconstruction Fund from a percentage of GDP to build community capacity, encourage healing, and improve local leadership and governance.

• The fund would:
  - be a national entity with regional hubs
  - enhance community capacity (including local leadership), internal functioning, and social and emotional wellbeing
  - focus on capacity building, governance and leadership, and decision making in communities
  - cover all communities—remote, rural and urban
  - invest in the building blocks that enable people to participate in health and education
  - manage and develop infrastructure in remote communities to achieve parity, especially in relation to health
  - use the existing network of Indigenous-controlled services and provide incentives to reconstruct communities
  - be a centre of excellence that works with and reaches out to communities to build capacity
  - be open to private sector contributions and have a role in expanding private philanthropy.

There was discussion about the actual mechanics of a Reconstruction Fund. Some participants saw the fund as an institution like a statutory organisation; others envisaged it as an account. There were questions about the authority the fund would have and how it would relate to the idea of the accountability entity that had already been put forward as a means of holding governments accountable.
An accountability entity

- Establish an accountability entity—which dovetails with a parliamentary Indigenous affairs committee and the treaty—to review health, education, justice, housing, employment and family services for efficiency and compliance with cultural performance indicators. The entity would be made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander commissioners who are experts in their fields, would monitor and hold mainstream government departments to account, and would be able to penalise for non-performance. It could have the powers of the Auditor-General and report directly to the Prime Minister.

- Support a ‘Productivity Commission’ to keep all governments accountable by ensuring that the goals of governments are set and kept.

- Tie government to specific funding agreements. It should achieve certain targets and, if not, there should be a mechanism for triggering remedial action.

- Most government funding is going to supporting the status quo, which is a welfare existence for Indigenous Australians. The paradigm needs to change. One model is the Torres Strait Regional Authority—which gets a one-line budget.

- Multi-year funding is required to eliminate reliance on the electoral cycle.

- Funding should be locked in to 2020 as a minimum.

- Ensure that Closing the Gap initiatives are supported by realistic goals.

- Develop indicators and measures to assess the strength of culture.

States and regions

- Every local and state or territory government should have a five-year plan. The Reconstruction Fund could roll out a strategic regional plan for every Indigenous community—five to 10 years. It locks in the substance of local flavour because every community is different.

Identity

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need a feeling of identity.

- Indigenous cultures must be promoted, so that all Australians are proud of our heritage and so that Indigenous people are treated as, and feel like, equals rather than second-class citizens.

Emotional wellbeing and healing

- Establish an entity, independent, legally-based and funded for the long term. The first step is to engage in programs, then build and lend support for the Indigenous-controlled services across the country—for example, health and child protection organisations.

- The fund or entity could have the same structure as the Healing Foundation in Canada.

- Concern was expressed about the word ‘healing’, including what kinds of activities would be included.

The crucial nature of education

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history should be taught in all Australian schools as part of ‘Australian’ history.

- Retention at schools should be encouraged in order to offer young people the best chance in life.
Economic development

- It is essential to ensure that communities continue to thrive; for example, in mining towns male spiritual and cultural role models are absent.

- Promote tourism and reduce red tape for small business, so that Indigenous people are encouraged to be entrepreneurial rather than turning to crime.

A fundamental change in property rights

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must have the power to negotiate their property rights. There is a need to introduce a structure that acknowledges this.

- Totally new thinking by good, expert people is needed. There are good models in Canada, where aboriginal people own the resources as well as land. There must be a commitment by government in this regard.

- Aboriginal people's right to own property and resources: recognition of prior ownership of land and resources is central, across Australia, not just in remote areas; recognition of commercial rights is necessary, too—for example, fresh water, surface water, ground water, biodiversity, carbon credits and trading.

Positive social policy making

- Social policy making needs to be better and more cost effective, to fund positive policies such as education and preventive health rather than prisons and hospital beds. A change of government thinking is required. At present there is no proactive work: outcomes are tied to the electoral cycle and Ministers look for short-term 'announceables'. The following suggestions were made:
  - Health. $500 million a year to solve Aboriginal health problems is required now. Good health education and health screening already exist and could be replicated cheaply. Prevention is cheaper than treatment.
  - Education. Improve the quality of educational instruction by creating an elite (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) teaching corps.
  - Valuing and rewarding teachers. Research shows that 40 per cent of student achievement is due to the quality of the teacher.
  - Preserving Aboriginal culture. Teachers should be supported, financially and morally, to do this.

Group 5

Education

- Education is a high priority.

- Establish mandatory ‘individual learning compacts’ for state and territory authorities, with Commonwealth funding being conditional on the compacts’ implementation and progress in achieving results.

- There is a need for wider community awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and the value of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to Australia. This could be achieved through development of a treaty, development of a formalised pact between government and Indigenous people, formal recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the
Australian Constitution, making the Racial Discrimination Act inviolable, making government accountable through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Productivity Commission, establishment of an Elders Council that would check on the cultural perspective of policy, and an avenue like 2020 to continue to discuss and promote ideas.

**Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people**

Group 5 called on the government:

To build on the government’s intended endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to formally recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first people of Australia involving a legal agreement as to the status, rights and obligations of Indigenous people and the Australian Government.

- This could be achieved through:
  - support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which could then be reflected in domestic legislation
  - development of a formalised agreement that has a legal framework
  - development of an accountability mechanism—‘with teeth’
  - development of a performance management framework for the public service—performance indicators for senior government managers
  - development of a treaty to clarify the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments. This should be embedded in education and should formally provide for redress. Further, it should provide for acknowledgment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems
  - political and administrative structures that allow Indigenous engagement in policy development.

**A National Culture, Heritage and History Authority**

- Create a National Culture, Heritage and History Authority to manage a National Centre of Indigenous Peoples.
- Create think-tanks and public discussion spaces for a virtual digital network—possibly use Old Parliament House, including for cultural events.

**Regional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge centres**

- Establish regional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander centres to preserve culture (digitally), streams of knowledge, language, ways of knowing, and the arts and media.

**Decolonising the culture**

- Produce and display local knowledge.
- Provide a livelihood for the community.

This idea was seen as having the potential to feed into education.
A new representative body

- Establish a new representative body with an advocacy, policy, monitoring and evaluation role. The role should not include program and service delivery or the allocation of funding.

A National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Future Fund

- Establish a national fund—a Children’s Future Fund—that would quarantine funds from budget surpluses, with a focus on early childhood services (especially education through early childhood) and primary and high school and into employment, with the ability to receive private donations as well.

Participants in the group spoke of a need to focus on building communities, rather than being too narrowly focused on economic development.

Group 6

Stronger regional centres supported by good local infrastructure

- Regional areas are under-resourced and there is a need for suitable infrastructure to sustain regional towns. Cultural sustainability was also seen as necessary.

- Develop national infrastructure to support regional development—including shared management tools and business hub services (for example, standardised agreements) and shared accountancy services.

- Create Indigenous economic development zones. Rather than an ad hoc distribution of business services, target specific zones. New versions of partnerships in economic development zones are needed, to make coordination possible.

Building enduring relationships and confronting racism

- Build on the apology to the stolen generation to reduce ‘the painful separation between us’ as people within the nation.

- Indigenous people should be seen as equal citizens everywhere, having choice and access, and be properly culturally positioned in this country.

- After the apology, we are coming into a shared history. We need to go further and engage in a framework where we will never be in a situation of racism again.

- Confront racism to ensure a genuine, enduring relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the wider Australian community.

- A treaty would be a new expression of citizenship rights. It could be a declaration of rights or citizenship rights, a national treaty or regional treaties.

- A treaty would clarify engagement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, enable a national approach, formally provide for reparation and redress, and enhance Indigenous elders’ ability to argue for cultural revival—as in New Zealand.

- We need to make sure our histories and stories are the bedrock from kindergarten upwards by developing an integrated national curriculum for all and incorporating in it an understanding of Indigenous history.

- Develop partnerships with philanthropic organisations.

- Introduce community healing processes in regional Australia.
Unity and leadership among Indigenous people

- There should be more initiatives like the summit, facilitating a sense of unity among Indigenous people and providing opportunities for people to get together and think strategically about ideas.

Accountability

- Develop mechanisms to ensure that government agencies deliver services to all citizens in all locations, in effective ways, and are accountable for service provision (and thus accountable for service delivery gaps as well).
- Establish a National Indigenous Productivity Commission.
- Indicators and statistics for Closing the Gap of Indigenous Disadvantage need to be measured in ways that are meaningful to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Service delivery

- Plan nationally, act locally—across all regions. Concern was expressed about young people being left behind in regional and remote areas. There is a need to involve them in planning: give them a say.
- A different kind of parity of access to services is needed.
- All government services should be delivered broadly and in a sustained way—not just as small, one-off projects.
- Delivery of services to Indigenous communities should involve all spheres of government—local, state and territory and Commonwealth.
- Government agencies need to focus on filling service delivery gaps and making optimal use of resources; for example, rationalise 42 government agencies in one small regional centre.
- Be prepared to invest in a diversity of approaches to service delivery.
- Businesses are developing strategies to bridge the gap in health and education services for employees when the services are not provided by government authorities; for example—TAFE training or literacy and numeracy.
- Service delivery organisations should develop partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Support for living culture

- Establish a national cultural authority (with regional centres connecting to it) that values the depth and breadth of Indigenous knowledge, logic and adaptive systems. This could also include a meeting place.
- Establish a living culture centre that promotes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural knowledge, on a par with other national cultural institutions, and maintains Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education, histories and languages.
- Possibly use Old Parliament House as the location for this national authority or centre.
- Use the digital revolution to connect with others and provide outreach. Digital transfer of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture could be the new message stick. Digital access to cultural information can help with rebuilding culture in regions.
• Set up a marketplace to allow Indigenous organisations to participate in the digital economy. Digital tools are need so that people can engage—for example, protocols, education and awareness raising. Protection of intellectual property is important: copyright institutions provide a model. Reinvest in creators.

There was also discussion of the possibility of replacing the term ‘culture’ with ‘knowledge’ because culture is an anthropological construct.

**Teaching and leadership: getting it right**

• Value all teachers properly. Pay them enough and support them through training and coaching.

• Talented young professionals should be engaged to work in communities, including as teachers. Perhaps develop a teaching task force based on the US model of bringing in people with tertiary training to teach—for example, Teach for America.

• Train and employ Aboriginal education workers in schools.

• There is a need to combine literacy and numeracy and technological literacy skills.

• Introduce formal school partnering and exchanges for parents, teachers and students—for example, taking parents from remote Cape York communities to schools in Cairns to expose them to standards of education there, which then increases parents’ expectations of the standard of education that can be provided.

• Introduction of bilingual programs should be for communities and parents to decide.

**Indigenous young people**

• We want Indigenous young people to be proud of their culture (drawing on their cultural origins) and develop into strong, innovative leaders.

• Give Indigenous young people the chance to prosper and imagine a future as expansive as that available to non-Indigenous young Australians.

**Early childhood**

• Introduce ‘multi-functional Aboriginal children’s centres’ or MACCs—the New South Wales and Victorian 1980s model of centres embracing early childhood, childcare, education and community meeting place roles.

• Help children learn to enjoy books at an early age.

**Superannuation**

• Because of the gap in life expectancy, many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not gaining access to their own superannuation benefits. Could we let individuals have access to their contributions earlier and for home ownership?
Group 7

In the report back to the main plenary session, some members of group 7 said the following:

We call upon the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to continue the bipartisan commitment shown through the National Apology to continue the national dialogue within the nation to change the assimilationist ethos through which Aboriginal affairs and interests over the past 200 years have been relegated.

We would encourage the establishment of a new philosophical framework through which we negotiate a new definition of our relationship and how we might define it in the Constitution. This dialogue should continue for the life of this government.

In 2020 we want a reconciled Australia built on the foundations of a treaty and constitutional protections that build mutual respect and pride; equality of access to and outcomes from all issues impacting on our lives; recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, languages and unique place in this country, so that our identity and diversity are respected and affirmed into the future.

National dialogue and community engagement

- The question of how to come together as a group to discuss things was raised. There is a need for regular sharing of information and concerns. There could be a national forum, or perhaps a new umbrella group.

- National Campfire, on the National Indigenous Television website, could be used to facilitate a conversation using new technologies: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people having their own voice, unedited, to the world.

- A discussion with the broader community is necessary.

- What is wanted is an Indigenous voice, not another bureaucracy.

- There is no wish to reinvent the wheel. The ideas heard at the summit are not new: we have lost ground and need to take it back. Therefore what kind of dialogue is necessary to consider earlier views plus all the ideas put forward at the summit?

- We haven’t got representation or dialogue right at the regional level. We need to concentrate on setting up forums regionally and feeding into a national forum, democratically. It is about speaking democratically from the regions.

- We must convince our people to work as a collective, agree to disagree on some things, but keep talking on key challenges rather than being focused on personality.

- The Prime Minister has given us an opportunity to engage again: how do we grasp that opportunity to formulate a proposal and structure to open a new relationship?

- Two parallel streams are needed:
  - commitment to a formal national dialogue over four or five years about citizenship with government (primarily Commonwealth)
national dialogue that resets the reference point to take place within a new philosophical point of view (see the next section).

- A bipartisan approach is essential. We must also be able to work on a continuous national agenda. Indigenous-specific concerns to do with representation do matter, but that is for the Indigenous community and governments to determine.

- We need action and financial engagement.

- There are questions about who, where, when and how: How to engage with enough people around the country? Who does the speaking?

**Philosophy**

- We need to ask why we haven’t achieved the outcomes we are all talking about. Is it because the foundations of the nation are based on assimilation? Unless we develop a new philosophical framework—not based on assimilation—we will have the same outcomes.
  - This is what a dialogue should be about.
  - New mechanisms for doing this may or may not be relevant.
  - Globalisation is bringing a totally different way of thinking—for example, the speech at the Sunday morning summit plenary session. We have to harness that new way: dynamism and energy.

- Dialogue has to be with those who put governments in power.

- Everyone needs to have dialogues with the general community and community leaders. These people can influence governments.

- The apology was a moment when something was created—a feeling of inclusiveness, connectedness and pride across the Australian community, addressing the separation of non-Indigenous people from Indigenous, creating a shared experience. We must work out how to use the positive experience of the apology to take us forward as a nation.

- The National Sorry Day Committee is proposing a task force to consider the recommendations of the *Bringing Them Home* report. There are many gaps to be closed in the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, so that in 2020 we can all live in partnership, united and with all gaps closed.

  - We have to work on a whole-of-Australia relationship encompassing and embracing all of us and looking at how to use the apology to create this new relationship.

  - National Sorry Day could be used to launch promises and commitments to the rest of the country. It could be used as an opportunity to heal.

- What about having a referendum to get rid of the race power, as a way of having a new dialogue with the nation to redefine our relationship?

- We want a new framework to take forward a new relationship—to find our rightful place in our country.
Group 8

A national dialogue and treaty

- The government should instigate a national dialogue leading to formal reform of the Constitution and involving recognition in the body of the Constitution of the place of Indigenous people as Australia’s First Peoples.
  - The process should be referred to a (proposed) Bipartisan Commission or, from there, to an independent commission (with Indigenous people on it) established under legislation.
  - A staged approach would be important, with national dialogue before any legislative or constitutional change.
  - Any constitutional amendment should articulate rights, responsibilities and recognition, including recognition of customary law. It should also build on the government’s intended endorsement of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The global knowledge economy

- Indigenous Australia should be at the centre of Australia’s push to be part of the global knowledge economy and to show creativity, productivity and entrepreneurship.
- Indigenous Australia should be connected to the global knowledge economy in 15 years’ time.
- All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities should have functional access to the internet.
- Allow digital access to the higher education sector for adults in remote and regional communities.

Closing the Gap

- We must also close the relationship gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Accountability

- Establish an accountability structure—for example, through the Productivity Commission—that drives the system and measures the ‘return on investment’ achieved by all tiers of government.
- There should be a score card against which the community can judge performance.
- Capture and share best and promising practice—for example, circle sentencing.
- Review key reports to see whether the recommendations need to be reconsidered.

Family and community

- A complete overhaul of the child protection system is needed.
- Training in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sensitivities and culture should be compulsory for all child protection workers.
- The current model is about crisis intervention—not about nurturing, protecting and sustaining our culture.
- We need better case management methods.
- Employ more Aboriginal liaison officers in the court system.
• Strengthen trust between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients and service providers.

**Education**

• Two-way education is needed so that we don’t lose our culture and language. If Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are taught in schools, racism will diminish.

• We need to look at options for improving retention rates—for example, hostels.

• Schools should receive incentives for excellence in educating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, such as more resources for programs that attract students.

• Offer clear pathways to Certificate II and III courses and prepare people for the shift into employment.

• Indigenous language is taught in schools in New Zealand and racism has diminished.

**Employment**

• Job Network providers need to have incentives to get people into employment quickly when they are ready to move into or return to the workforce.

**National representation**

• We need Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation at all levels of government, as well as a formally established representative body.

• A range of models should be considered—for example, the Canadian Assembly of First Nations, which includes elders, women and youth councils.

**Local governance and control**

• Governance and control must occur in the community and be reflected in the overall constitution or treaty framework. Solutions should not be imposed on Aboriginal people.

• There needs to be a system of integrated support across infrastructure, policing, health and education.

**A low-cost idea**

• Support the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Some members of the group emphasised that the language and expectations associated with a treaty need to be carefully managed because they could engender fear (which is not the intention) rather than support for an agreement in the wider community.

**Group 9**

**The National Indigenous Knowledge Centre Network**

Group 9 wanted to more accurately depict the regional nature of the knowledge centre proposal discussed on day 1 and provide more detailed ideas about the concept.

• A National Indigenous Knowledge Centre Network should be established to reflect the fact that Indigenous knowledge is a great asset.
The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies should be used to provide support to regional knowledge centres, through a memorandum of understanding. The regional knowledge centres need to use existing facilities and have more resources invested in existing infrastructure to transform current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural centres into the future. The concept should be linked to the development of community hubs.

- Establishment of the regional centres acknowledges that each Indigenous group and region is different and has different knowledge to preserve, share and develop into the future.
- The centres help redress the concern that each time an elder dies part of the culture is lost.

The regional knowledge centres should have the following characteristics:

- be owned and operated by and employ Indigenous people, contributing to improved local employment options
- focus on supporting and capturing regional knowledge and all Indigenous knowledge across Australia. They should not be limited just to the surface culture. It is much more than this. It is Indigenous thinking strategies, knowledge of the land, complex adaptive systems, law, and so on
- provide a one-stop shop for teaching Indigenous children and teaching others—health workers and teachers, for example—about Aboriginal culture
- provide a location for Aboriginal knowledge production and research by Aboriginal people
- have two programs—one with material accessible to the general public and a second with information solely for the local Indigenous people
- provide a social and cultural context and increase value and self-esteem
- be based on the Canadian model.

Access to country: identify country and ensure access to country for all Indigenous groups, as in New Zealand.

It is important to retain and regenerate language and culture by preparing books and resource materials in language for use in schools—CDs, photos, videos, and so on.

**A healing centre**

- Establish a national healing centre.

**A treaty**

- A treaty needs to be written into the Constitution.
- By 2020 the treaty should be a formal agreement enshrined in the Constitution, so that rights cannot be arbitrarily removed.
- The Northern Territory Intervention made people feel powerless: a treaty is needed so that changes to the Racial Discrimination Act cannot lead to the removal of rights.
- A treaty is the next step after the apology.
- Basic human rights must be recognised.
• The treaty needs to be enshrined so as not to be subject to political terms: people need protection for the longer term.

Identity
• In 2020 our children should be confident about their identity, proud of who they are, skilled and capable.
• The national anthem needs to be in an Indigenous language.
• Every non-Indigenous Australian should have met an Indigenous Australian.

Education
• In 2020 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and education should be part of the curriculum.
• Language and culture should be revived.
• Each child should have an education plan specifically tailored to that individual.
• There should more two-way learning—of ‘white’ and Indigenous culture—where each learns from the other.
• Only Indigenous communities can teach children some aspects of culture, but other aspects can be incorporated in the curriculum. This will help reinforce Indigenous values in a school.
• Build on the schooling system in regional areas and communities. Reconsider what is lost when children are sent to ‘white’ schools. Children find it hard to fit in, and we have to question the value and recognise the pain when children must leave their family and community for education.
• Care needs to be taken not to segregate children because they will need to mix with the wider community.

Community control and capacity
• There needs to be more community ownership and control of the development of communities. Ownership should be returned to the people.
• Reinstate Indigenous chief executive officers of community organisations.
• Reinstate a representative body but in form different from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, with more Indigenous representatives who are in touch with the people.
• Indigenous capacity must be improved so that people can take more control, have leadership roles, and motivate change for Indigenous people.
• We would like to think that we are responsible for ourselves, for our destiny, and that we have respect and can move forward.
• Elders and leaders in our clans need to be invited to play a role and weave this back into our tattered social fabric.
• Individual responsibility is important.
Community services

- Mainstream organisations should provide culturally safe and appropriate services and be held accountable for this.

Group 10

The members of group 10 put forward many suggestions in relation to education, service delivery, a pact, closing the gap, remote communities, and culture.

Education

- Diversity of educational options, choices and opportunities is required.
- The focus should be dual—on health and education. This should start early in a child’s life.
- Include a range of early intervention programs for babies, toddlers and mothers, including parenting skills.
- Develop the skills of mothers and grandmothers.
- Local councils could meet and greet new mothers on their return from hospital.
- Individualised learning compacts could be developed.
- Expand the opportunities for boarding school. Consider using foster care through families in the school community.
- Upgrade the role of foster carers.
- There was wide support for community-run schools—there are examples in the Northern Territory and Western Australia—but good governance capability is needed to run the schools.
- Provide incentives for schools to deliver better outcomes.
- School principals should be accountable for the achievements of their school.
- Provide mentors for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers.
- Education should include language and culture and should start early.
- Cultural training for teachers is needed.
- Connect families to the internet and the digital world. All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children should have safe internet access when they start school, if not earlier.

Service delivery

- Many services operate already, but they need to be better integrated and be linked up.
- Use a partnership approach that has clear accountabilities for service deliverers and tangible commitments for families.
- Long-term commitment of resources is needed if a community-driven approach is to succeed.
- Provide incentives for self-help and developing greater independence.
• Young people are falling behind. We need to involve them and use cultural identity positively to promote in them self-confidence, positive behaviour and an ability to resist peer pressure.

**A pact**

• Enshrine the rights of Indigenous people in an agreement or pact or in the Constitution as a basis for working towards reconciliation and eradicating racism.

• We need to have a new way of thinking that encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to take responsibility for themselves and empowers them to choose their own future.

• Genuine consultation at the community level is needed.

• Establish a 2020 committee to continue the dialogue.

• A national representative body: consider the best of the many models—for example, Canada’s Assembly of First Nations.

• Regional governance: the Torres Strait Regional Authority is a good model.

• If there is to be a national Indigenous representative body it needs to represent both men and women and include representatives from each state and territory.

• An Aboriginal Women’s Council should be formed—a national one.

**Closing the Gap**

• Tackle the underlying causes of Indigenous disadvantage. Policy needs to be evidence based—no band-aid solutions—and to take a long-term view to solve the problems.

• Establish a Reconstruction and Innovation Fund.

**Remote communities**

• The diversity and differing needs of communities must be recognised. One size does not fit all.

• Communities are keen to have self-control—especially in relation to housing, rental accommodation, and housing maintenance.

• CDEP (Community Development Employment Projects) jobs are not meaningful; for example, we need to offer more than rubbish collection jobs and we need to have young people developed in new areas—such as landscaping, mechanics and plumbing. Additional programs are needed to support this, including more creative and flexible ways of involving TAFE and vocational education and training programs for young people in remote areas.

• Programs designed for young people with mental health problems in remote communities are needed.

**Culture**

• Establish the National Cultural Heritage Centre to showcase culture and peoples and their participation in and contribution to the nation’s life.

• There should be a national public holiday to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s contribution to national identity.
• There should be more use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork and symbols in national commemorations and events.

• There should be an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s war monument on Anzac Parade in Canberra.

• Re-adopt Aboriginal place names.

• Every school should be involved in gathering and learning the stories and culture of their local country: this would be a sincere acknowledgment of local Indigenous people. Bring in local elders to share cultural practices at school: this would be appropriate to all communities, not just those that have retained their traditional language, and it could be cost neutral.

• Develop programs to take young people to outstations and homelands for a few days at a time to help them learn about traditional culture and knowledge.

• Establish local literacy centres and give priority to learning Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

• Establish more partnerships and activities that bring the generations together in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

• Give consideration to two law and justice systems—traditional and western—and how these can be further integrated.

THE OUT-OF-SESSION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

A group of participants met out of session to discuss Indigenous economic development. The discussion was based on recognition that economic development is vital to ensure the wellbeing of Indigenous families. It was also felt there was a need to promote Indigenous wealth creation, rather than merely focus on income generation. The group developed the following statement:

We recommend an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Economic and Business Strategy be developed, including:

1. National Review of Indigenous Business in Australia so that baseline data on the number, type, location, size, contribution to the Australian economy and benefits and barriers can be identified.


3. Inclusion in the annual report to parliament on Closing the Gap of all aspects of Indigenous development and how the government is closing this gap, including economic development and business activity.

4. The need for better coordination of national, state and local government resources that are provided to agencies that deliver Indigenous business services in Australia.

5. The need to finance and support the establishment of Indigenous business alliances, clusters in all parts of Australia to support and promote the importance of Indigenous business ownership.

6. Form an Indigenous Capital Entrepreneurial Fund to support Indigenous businesses by investing in Indigenous enterprises:
   - the Commonwealth Government to provide at least $20 to $30 million in seed funding
- after that, a public–private partnership with the Commonwealth Government to match corporate contributions dollar for dollar

- favourable tax treatment

- quality board members

- once structure and governance arrangements are in place the fund will attract pro bono work from corporates.

7. Form Indigenous business alliances and clusters:

- to provide pathways to jobs

- to ensure adequate housing is provided as an incentive, especially in remote areas, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are seeking to find employment and create a future for their family. This housing incentive will not be provided on a long-term basis but be seen as a transition to private rental or home ownership

- to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses.

8. Tax incentives are an area for further policy development. There should be tax incentives for people working in Indigenous businesses, for Indigenous businesses generally, and for Indigenous investment. For example, tax incentives for skilled people to work in remote Australia (based on China and minority business models in the United States and United Kingdom). Must be performance based.

- Review the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Charitable Trust perverse Australian Taxation Office ruling a 10-year limit on the accumulation of funds.

- Tax incentives to Indigenous business modes (based on forestry and film).

- Tax reform for sole traders and joint venture investments.

9. Fundamental change in property rights

- Indigenous Australians must have the right to negotiate their property rights, and there must be a commitment by government in this area.

- Need to form a group of experts to look at how best to progress this. Totally new thinking by good people is required. There are good models in Canada, where the Indigenous people own the resources as well as land.

- Indigenous people must have the right to own their property and the resources on that land. They need recognition of prior ownership across Australia, not just in remote areas. Recognition of commercial rights is needed as well—for example, fresh water, surface water, ground water, biodiversity, carbon sequestration and carbon credits and trading.

**Low-cost, no-cost option**

- Ensure that government contracts are reformed to ensure that Indigenous ‘participation’ in such contracts is compulsory and the contracts have ‘teeth’—for example, employment of or tendering to Indigenous organisations.
A MESSAGE SENT TO THE SUMMIT

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara community members sent the following message to the summit:

- Listen to the people.
- Aboriginal leadership occurs on many levels.
- Train good-hearted people and local people.
- Community-controlled organisations and resources.
- Recognise the importance of arts centres for health, education.
- CDEP is important to us.
Towards a creative Australia
the future of the arts, film and design

Co-chairs:
Ms Cate Blanchett
Dr Julianne Schultz
The Honourable Peter Garrett AM MP

Lead Facilitator:
Mr Andy Schollum
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OVERVIEW

Participants in the Creative stream started discussions on the 2020 collaborative website several weeks before the summit, exchanging ideas about the future of the arts, film and design in Australia. Then, immediately before the summit, participants who arrived in Canberra early met with co-chair Julianne Schultz and lead facilitator Andy Schollum at Old Parliament House late on Friday 18 April. Julianne and Andy described the approach proposed for the Creative stream, which was that there would be a series of short opening statements addressing some key areas drawn from the public submissions, and the participants would then be allocated to small groups to consider what might be done in each of these areas. The small groups would discuss, develop and refine their ambitions and ideas for a creative Australia in 2020 and then share these thoughts with the larger group.

Many of the ambitions, themes and ideas first aired on the collaborative website and at the pre-summit meeting eventually found their way into summit discussions on the weekend of 19 and 20 April. The areas suggested for discussion were designed to reach across the specific art forms and sectoral interests.

After the summit’s official opening and the plenary session on the Saturday morning, Creative stream participants came together in the Government Party Room of Parliament House. The co-chairs and the lead facilitator introduced participants to the context, ‘givens’, objectives and process for the stream. The co-chairs made a number of comments to open the discussion:

• The summit offers an opportunity for the beginning of a meaningful relationship between artists, and other members of the creative sector, and government. In the evolving national and global economic, social and technological environment it is essential that the arts and creativity are a valued and integral part of society, not an adjunct.

• We want to encourage and enable every Australian to realise their creative potential.

• Participants should try to imagine the future and then work backwards: how did we get to this imagined future of a creative Australia in 2020?

11 participants had been invited by the co-chairs to speak for two minutes each about their imagined futures on a range of topics and themes. The themes were the life of the artist, education, philanthropy, Indigenous culture, public investment, the Youth Summit, the impact of geography on access, social inclusion, broadcasting and screen culture, cultural diplomacy, and the creative economy. Summaries of these presentations are included at Attachment A to this chapter.

The stream was then divided into ten small groups, each of about ten people, and groups worked simultaneously to address a series of questions that had been prepared by the facilitators. The groups were asked to work backwards from an imagined successful ‘future state’, discussing ambitions, themes and big ideas. Notes of these group discussions are included at Attachment B.

Discussions in these groups identified the following emerging themes: education and the national curriculum, the centrality of arts and creativity, Indigenous culture, support models and sustainability, soft power and cultural diplomacy, creative hubs and places, and broadcasting and screen culture. The participants then broke again into small groups to focus on one of these themes and report back to the plenary group with a list of specific ideas.
Theme: education and the national curriculum

The group discussing education and the national curriculum aimed to articulate a priority theme and three or four highest impact ideas to support that theme. In terms of education, the basic notions are teaching and mentoring. The group agreed that creativity and the arts need to be taught from a young age to allow inspiration, creative space, skills and capacity to grow and mature. Art and creativity can be taught: giving people the space and opportunity to be creative can result in cultural and social output that can solve problems and help resolve some of the biggest difficulties facing us as a society and a nation. It is a virtuous circle which benefits the individual by developing their creativity, skills and critical awareness, and the society as a result of increased capacity and awareness as practitioners and audiences.

One idea for delivering education was to establish creative hubs in regions and local areas in order to provide local access to art and artistic education. A differing view is that hubs could be limiting in terms of ideas and reach across audiences. Creativity in education needs to be ‘sticky’—sticking everywhere, to everything, not just concentrated in one spot.

One participant argued that there must be a focus on the main art forms—music, dance, drama and the visual arts—as well as general encouragement of creative thinking as a core capability of all students. Augmenting the place of creativity and the arts in education was the key to this group’s discussions.

Participants discussed a range of potential ideas:

- aiming for government schools to be resourced to mirror art and creativity opportunities in the private school system
- skilled teachers and talented teachers: increasing the creative education of teachers
- recognising and maintaining particular streams in schools, with specific skills articulated
- using technology to gain access to new teaching streams and talented teachers
- mandated inclusion of creativity in the primary, secondary and tertiary national curricula with mandatory reporting
- making arts and creativity a specific category in national research priorities
- removing barriers to partnerships between arts organisations and schools—for example, public liability insurance
- ensuring that there are no additional costs for families and students of a creativity and arts focus in the curriculum
- identification and nurturing of talented young children through mentoring and special guidance
- spiritually inspiring young people to shape a better world
- a non-vocational stream of creative education, including inspiring students, as well as clear career paths
- the education process not helping people in their arts and creativity development: a career path needs to be clear from years 7 to 12 and beyond
- improving our specialist education centres and training institutions to help in building people’s career paths
• extending support for artists and musicians in residence in schools: ties in with spirituality and nurturing people in schools, as well as providing job for artists

• ensuring that there are teachers who are artists and creators, not just teachers who studied an arts subject at college

• Indigenous cultural education as a core item in schools

• ensuring that creativity and arts education opportunities are available for people in remote regions of Australia through remote-access learning

• supporting an ‘outside classroom’

• creativity in education reflecting an economic and social value in the broader community

• science and arts going together in the education environment

• ongoing education being critical throughout people’s careers

• extending the national music camp concept to other art forms—national camps for creativity and the arts

• educating the public about the value of intellectual property

• the arts as part of creativity and positioned in other creative areas.

After brainstorming the potential ideas the group considered ways of introducing creativity everywhere in society and came up with the following specific ideas.

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<td><strong>8.1</strong> Mandating inclusion of specific streams of arts and creativity—Indigenous storytelling, film, philosophy, Asian culture, music, design, art, drama—in the kindergarten to year 12 national curriculum.</td>
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<td><strong>8.2</strong> Ensure the role of arts and creativity is central in education through the requirement of a national reporting of creativity.</td>
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<td><strong>8.3</strong> Position creativity as a national research priority and the arts as a central plank of the government’s innovation agenda and ensure access to funding support from the Australian Research Council and other agencies.</td>
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<td><strong>8.4</strong> Create an awareness campaign in relation to theft of intellectual property.</td>
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<td><strong>8.5</strong> Introduce a new model of teacher attraction and development by integrating artists more thoroughly in education delivery.</td>
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<td><strong>8.6</strong> Use technology to improve the delivery of education inside and outside the classroom.</td>
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<td><strong>8.7</strong> Expose students to creativity, with artists’ presence in schools as mentors or residents.</td>
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<td><strong>8.8</strong> Subsidise museums, theatres and film festivals to make them freely available to school students.</td>
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<td><strong>8.9</strong> Introduce a national mentoring program at secondary school level and provide tax incentives for artists to participate.</td>
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Theme: the centrality of arts and creativity

The discussion began with the barriers to creativity (including access to and participation in creativity) the public perception and knowledge of creativity, and the question of ‘arts’ in ‘creativity’. Once the barriers had been defined the group went on to discuss the mechanisms for change.

One delegate put forward ‘price’ as a concern—inadequate funding and the price to participate in creativity. Others spoke of the physical access to being creative, the fact that there are people who ‘don’t know what they don’t know’ and the lack of understanding of ‘what is creativity’. A virtuous circle was identified, grounded in increasing education and knowledge to enhance the experience, understanding and capacity for critical engagement and participation.

The group then discussed rebranding and how to rebrand culture that is all around us. Some queried whether it should be part of a relevant public policy question in relation to getting the arts and creativity on the national agenda. One participant noted that nothing has been done despite an excellent Australia Council report which qualified how Australians value the arts. It was agreed that drawing this to public and political attention was a communications exercise.

The participants agreed to take up four themes and look at what can be done for each.

Public perceptions, knowledge and experience

Creativity that has been unleashed through the web and internet was discussed, the focus being on the highly democratic nature of the format and the very good signs of creativity that are available to anyone who has access to computers. One participant suggested that if we were to embrace that we would have a good perception of the centrality of creativity. Another proposed that the digital environment had produced a big change in perception, and that they would not be talking about forms that have only substance and pricing. Yet another commented that the government is very interested in embracing broadband infrastructure.

Discussion moved on to the idea of digitising all museum collections and all Australian print. ‘Digitise and then what happens?’ was asked. The answer included live broadcasts on the net and leveraging what children already do and showing them a pathway to creative careers. The question of what happens with visual arts not on the internet was raised, and the answer included linking net content with popular culture. One participant noted that culture, innovation, broadband and industry development are linked, that through creativity Australians—once inventors, self-starters, initiators—might find a chance to regain that type of country but that if we do what everyone else is doing we lose that chance. Participants agreed that there should be an understanding of the economic benefits of cultural assets.

The group discussed the public policy implications of digitising collections and making them available online, and one participant noted that if this is done people should flood back into institutions and the theatre and that there is a need for keeping communication alive through digital means and also encourage a return to current social spaces. Another participant suggested that in the meantime there has to be support for creativity and artists, and this support has to be retained so arts and creativity is not swamped in the net and is still readily available.

One participant noted that the world wide web exists and should be part of the discussion but that creativity provides social spaces that are not just digital to enable people to meet within these spaces—for example, the space next to the State Library in Queensland for people to meet. The question of how the online world would affect changes to the price of going to the theatre was discussed, as were the options of an interactive theatre, extending live performances with live webcasts and finding savings in other
areas. Another participant suggested that use of the net might affect the quality of art and that expectations would be higher. The group agreed that this issue would have to be resolved.

One participant suggested that the internet could be used to bring back audiences to live experiences and that creative areas needed to have the best websites offering the best experiences. The example of the Australian Ballet was raised: performances are broadcast on the net three or four times a year. Live theatre in conjunction with cinema was seen as a good example of cross-fertilisation of mediums, and it was suggested that extending existing art sections to incorporate digital and live performances could make art more accessible.

**Pricing and access**

Access was considered to be relevant to a number of areas, including digital communication. The suggestion was put forward that, in relation to city design, as the disadvantaged move outside the city it becomes more expensive to travel; and they experience even less advantaged lives; creative design of cities might change this. The suggestion included the idea that access to design could alleviate economic inequity, ensuring that desirable products are accessible to everyone. It was asked whether this would prevent people from being free to use their creative licence in the design process. One participant replied that guidelines would assist in making decisions, noting the high level of cultural awareness in other countries and that the built environment should be on the national agenda. Celebration of achievement was also raised, as was the question of how to use the methods used for sports people and celebrities to celebrate the achievement of artists.

**General discussion**

The foundations of ‘centrality’ were agreed to be access, governance, perception and sustaining the artist. Final discussion focused on these areas in order to develop policy ideas and suggestions to ensure that the arts and creativity are available to all.

### IDEAS

8.10 Enhance community perceptions of artists to ensure that artists have mainstream recognition, including through civil honours.

8.10.1 Establish a Prime Minister’s Prize for the Creative Australian of the Year, as well as other awards for excellence.

8.11 Improve access to the arts.

8.11.1 Support the digitisation of works in museum collections.

8.11.2 Create allied social network communities to improve access to the arts that also reduces impact on public resources.

8.11.3 Support measures to improve access to the arts in regional Australia, including providing guidelines for the community sector.

8.12 Develop a Ministry of Creative Industries or replace the ‘Digital Economy’ in the Department of Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy with ‘Creative Industries’.

8.13 Promote wider representation of artists on public boards.
Theme: Indigenous culture

The group discussing Indigenous issues developed a number of ideas, with the priority theme being that Indigenous culture, as the oldest continuous culture, gives Australia a unique advantage and should be at the core of a creative Australia in 2020.

Participants discussed appointing Indigenous people to the boards of cultural institutions as a way of integrating Indigenous culture. It was recognised that this needed to be done now and that government could lead the way by appointing Indigenous people to state and federal public cultural and collection institutions. Non-profit organisations could also be encouraged to do this through Australia Council grants. It was further considered that there is a need for a National Indigenous Theatre Company funded at the federal level. The company would tour nationally and internationally and be administered from the east coast using a decentralised model.

It was agreed that in order to expand the audience for Indigenous culture, Indigenous arts and culture should be integrated within the school curriculum. To this end, teacher training institutions should include Indigenous arts programs. It was also considered that Indigenous leaders should assist with developing the school curriculum and that it might be beneficial to fund Indigenous artists in schools. To further expand the audience, it was suggested that National Indigenous Television (NITV) be provided with digital spectrum and resourcing to increase delivery. NITV needs to secure digital spectrum by the time analogue is switched off in 2013.

A number of ideas were not explored further because of time constraints:

- provide hubs for Indigenous artists to develop their work
- expand international audiences for Indigenous work
- invest in new work and innovative practices in support of Indigenous work in our cultural institutions through mainstream investment
- seek points of cultural synergy among Australia’s cultural groups.

8.14 Overtly value arts and artists at the federal government level: this will ensure that politicians attend arts events and foster a whole of government view of arts and creativity.

8.15 Allocate 1 per cent of each government portfolio’s funding to arts-related activities where these activities support and enhance the department’s goals.

8.16 Support a mentorship scheme for new artists.

8.17 Attach a levy to the government broadband contract to provide funding for the proposed digitisation of works in museum collections.

8.18 Subsidise or provide a tax benefit to support artist residencies in schools, museums, galleries and workplaces.
The group’s discussion resulted in the following ideas being presented to the Creative stream.

IDEAS

8.19 Establish a Prime Minister’s Award for Creative Indigenous Australian of the Year.
8.20 Integrate Indigenous influence into cultural institutions by having Indigenous appointees on boards.
8.21 Place Indigenous culture at the core of our education system by including Indigenous arts and culture in the school curriculum.
8.22 Provide National Indigenous Television (NITV) with digital spectrum and resources.
   8.22.1 Make donations to NITV tax-deductible.
   8.22.2 Provide ongoing funding through a hybrid funding model—part government funds, part other sources.
8.23 Establish a National Indigenous Theatre Company.

Theme: support models and sustainability

Two groups discussed this theme, one considering how to raise support and the other considering the distribution of support.

Raising support

The group decided that sustainability means the whole ecosystem and identified a range of options under headings. It looked at four main vehicles for raising support—government, revenue from commercial sales, business support, and the tax and social security systems. A number of suggestions were put forward for each vehicle:

- obliging local councils to consistently engage with artists on design projects
- using the budget surplus to create an arts and creativity version of the Higher Education Endowment Fund, with three streams—flagship capital city infrastructure, suburban and regional community infrastructure, and research, development and production
- reducing accountability and compliance costs
- government assuming responsibility for public liability insurance
- droit de suite resale royalties for artists, as recommended in the Myer report
- replicating the South Australian and Tasmanian models of funding, whereby the state government matches funds provided by small business and local communities to support arts activities and venues
- making it easier to establish prescribed private funds
- introducing tax incentives for individual and corporate philanthropy
- introducing a $1 tax on cinema tickets for foreign films
- reintroducing death duties but using a US-style system of avoiding them by donating to the arts
- accelerated tax deductions on investment in large-scale free public installations or performances, whether temporary or permanent
• a HECS-type scheme for young and emerging artists and entrepreneurs.

On the sustainability side, there was discussion about mentorships as a means of support for emerging artists and employment for mid-career artists, access to creative spaces, training, professional development and career opportunities. The group recognised that some sources of income and funding are more suited to particular parts of the output spectrum, depending on the risk profile of the funding provider. For example, governments find it difficult to fund research and development in the sector, but patrons or philanthropists might find this easier.

**Distributing support**

The group discussed first ‘what is being supported’ and then ‘how support is provided’. It found that creators, artists as individuals, the audience, organisations, institutions, companies, venues and the artistic/creative content were what was being supported and that the support was being provided by government, philanthropy, business sponsorship and volunteers.

It was suggested that the most powerful thing government can do is to place the arts at the centre of policy by making it a prime ministerial objective. The group noted that one of the most significant sources of support for the arts and creativity are artists themselves. There was much discussion about the distinction between institutional frameworks and mechanisms for supporting the ‘arts’ versus support for individual artists and practitioners.

The group agreed that we need to foster philanthropy by focusing on tax incentives to encourage more donations and to look at the impacts of greater donations to the arts on social policy. These early discussions on sustainability resulted in a number of initial ideas:

• creating a Prime Minister’s advisory group on arts and creativity
• forming working groups with a government mandate to interact with the tax, finance, education, Indigenous and health sectors in order to achieve centrality of the arts and creativity
• having the Prime Minister chair a ‘creative’ forum once a year and invite representatives of major corporations, as well as artists and cultural organisations
• having the Prime Minister establish a body similar to the Prime Minister’s Community Business Partnership but with a focus on the arts
• expanding the role and functions of the Australia Council to promote Australian culture internationally—similar to the Goethe Institute or the British Council
• establishing a Patronage Trust to find patrons and those worthy of patronage, and give tax deductions to donors
• introducing a national indemnity scheme for artists and public art exhibitions
• promoting the benefits of giving to the arts through a documentary, featuring prominent Australian artists
• raising awareness of bequests to arts organisations and introducing incentives to encourage people to bequeath money
• giving government grants to arts companies to enable them to employ professionals to seek donations. This would educate people about raising money
• periodically reviewing particular arts sectors to allow governments to respond to emerging needs or growth

• having government enter into long-term funding agreements—more than five years—with agreed performance and private funding and revenue contributions

• streamlining the administration of grant applications. At present there are numerous agencies artists and art organisations must deal with

• rationalising state responsibilities in the arts—in keeping with the recommendation of the Nugent Review

• introducing a ‘creative supplement’—for example, health support, public transport and income support—for when an artist is out of work, so that they can move from survival to creative mode

• offering tax incentives for people who rent properties to an artist, providing stability for long-term accommodation.

There was some discussion about whether raising support from the private sector could reduce the need for government support or whether the arts would come to expect more resources from both sectors. There was also discussion about the stability and predictability of funding for organisations, with most participants agreeing that this was needed.

The two groups reconvened to develop a consolidated set of ideas for presentation to the other participants in the Creativity stream, as follows.

**IDEAS**

8.24 The government and artists should support methods to link smaller scale activities to achieve economies of scale as a catalyst for research and development and innovation and for sharing resources.

8.25 Introduce HECS arrangements for young and emerging artists. They would pay back their debt once they become commercially successful.

8.26 Develop a National Endowment Fund for the arts from budget surpluses, to be topped up occasionally by government and corporate contributions.

8.27 Reintroduce death duties, with exemptions for bequests and donations to the arts.

8.28 Introduce a 125 per cent tax deduction for public art and performing arts in public spaces.

8.29 Establish a Ministry of Culture for high-level, cross-government advocacy that is central to and influential in government.

8.30 Establish facilities and ‘soft infrastructure’ to support artists.

8.31 Develop a formal patronage system.

8.32 Widely promote the benefits of giving to the arts.

8.33 Establish a new organisation for international promotion of Australian art, to work in a way similar to Tourism Australia.
Theme: soft power and cultural diplomacy

The group discussing soft power and cultural diplomacy was asked to identify strategies whereby Australia could project ‘soft power’ internationally through cultural and other creative endeavours. The concept of ‘soft power’, as enunciated by Joe Nye, was discussed and its elements enumerated—such as arts and cultural exchange, promotion of Australian ideas, and media and other people-to-people contacts. Better projection of Australia’s creativity and cultural strength should augment Australia’s international credibility and influence. There would be domestic benefits within Australia because such a strategy would send to Australians a strong message about the nation’s values, achievements and confidence.

Indigenous culture was acknowledged as especially relevant—indeed, ‘central’ to international promotion of Australian culture given its distinctiveness, quality, high impact, international appeal, and importance to Australian identity. It was emphasised that it was ‘hard to curate a national vision’ or to choose the themes for promotion internationally. Australia’s international image and engagement was a composite picture, influenced by many factors. There was some criticism of the government’s decision to cut the funding provided to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for its international touring and other cultural programs, and there was a call for more cultural attaches to be placed in Australian diplomatic missions and consolidation of resources allocated across various departments and agencies.

The group endorsed the value of cultural exchanges and residencies such as those arranged by Asialink, noting the importance of casting the net widely to include relevant institutions such as universities in these programs. There was discussion of the role of arts festivals in Australia and overseas in developing productive international links between Australia’s creative community and international counterparts.

The economic dimensions of international cultural promotion were canvassed. One speaker highlighted the export potential of Australian culture, arguing that other economic activity often followed cultural connections overseas. Another participant raised the challenges faced by Australian writers given the continuing British dominance of the international book-publishing market by virtue of its possession of British and Commonwealth rights from US publishers. Globalisation was seen as raising other challenges, such as displacement of Australian cultural activity by international products and other influences. Others saw new opportunities for outward looking engagement in a global domain. The key was to strike the right balance between national and local on one hand and international on the other.

A number of specific ideas were raised during the discussion:

- use a treaty or other similar instrument to formally recognise the importance of the Indigenous component of Australian international cultural promotion
- develop a new council to promote Australian culture overseas by consolidating allocations currently made across departments and agencies. A focus of this new council might be to use new technology to promote Australia
- follow the British Government’s lead by improving the quantity and quality of material placed on websites to provide international access to Australian creative product
- establish a new fund to support international touring by Australian performing and visual artists
- endorse several ‘freebie’ strategies to promote Australian culture overseas
- use tourism as a way of advancing international promotion of Australian culture and creativity.
These ideas were considered further and the following were presented back to the stream as the focus of this group’s discussion.

**IDEAS**

8.34 Create an environment in which we can present our unique stories to the world.

8.35 Establish an Australian International Council for Import and Export Promotion with program funding for dance, literature and music and other arts forms and areas of creativity.

8.36 Extend the period of time for international exchanges.

8.37 Encourage Australians onto international boards, such as those of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Tate Gallery in London.

8.38 Ratify the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity.

8.39 Appoint international representatives to the boards of Australian cultural institutions.

8.40 Tap into the resources of organisations such as Advance Australia and the Australian–American Association in the United States and the Cook Society in the United Kingdom.

8.41 Introduce more cultural content on Radio Australia.

8.42 Use tourism as a way of advancing international promotion of Australian culture and creativity.

8.42.1 Use targeted programs involving key overseas players such as producers and leaders of cultural institutions who could offer opportunities to Australian artists and other Australian people.

8.42.2 Develop better ways of measuring and disseminating information about the benefits flowing from cultural initiatives.

**Theme: creative hubs and places**

The group discussing creative hubs and places initially rejected the importance of physical hubs, but after some consideration it agreed that creative ecology, involving both place and exchange, was an important matter to pursue as a basis for developing Australia’s creative potential by 2020.

In specific terms, the group agreed that space—be it physical, virtual or exchange-based—was necessary to engender the conditions for creativity. It emphasised that hubs were not necessarily about physical space but were about sharing ideas and creative inspiration to enable innovation and research and development across all art forms. The group agreed that artistic hubs—or ‘creative ecology’ as it preferred to refer to them—would enable networking and collaboration and provide space for the needs of the artist. This could be achieved through the provision of cultural precincts and studios and, in the case of collaboration and exchange, virtual hubs, particularly thematically based ones. The group concluded that sharing resources would be a catalyst for research and development and innovation by achieving critical mass and exchanging inspiration. The group agreed to a number of specific ideas.
Theme: broadcasting and screen culture

The main ambitions and goals for the group that discussed broadcasting and screen culture fell into three broad areas—funding (both direct government funding and other support), revised charters and board structures, and distinctive roles for broadcasters.

In relation to funding, public broadcasting should be funded so it can deliver to all Australians, wherever they live, free of charge. High-quality and diverse Australian content should be encouraged, and broadcasting should be done by three distinctive broadcasters—the ABC, which should be commercial free and independent; SBS; and National Indigenous Television. In general, the group agreed that there needed to be a significant increase in public funding, in particular to equip the national broadcasters for multi-channelling. Discussions highlighted the fact that synergies are likely to exist between these broadcasters and that they should be identified and built upon.

A new broadcasting charter would need to reflect roles and responsibilities in the digital media era and all future platforms. Wider representation is needed on the ABC and SBS boards, and it was proposed that actual practitioners be appointed to all screen culture boards.

The ABC would have a specific education role in classrooms and across all industry sectors. It was suggested that this be supplemented by the ABC having a separate children’s channel. Participants felt broadcasters should be encouraged to take creative risks and to host a national conversation.

A number of supporting ideas also emerged:

- Australians having access to free broadcasting
- the value of independence, free of commercial influences
- the ABC and SBS to remain a hub of cultural and democratic life
- the public broadcasters as a hub of the national conversation—the national ‘town hall’
- recognising that, with a plethora of media channels in 2020, the public broadcasters will be the only place able to guarantee the provision of Australian drama, documentaries, comedy and the arts and that they will need to be appropriately funded
• a dramatic increase in the level of Australian content on television
• existing funding for the Australian film industry to be bolder and bigger
• Australian film connecting with fewer and fewer people: creation of film content in a way that is compelling
• high levels of distinctive, high-quality Australian-content films to be produced in a way that connects across the community
• development and distribution as key areas that require focus: production will take care of itself
• reducing the bureaucratic nature of the Australian film agencies and reducing red tape in grant allocations
• finding new ways to reward success
• supporting Screen Australia
• providing support for research and development for screen culture, including tax incentives and consideration given to money spent on development and writing.

The group placed its specific ideas into two main themes—shaping Australian broadcasting and shaping the Australian film industry.

### IDEAS

#### Shaping Australian broadcasting

8.49 Revise and strengthen the ABC Charter and the Australian Broadcasting Commission Act.

8.50 Make the ABC, SBS and National Indigenous Television (NITV) the custodians of Australian stories, creativity and Indigenous broadcasting.

8.51 Create a children’s channel on the ABC in order to provide high-quality content for children.

8.52 Introduce a 1 per cent levy on the gross income of communications companies and internet service providers to be used for creative online content development.

8.53 Encourage wider cross-sector representation on the ABC and SBS boards.

8.54 Introduce a levy on commercial broadcasters, with funds raised going to public broadcasters in exchange for the lifting of the mandatory Australian content quota.

#### Shaping the Australian film industry

8.55 Improve artists’ representation on the boards of screen agencies.

8.56 Provide funding for screen writers to support script development.

8.57 Introduce a levy on movies made outside Australia, to provide funds for the local industry.

8.58 Invest the GST on cinema tickets back into the local film sector.

8.59 Increase funding for screen development from 4 per cent to 20 per cent.

8.60 Reduce bureaucracy, capping expenditure on agency costs and overheads at a maximum of ten per cent to ensure funds are spent on content.
ADDITIONAL THEMES AND IDEAS - SUNDAY

For the Creative Australia stream, day two of the summit began with the lead facilitator advising that the document distributed to participants at the session was the consolidation of the material presented at the stream’s plenary on Saturday afternoon and later presented by the co-chairs on Saturday evening to the Prime Minister, Professor Davis and the co-chairs of other streams. A copy of this document is provided at Attachment C.

A further distillation of this document on the whiteboard represented the ‘first cut’ of ambitions, priority themes and key ideas. The co-chairs and participants were conscious that not all topics had been captured and agreed that there was need to both refine and further develop specific ideas which could be included in the initial report for the summit’s closing plenary. Participants were asked to identify these areas, to ensure that they were covered. It was noted that there was very limited time to work on revising the key ideas and priority themes for inclusion in the summit’s initial report.

Participants were advised that a draft of the stream’s initial report had been developed, based on the co-chairs’ earlier draft, and beginning with the ambition:

Creativity is central to sustaining and defining the nation and includes sharing our stories (Indigenous and settler), fuelling our imaginations, boosting our economy and driving innovation, and nurturing our children and nourishing healthy environments.

This statement, and the lack of representation of a number of topics on the whiteboard, caused some participants much concern. One speaker noted that the term ‘boosting our economy’ gave the wrong emphasis, another was critical of the lack of measurable targets, while another worried that the global digital environment presented threats as well as opportunities. Some speakers made the point that the priority themes and key ideas lacked an overriding statement addressing the need to provide support for struggling artists. One speaker considered the ‘centrality’ statement was a self evident ‘motherhood’ phrase, but another speaker endorsed the document and pointed out that it had been prepared for the government. He argued it would send a strong signal about the centrality of the arts and creativity which was not currently recognised within the government or the bureaucracy. A change in this mind-set would lead to a revolution in the output and regard for the arts in Australia.

The group agreed that a number of proposals had been left off the agenda in previous discussions, as follows:

- architecture, the built environment and design
- acknowledgment that Australia should aspire to being a world leader in the creation of new work in research and development as far as the arts go
- creativity as central to Australian life, and Indigenous culture as a central part of this experience
- recognition of the importance of cultural diversity
- the arts needing to be integrated into other sectors, such as health to help foster social inclusion and provide opportunities for practising artists
- creative arts as the core to all industries and these industries failing to be dynamic in the absence of a creative core
- the need for artists to be recognised and employed in all sectors
- distinguishing the terms ‘the arts’, ‘creativity’ and ‘innovation’
- building growth in terms of output of the sector and the role of government funding as part of the new investment models to support this growth
- the position of the arts and creativity portfolio within government
- the role of the Australia Council
- intellectual property
- the quality of creative output
- growth of the audience and the industry.

This list was compiled with considerable discussion and then the stream divided into self-selected groups to examine particular issues and further develop ideas. A number of the topics selected for discussion had been canvassed in earlier discussions, but some participants wanted either to consider new directions or to propose new ideas.

**Theme: education and the national curriculum**

The group discussing education agreed strongly on the fundamental importance of including in school curricula, at all levels, the development of critical and creative thinking. The emphasis should be on encouraging children’s natural curiosity and imagination. Educating parents about the importance of encouraging their children to develop inquiring minds and to pursue arts education was also supported.

There was discussion about arts teaching in schools, notably the problem of poor-quality instruction that risked putting students off arts and culture, as well as the risk of ‘dumbing-down’ arts subjects. It was observed that the quality and motivation of individual teachers was crucial and it was argued that no school child should be excluded from experiencing the arts (such as attending visiting theatre performances) because of their inability to pay the token charges levied for participating in such activities. Attention was also drawn to the very effective work done by specialist teachers in Australia, using music, dance and other art forms to help students with special needs.

It was noted that all too often the refrain from schools was that, because of other curriculum pressures, there was no time for the arts and that arts subjects were somehow discretionary or secondary. It was suggested that there may be value in appointing an arts officer or liaison officer in each school or for a group of schools. Such a specialist could assist with arranging visual and performing arts tours to schools, act as an arts resource person for other teachers and students, contribute to evaluating the quality of arts education, and work proactively to ensure that arts and culture were part of the mainstream school experience.

After this discussion the group agreed on the following ideas, which were reported to the plenary session.

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<td>8.61 Pre- and in-service teachers need access to quality creative learning strategies as teaching tools across the curriculum.</td>
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<td>8.62 Expertise that already exists in creative and music therapies in special-needs schools should be tapped into and further developed for all schools.</td>
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<td>8.63 Expand the current limited program of artists in residence at schools—now confined mainly to private schools.</td>
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Theme: the centrality of arts and creativity

Two groups considered the centrality of the arts and creativity.

The first group agreed that the arts are already central to societal culture, health and wellbeing. They agreed that lessons could be drawn from Indigenous culture, where the arts are central. Artists imagine the future for society and lead the way, so not only do the arts play a central role in society and cultural expression but artists play a central role in all aspects of social endeavour. This existing capacity does, however, require institutional support to leverage creativity and achieve national objectives.

The second group decided on two distinct streams of discussion: creativity is to be a part of every human endeavour, and specialist and elite forms of the arts are to be established, maintained and pursued by professional artists.

It was noted that all Australians can engage in creative or cultural activities. A creatively thinking population involves both general creativity and specialised artistic pursuit. General creativity need not diminish an appreciation of the arts. Everyone should have the opportunity to participate, but some have the responsibility to practise art professionally at the highest levels of excellence. Art needs to be brought in from the margins to the mainstream through access and engagement. Among the ways of achieving this are education, distribution across communities, supporting artists, engaging audiences, and integrating culture into work practices.

The group agreed that a way to promote the arts was through a connection with sports and notions of opposition between the two fields needs to be discarded. Arts and creativity should have the same importance in schools as sports. The mechanisms used by sports could be used to increase students’ access to creative outlets.

Participants discussed career paths and the support that is needed for artists throughout their careers. There is a clear role and responsibility for established artists to provide more support for those beginning their careers. Education also has a role in providing this support to improve the value given to artists through changing the education system mindset. One speaker discussed the possibility of granting tenure for established and gifted artists to improve their ability to have a life long career.

Our education and social systems should nurture creativity. It is a misconception that those in the arts sector are the only creative people: there needs to be access for all Australians. The group determined their main ambitions to be centrality of creativity in every aspect of Australian endeavour, fostering creation of content, developing formal linkages with government, developing career paths with a sustainable artist base, encouraging development of audiences and access, greater funding from government, business and philanthropy, and better access through broadband and other communication channels.

8.64 Put creativity on the list of Australian national research priorities as a way of facilitating research on the subject, including through Australian Research Council grants.

8.65 Develop specific strategies to encourage children’s naturally inquiring and creative minds—for example, distributing information for parents, such as work sheets that provide practical guidelines on how to encourage such inquiring and creative minds and putting philosophy into the core curriculum for Australian children.

8.66 Initiate a national inquiry into drama teaching in Australia.
This theme had been considered at length previously, and the following ideas were in addition to the previous ones.

### IDEAS

**8.67** Create a Ministry of Culture at Cabinet level. The ministry would be responsible for coordinating creative activities across departments and for advocating on behalf of the arts and creative industries.

**8.68** The ministry would develop a centrality statement through a National Cultural Strategy.

- **8.68.1** Develop an integrated statement across government and society, expressing and detailing the centrality of the arts and culture to society and innovation.
- **8.68.2** Gather evidence across government that supports the proposition of the centrality of the arts in society.
- **8.68.3** Oversee the preparation of creative plans by all departments and measure outputs.

**8.69** Facilitate artists’ participation in key aspects of society through a Cultural Commission.

**8.70** Establish a National Indigenous Cultural Authority.

- **8.70.1** Measure, document and leverage the strengths of Indigenous culture.
- **8.70.2** Articulate the role and improve protection of Indigenous cultures, languages and heritage.

**8.71** Establish a foundation for the arts based on the same model as that which exists for sports.

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**Theme: investment models**

Various investment models for supporting the arts were proposed, including a future fund for leveraging public and private funds to support creative development, a micro-finance model for generating income, and the world’s best-practice tax incentives in the arts, but details of the structure of these models were not explored. A range of other suggestions for raising capital to support the arts were discussed, among them the GST on books being used to support the arts and patronage supporting individual artists—for example, matching artists with people who want to support great ideas.

The group agreed that a new fund should be established, with an independent board and management and reporting to government. Funding sources would include private donations from corporations and individuals and capital from the government. Providing tax-deductible gift recipient status for donations could improve the level of philanthropy.
The quality and integrity of creative artists were discussed, including the dangers of ‘rorting’ the system and the value of peer review and quality control. One participant made the point that one of the things missing from peer review is having an international metric (measurement), as applies to research and science, some kind of peer input from the broader world. This suggestion elicited the comment that this would increase administration costs. The suggestion was made to keep what exists (in relation to the Australia Council), which assures peer review, an arms’-length body still making grants, and a high level of quality control. Participants agreed that they need to emphasise ways in which to get funding—from government, corporations and individuals—and that funding needs to be kept on the agenda. The group discussed innovation seed funding which they considered would be very important in future.
Public funding and private philanthropy were considered important for nurturing creativity. The view was put forward, however, that companies support things that are safe and that peer review in these circumstances is done by the 'person with the money'. The group wondered about ways of encouraging wealthy people to invest in arts but did not reach a conclusion.

The discussion then returned to the need to set a target to focus on outcomes, not inputs, to increase the amount of activity in creativity. One participant suggested that the target for provision and the target for consumption contained an inherent link. Another group member suggested a target for new Australian work and said it was better to have a bold target from which many things evolve.

Group members stressed the centrality of the arts and creativity and that the relationship involves both a narrow and a broad view. The view is that creativity is broader than the arts, but the arts are central to creativity, and that strong cultural reasons require government to have responsibility for the arts. In keeping with this goal, the following ideas were put forward.

**IDEAS**

8.79 Clarity is needed in government funding, to promote long-term investment, diverse structures and art-making models.

8.80 Investigate various additional funding sources—including endowments, philanthropic funding, micro-loans and a HECs-type plan and improve and foster commercial funding.

8.81 Regain peer assessment and arms'-length decisions. Use the Australia Council as an example and regain or establish the same for other federal arts agencies.

8.82 Set targets to double artists’ income, the proportion of export of cultural products, and the number of Australians participating in cultural activity.

8.83 Initiate a sector review of literature.

**Theme: architecture, the built environment and design**

The group looking at architecture, the built environment and design concluded that these elements are fundamental to a creative nation and a sustainable environment and should be areas of national government policy. There was lengthy discussion about the areas involved—architecture, landscape, graphic design, multimedia design, urban design, industrial design, interior design, set design, jewellery, design methodologies, and so on.

The group talked about the benefits in terms of healthy streets, community development, education, sustainability and national identity. One participant spoke of examples in small towns and regional communities. There was some discussion of how, in companies, management layers are being reduced and there is increased recognition of the role of designers in solving problems and making things happen. National guidelines and standards were thought necessary.

There was some discussion about manufacturing—in particular, that in future this will take place closer to home because of environmental concerns. Government should have a policy interest in small-scale manufacturing: this would be of benefit to Aboriginal groups and communities as well as other Australians. It was suggested that government might support joint ventures with existing manufacturers or designers.
Theme: major galleries and institutions

The group looking at major galleries and institutions thought the contribution of these organisations to the education curriculum is absolutely crucial. The relationship between major cultural institutions and schools needs to be improved and a relationship with artists themselves incorporated. One way to achieve this is through having artists in residence.

The group’s ambition was that in 2020 there be universal access for all students to the materials and collections of all major cultural institutions as part of the education process. This involves expanded visitation as well as being an accredited part of the curriculum. Suggested ways to provide this access included building collections, expanding resources of the educational components of institutions, using the school curricula to access cultural collections, and digitising all collections.

It was considered that collections need to be in ‘proper’ environments. How do we provide access for communities who don’t have the right facilities for some touring exhibitions or collections? Also related to access, the group considered that the only way for mainstream Australia to gain information and access early to Indigenous knowledge centres was via schools and schoolchildren. The group agreed that cultural institutions and their collections are tools for learning and that we should make them a compulsory element of the arts curriculum. They are the building blocks of creative learning.

The group considered how these ideas would be upheld when government changes. The discussion focused on needing to embed ideas in the core curriculum and increase the profile of ministries of arts.

As a general context for the discussions, the group agreed that major galleries and institutions have an important role in embedding creativity in education. The goal should be for real and two-way access for all students to non-Indigenous and Indigenous creativity, and outcomes from the summit should lead to sustainable universal access for all.

IDEAS

8.84 Develop a national policy for architecture, the built environment and design.
8.85 Establish a national organisation that has an oversight role in preventing unnecessary development of creative sites, considering spatial relationships.
8.86 Establish a national body for excellence in the built environment to encompass large and small towns.
8.87 Establish alliances between Australian manufacturers and Indigenous communities to make unique Australian design products for export and address issues of Indigenous employment income and skills development.

8.88 Museums and education should come into one portfolio.
8.89 Double the number of festivals, writers and performers that have travelling exhibitions to provide access to remote areas.
8.90 Locate a middle school within a multi-faceted cultural institution.
8.91 Connect to Indigenous knowledge centres.
Theme: performance arts

The group discussing the performance arts started by considering how Australia could create more artists and how artists could be better supported in their work. It was felt that a major improvement in material conditions would redress a key concern that current financial conditions constrain the production of new artistic work.

It was argued that funding for the arts is often directed at administration and that reform could be undertaken in this area. The group also considered that, if there is no new funding for the arts, reducing bureaucracy ensures that funding has maximum impact for artists. They discussed whether administrative costs should be ‘capped’, although some were concerned that being prescriptive in this area might mean that funding could be inadvertently taken from important areas that generate audiences and corporate support.

It was felt that quality would be an important element in the creation of new work and that often artistic work is not able to fulfil its potential because of constrained budgets and operating on a ‘shoestring’. It was considered that research and development would reveal this and provide evidence for increasing funding where appropriate.

The group also discussed the importance of making networks and building relationships. The concept of the artistic hub, as discussed in other sessions, could assist with this. A hub would be a one-stop shop for artists, where they could work, access networks and obtain valuable professional advice. The discussion then focused on the importance of linkages, especially for freelance artists.

**IDEAS**

8.95 By 2020 the material conditions of artists will have significantly improved:

8.95.1 living wage fellowships
8.95.2 revision of social service criteria—for example, social security payments could be used by artists to create work
8.95.3 capacity to undertake professional development courses
8.95.4 superannuation and workers compensation (both availability and cost).

8.96 By 2020 arts administration will have undergone significant reform:

8.96.1 by 2020 Australian arts administration to be modelled more on Asian and European models than on UK and US models
8.96.2 revision of compliance obligations in the grant process. It was felt that in some cases compliance obligations were too burdensome and distracted the artist from their work.
8.96.3 federal government to take responsibility for public liability obligations. This idea stemmed from the concern that public liability insurance was both expensive and difficult to obtain.

8.97 By 2020 the level of activity in the creation and presentation of new Australian works in all genres will have doubled as a result of increased research and development:

8.97.1 a core fund to sustain new work in the growth period. This idea was about supporting new work until an audience and support base is established. It was noted that Australian audiences could be resistant to new work but through greater exposure and education would become more accepting.

8.98 By 2020 distance will no longer be a tyranny to the mobility of artists because better linkages, nationally and internationally, will have been created and local hubs will act as one-stop shops for professional assistance.

Theme: broadcasting and screen culture

The following points were introduced to the group for discussion:

- the need to make more screen work—growth in all media forms
- the need for quality to improve—major investment in research and development
- growth in audience and user relevance.

The group’s discussions on these points led to a number of brainstorming ideas.

- The government should take immediate steps to remove culture from all free trade agreements, including the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement, to ensure Australian content restrictions.
- No more than ten per cent of an agency’s budget should be spent on internal administration, to ensure money for the arts is not spent on bureaucracy.
- Government must develop financial incentives to reward success, for example, a guaranteed percentage of funding for your next film if your previous film is successful.
- Reform sedition laws to ensure freedom of speech principles. The provision of new sedition legislation has no application to works of art, works of scholarship or works of intellectual inquiry.
- Revise models by which we measure success. This can be done by developing a metric for measuring cultural value or by introducing ‘cultural credits’ (similar to carbon credits) for corporate establishments to use in terms of their expenditure and engagement in the arts and culture.
- Government should ‘future-proof’ the equity-building elements of the producer offset by allowing more flexibility in business models and thresholds.
- Provide tax incentives to the computer games industry, the same as those applying to film.
- Establish a screen marketing task force.
- Overhaul legal and insurance frameworks to reduce bureaucracy and red tape.
- Establish an innovation fund to quickly respond to ideas.
• Build sustainable growth funding by introducing a whole-of-government system to fund project-based activities rather than business organisations.

• By 2020 there should be a fivefold increase in support given to public broadcasters. Governments should fund broadcasters to achieve double the level of content by 2020.

• Increase peer assessment to improve the quality of work.

• The ABC should have a role in the YouTube revolution, and the broadcaster needs to be open-sourced.

• Introduce short-term contracts for all people working in government screen agencies, to force new ideas.

• In terms of telling stories, young and emerging filmmakers should have equal access to equipment and professional development.

• Introduce responsibility with subsidies; for example, if funding for a film is received, the producer is obliged to do 12 months of mentorship.

The group discussed the barriers to growth and felt a number of areas needed to be considered. They agreed that at present there are rigid funding models, inadequate marketing support, inadequate measures of new technologies, too much bureaucracy, legal and administrative complexity, too many compliance costs, rigidity of research and development support requirements (which damages our capacity to tell stories) a lack of increase in real terms for national broadcasters to invest in local content, and lack of practitioner representation on government boards (increase to majority practitioner representation).

The group agreed with the ambition to promote growth in capacity, quality of content, and audience and users.

**IDEAS**

8.99 Increase expenditure on R&D to a minimum of 20 per cent of screen industry investment in order to build capacity to tell stories better and become more globally competitive:

  8.99.1 tax incentives for private investment in research and development

  8.99.2 20 per cent of government screen funding expenditure to go to research and development.

8.100 Reward success where content has earned significant financial and cultural support:

  8.100.1 Build entrepreneurial models that reward success with next-project funding.

8.101 Remove barriers:

  8.101.1 rigidity of funding models and reporting requirements

  8.101.2 inadequate marketing support

  8.101.3 inadequate support for new digital media technologies

  8.101.4 legal complexity and excessive documentation

  8.101.5 rigidity on research and development and lack of responsiveness to business models, production methodologies, flexibility between low- and high-budget ranges
8.101.6 lack of increase in real terms for national broadcasters to invest in local talent
8.101.7 lack of practitioner representation on boards—desired state is an increase to majority
8.101.8 complexity of applications—desired state is a reduction in bureaucracy
8.101.9 optical fibre to the node and not to the home
8.101.10 inflexible and expensive insurance requirements—more spent on insurance than script development.

8.102 Future-proofing of government screen and broadcasting policy:

8.102.1 making producer offset format and technology neutral
8.102.2 making fibre to the home the key technology goal of government
8.102.3 providing flexibility in financing scales of production small to large
8.102.4 mandating 80 per cent quota for Australian content by broadcasters in digital delivery
8.102.5 fivefold increase in support of public broadcasting as a hub and brand for quality, distinctive Australian content into the future. By 2020 Australian arts administration will be modelled more on Asian and European models than on UK and US models.

8.103 Develop metrics to measure cultural value and creative cultural credits (like carbon credits) as a tradeable commodity.

8.104 Ensure that screen agencies support access and development for emerging film makers and practitioners.

8.105 Simplify governance demands of screen agencies and cap administrative and internal costs at 5–10 per cent of annual budget.

The stream’s initial report prepared for the summit’s closing plenary, following Sunday’s discussions, is at Attachment D.
ATTACHMENT A  PRESENTATIONS

11 participants had been invited by the co-chairs to speak for a couple of minutes each about their imagined futures on a range of topics and themes.

Robyn Archer spoke about the life of the artist.

- Artists have the passion to create something new – it is a drive in back of head, not just to live life, but to reshape it and give it back. To make things, give things, share things.
- Artists crave a demand for their supply. They want to be valued and to teach and share with others, especially when they are no longer able to create.
- Imagine a future where government helps build a society that cares about artists and creativity. For example, in Cuba, despite other challenges, there is a vibrant culture of art and creativity that is supported and fostered.
- Envisage a future where parents want their kids to become artists because they are proud of it and being an artist is a decent life, supported and valued.
- Phase 1 of getting to this future is that education should support creative talent; kids should be exposed to art everywhere.
- Phase 2 is having a high level of training in the creative industries. Low income kids should not just be relegated to commercial ventures such as Australian Idol. They should be encouraged and supported to enable them to realise their potential. Risk and experiment should be recognised.
- Phase 3 will see artists with spaces, resources and the ability to travel the country and the world. There will be appreciative audiences; artists will be financially rewarded to continue their work. Artists will be valued citizens.

Margaret Seares spoke about education.

- Education in 2020 will be different – imagine a place where school is a creative hub of industrial design, orchestras and science labs.
- Science reflects the buzz of the arts.
- Kids who struggle with maths and science are not treated as underperformers but recognised for their talents; artistic talent is respected.
- Schools enter into partnerships with creative organisations and experiment with the latest in design and media.
- The national broadcaster will be important to kids of all ages, with a kids channel and lots of local content.
- Kids will go out to play in the battle of the bands while their parents go out to the theatre.

What do we need to get there?

- remove impediments so that the ABC is funded for online content, an education channel and a children's channel;
- remove impediments to partnerships between schools and arts groups – get rid of public liability barriers;
• the role of the arts in education needs to taken more seriously by the Commonwealth, states and territories;
• the arts should become one of the measured subjects in the national curriculum;
• we need to change the terminology, from “arts” to “creative literacy”.

David Gonski spoke about philanthropy.
• Imagine a prosperous society of educated people who give to the arts.
• Prosperity means that lots of people are prepared to give – they are leaving funds in private philanthropic funds.
• Workplace giving means that people want to give – encouraged by role models of others.
• One proposal is that people sign up in advance to get a tax deduction for their money when they die.
• It is difficult to give to an individual (e.g. actor, designer, artist) and get a tax break – this can change by 2020.
• Another proposal is to provide grant funding to enable arts organisations to train people to be funds development officers and cultivate new donors.

Rachel Perkins spoke about Indigenous culture.
• Australia has the longest surviving arts and cultural practice in the world. However it is not at the centre of Australian culture – and it should be.
• Australians have not embraced Indigenous culture and identity as part of their every day lives.
• New Zealand’s Treaty of Waitangi says that riches will be shared by all and riches include cultural riches.
• Our challenge is how to share aboriginal culture and put it at the heart of Australian culture and in its rightful place.
• We need to harness the galleries (including online), major institutions, major festivals to hold, preserve, create and reflect Australian culture.
• A simple cheap solution is to appoint an Indigenous person to the boards of each of the major cultural institutions in Australia.
• Consider an instrument e.g. treaty, or charter of rights, so that Indigenous people and culture are protected in the future.
• Only 50 Indigenous languages remain of the several hundred that were in existence at the time of the settlers’ arrival.
• We have an opportunity to learn from history and not make the same mistakes.

Kim Williams spoke about public investment.
• Public investment in creativity; celebrates intellectual capacity; supports a society that is open to change. History provides a body of evidence.
A 2020 vision of a national commitment to creative endeavour – involves:

- an agenda that identifies the funding framework and delineates funding priorities;
- physical, social and digital infrastructure to provide platform and access, and certainty for the talented creators;
- policy recognition that investment in creativity is as important as other infrastructure, e.g. transport, and important for public health;
- an uplift for creative literacy – with allied professional teacher training to aid education;
- increased philanthropy to double investment;
- a national Indigenous theatre company and an Indigenous television network available to all Australians.

Tammy Edwards spoke about the outcomes of the Youth Summit.

“Our vision” is:

- to increase the number of artists who are able to make a living;
- more scope for creativity and experimentation;
- grow infrastructure that supports the entire creative process – e.g. space, resources, administrative skills training;
- equal weighting to the arts at school alongside other disciplines;
- more involvement in the appreciation of creativity.

Marcus Westbury spoke about the impact of geography on access. He imagined a cultural menu available to all in 2020, including:

- independent organisations, such as bookshops, that are able to change perceptions;
- more information and choices will be available due to technology (and in fact already is) and this is able to change perceptions;
- changing media technologies – able to receive, but also able to create; how do we create a cultural policy environment that responds to this, i.e. where media is less passive and more active?
- it takes too long to make policy – we need to make it part of our cultural dialogue, so that we are empowered with the means to participate in the global cultural dialogue;
- every town in Australia needs to be a hub for culture and creativity, focusing on its own distinctive character and strengths.

Khoa Do spoke about social inclusion.

- give everyone a chance to explore their creativity and we may have a country where the arts can change peoples lives.
- art plays an important role in bridging gaps / breaking down barriers.
- reconnect with community through the arts.
it is hoped that in 2020 – arts are supported and invested in, but also recognised as a real mechanism for lasting social change.

Sandra Levy spoke about her vision for broadcasting and screen culture in 2020.

- at least one fully funded public broadcaster that will provide content that no one other broadcaster is able to do and it will foster talent.
- fund a national indigenous broadcaster.
- free to air broadcasters will learn that they need to be more creative and original and support Australian content and programming.
- internet is already the screen of choice: its role in fostering diversity, access and inclusion will increase, placing maximum choice in the hands of the user.
- the future is now – tools of creation are faster, cheaper and will continue to be so.
- in 2020 – our vision is that we will be creative and innovative and will have more and more ways to communicate – and in this we achieve a balance between regulation and openness.

Nick Jose spoke about cultural diplomacy.

- the future is about creative access, convergence of platforms.
- import-export model no longer applies.
- how can we transform Australia’s role in creative conversations?
- in 2020, exchange of information will be simultaneous, multi-directional and inter-connected.
- we need to do better, locally and globally, by valuing who we are, understanding the links, working towards reciprocity, drawing on cultural diversity.
- we need expanded thinking and oversight to pull the parts together for sustained benefit.
- there are ways to enhance the soft power potential of Australian creative engagement in the international arena – soft power but deep.

Saul Eslake spoke about the creative economy.

- A vision for 2020 where the arts are valued, and an integral part of how we build prosperity and add to national wealth. Creativity is at the top of the economic food chain. Australia values creative wealth.
- Our success in creativity is evidenced in our ability to commercialise creative ideas. Advances in standards of living come from new recipes not from more cooking. We should recognise where we derive competitive advantage from, e.g design and architecture.
- Skills that artists and creative types have are what is needed to succeed in business / economy – creatives approach problems from new perspectives, with new media and technology uses.
- Business leaders should invite creative people to their conferences – not just sports people.
- Integrate arts into business. Bring the artists to the table – to inspire.
- Integrate arts into education, from kindergarten to business school.
ATTACHMENT B  GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Group 1

In the introductory remarks group 1 was asked to focus on the big ideas that should ultimately emerge from the summit. It was seen as useful to develop a creative vision for Australia in 2020 and then identify what had to be done and changed to achieve this vision. While individual artists and the private sector would play a key role in delivering ‘a creative Australia’, the public sector should lead the development of the framework to achieve this objective.

There was extensive debate about the multi-faceted issue of access. At one level, for practitioners, it was important that they had access to relevant training, career paths and resources. At another level new technology opened up exciting opportunities for elite institutions and other creative product providers. Other speakers raised the challenge of providing access to arts and cultural products in regional and rural Australia. There was some debate about whether finite government resources should be used to support high-cost touring to regional Australia by performing arts companies or be channelled into fields such as support for arts online, where the dollars might go further. Another problem was the traditionally excessive emphasis on building new arts venues, with insufficient regard to meeting ongoing operating costs or using existing spaces more creatively.

Different views emerged on the state of museum culture in Australia. On one hand, some 7 million Australians visit our museums each year, enjoying the liberal access flowing from free admission. On the other hand, this was argued to downgrade the value of the museum experience, and it was suggested that, in the absence of blockbuster exhibitions, interest in permanent collections remained limited. It was also noted that, with the ‘greying’ of museum expertise in Australia and other developments, museums did not have in place adequate knowledge transfer or planning for ‘succession, evolution and exchange’.

The group canvassed the following general ideas during their discussions.

- Use an ‘affirmation of the arts’ as a starting point to make the arts central to Australia in 2020.
- Develop creative hubs and networks that engage our cultural institutions and reflect Australia’s cultural diversity.
- Use government funding to deliver ‘fibre to the home’ as a means of liberating the creative energies of Australians.
- Have more artists and creative people on corporate boards as a way of underlining the wider value of their skills to business and the Australian economy.
- Improve coordination between federal and state levels in relation to arts and culture.
- Remove counterproductive competition between the states—for example, over incentives to overseas film producers looking at projects in Australia.
- Encourage networking between arts practitioners and other sectors of society such as business people. New structures and philosophical repositioning are required to achieve this.
- Further heavy investment in digitisation of collections and other creative product is necessary.
- Implement strategies to lower prices and thus improve access to performing arts. Such strategies should, however, ensure that those who could afford to pay full ticket prices did not take advantage of lower prices. One alternative might be a rebate scheme.
• We need to develop improved online distribution strategies, as well as find new sources of revenue to support artistic endeavour in Australia.

• Liberalise access to material, along the lines of the approach adopted by the US Library of Congress: all Crown copyright material would be available to Australians free of charge under ‘creative commons’ licensing arrangements.

• Introduce tax concessions for artists.

• All boards of Australia’s cultural institutions should have at least one Indigenous Australian member.

• Greater use of s. 457 visas to allow more international creative people to work on collaborative projects in Australia.

• Establish an Australia International Council to act as a liaison point for all forms of Australian international cultural exchange. This body would also capture and retain information and expertise gleaned for international touring, residencies and other relevant activities.

At this point the group identified a number of ideas that appeared to attract broad support among participants. These included the imperative of promoting the concept of Australia as a creative nation, including the relevance of creativity to Australia's international competitiveness; improving the status and role of artists and other creative people in Australia; access issues, which differed between arts forms but where digitisation loomed large for all; and the importance of education and development of ‘cultural literacy’.

**Group 2**

The facilitators set out the requirements for group 2 to develop ambitions and set out priority themes, encouraging all views and ideas on what needs to change in order to achieve a vision of a creative Australia in 2020.

Education was a major discussion point. Participants discussed changing the current curriculum—which was viewed as entirely dysfunctional, with no coordinated streams, with art teachers not being properly trained and other teachers lacking training in creativity—and the proposal that change could be affected at no additional cost. The participants discussed using a complete change of direction, with investment in teacher training and less division and more inclusion of creativity in education. They felt this could be achieved through creating objects and work for creative people.

Discussions continued with views that creativity is commonplace across many areas, that creative products are ‘the arts’ and are fundamental to Australia positioning itself in a way to enable Australia to defend against simplistic economic rationalism. It was agreed that creativity and the arts are fundamentally important to the quality of Australia and its future.

One participant brought up the governance question of how to structure a federal portfolio and used the UK interdepartmental taskforce as an example. They noted that in the past ten years the United Kingdom transformed the debate, that now there is a sophisticated policy in place, called ‘Creative Britain’, which is linked into creative areas all around the country. The underlying feature for this change was doubling the budget to the Arts Council. This could be an approach Australia might take.

Ways of getting information out to the public were discussed. Libraries were discussed, and hubs around libraries, plus the value of getting together, the problems of participation and access, and accessibility to all national collections and ideas. The New York digital platform and the use of accredited designer
modules, done on a shoestring, were cited as an example. Another example cited was the public art program in Queensland, where it is mandatory to include an art component in each new building.

An overhaul of current bodies was discussed because it was felt that people have to be poor to get funding, and so architecture and design are not included in ‘the arts’ (the Australia Council, and so on). One participant discussed architecture’s part in a creative Australia and the importance of green space, clean air, traffic, high rise and low rise, and so on.

Participants discussed the value of tourism and access to Indigenous culture and art as a cross-stream subject. The value of Indigenous experience has been made evident through survey results that indicate tourists want Indigenous cultural tourism.

Throughout these discussions a number of ideas were suggested.

- Artists should be represented on boards, on environment issues, and during all public debates, so that their involvement becomes common by 2020.
- Have a significant national debate involving cultural institutions and ensure the Prime Minister is involved.
- The Prime Minister should be the Minister for the Arts.
- Establish an interdepartmental task force that deals with education, infrastructure, arts and culture, and innovation.
- Creative arts should be made part of the national curriculum.
- The Ministry for the Arts should be renamed the Creative Economy portfolio or the Minister for the Digital Economy should be the Minister for the Creative Economy.
- Digitise all national collections.
- Introduce cultural institutions for creative learning for our teachers.
- Provide cultural content through the internet.
- Document case studies of the value of the arts to other sectors in the community.
- Establish a marketing position that includes a visual artist within a company, using tax breaks for artists and employers, and encompass examples from Creative Britain—5000 artist apprenticeships and grants and/or tax concessions to institutions.
- Using the model from the United Kingdom, take development in cities away from city councils. This would include high-level national design guidelines for our cities, to help local government. A public artist could be included on the design team for the building process.

Discussions centred on a creative Australia in 2020 and what it would mean. A summary of avenues from this group included more opportunities for artists, placing arts on the education agenda, having an appropriate skills base for the population and improving teacher skills. New technology was viewed as a way to teach and learn, and it was felt it is important to digitise art. Regulation and different state systems in relation to police checks and insurance were raised as matters for government to remedy.
Group 3

Group 3 discussed the question ‘What needs to change for us to be successful in our vision for 2020?’ and the following comments and ideas emerged.

Participants expressed concern about the current relationship between artists and government. They commented that it needed to be made clear that the government’s sedition provisions have no relevance to works of art, scholarship or intellectual inquiry.

Participants wanted a full-bodied arts ministry that was not combined with other portfolio responsibilities. They noted that government programs often link tourism, culture and the arts, which is why importance is not attached to the arts specifically.

Education was discussed at length, and participants felt the arts should influence the curriculum in every school. More arts and creativity needed to be taught or experienced in primary and secondary schools, and an environment must be created that is receptive to these endeavours. It is essential, however, that teaching not be prescriptive: the emphasis must be on teaching the creative process, not mandating the creative outcome. In this instance, art should not be linked to a mark since that limits creativity and pushes students towards a particular path. Indigenous cultural education was also raised: good partnerships are needed with Indigenous communities to ensure that education is authentic and valid.

The relationship between artists and the social security system should be considered, to provide sustainability for artists. Other avenues for this support could be through private sector sponsors for the arts and joint ventures between government and private enterprise.

Ideas supporting these comments were as follows:

- Review and strengthen the ABC Charter—including the appointment of board positions, appointing an Indigenous person to the board, acknowledging the importance of risk and failure, and ensuring the broadcaster is independent and free of commercial influence.
- Maintain the current structure of SBS Television.
- Make a 1 per cent allocation to the arts from the budget of all other ministries.
- Introduce benchmark cost–benefit analysis of arts and culture ministries and public administration.
- Establish a Ministry of Culture, rather than a Ministry of the Arts.
- Transform every arts facility into an energy-generating facility.
- Establish a future fund to renew old and crumbling cultural infrastructure.
- Introduce the concept of artists in residence in schools—need to remove public liability because it inhibits such arrangements.
- Teach ‘philosophy for children’ in schools.
- Have contemporary artists at the peak of their careers living in regional Australia.
- Introduce creative practitioners into schools.
- Establish arts brokers to work between the curriculum and the teacher, to run special programs for gifted students, and to set up cultural partnerships.
Group 4 began discussions around the theme of arts and education, and a vision was articulated that by 2020 every child in Australia (of high-school age) will have experienced the arts and be musically literate and conversant with the arts. It was felt that it would be important to teach and respect each of the art forms—painting, poetry, music, and so on—rather than having a bland, watered-down mish-mash of ‘creative arts’.

The group felt white Australia could learn from the experience of Indigenous Australians and the importance of creativity in their communities. It was said that in Indigenous society the arts survived and every young adult could tell stories, dance, sing and perform. Several members of the group felt that children are creative before they go to school but that western schooling systems stifle that creativity. It was felt that art is promoted as a ‘hobby’, but that society needs to value creative skills as ‘job skills’. As this theme continued to develop the group endorsed an approach whereby creativity and the arts would become a key ‘literacy’ in a national school curriculum.

The group then returned to the theme of education, agreeing that the teaching profession needs to be valued and paid appropriately and that in the future they would like to see a profession that draws on the top students. It was acknowledged that digital media and the internet allow people to continue to participate in the arts following formal education: from this conversation the concept of ‘creativity for life’ emerged.

The group then discussed the idea that a ‘right brain’ approach to thinking and learning would challenge current teaching models and that this would need to be further explored. It was felt that developing the right brain would help to create global individuals able to adapt creatively to many different aspects of work. It was noted that the current compliance regime restricts creativity in teaching and that a full redesign of the system might be needed.

The group then discussed developing two priority themes—to educate people to think and communicate laterally and logically to solve problems creatively; and to make Indigenous culture central to the core national narratives.

From these themes and from the earlier discussions, the group brainstormed a number of ideas:

- Arts practitioners need to be connected to schools, and students need to learn that it is possible to develop a career in the field.
- Artists should not be taxed for creating artistic work or should have a higher tax-free threshold.
- The general population should be provided with a tax rebate for purchasing art, attending the theatre, and so on, up to a certain value—for example, $3000 a year.
- Connect schools, communities and artists through creative hubs. These hubs would provide for artists a place to work and act as a one-stop shop for professional advice.
- Provide to developers tax breaks for giving artists low-cost work spaces.
- Ensure that teachers are paid and trained properly, that they are valued, and that the education system includes Aboriginal language and culture.
- Use online interactive education to support teaching and education and improve access to the arts.
- Establish a National Theatre Company.
Time did not permit further discussion of exporting culture, sharing cultural values, and the role of film and digital media.

**Group 5**

Group 5 agreed that the Creative stream’s ambition for 2020 should be that Australia is at the forefront of creativity and innovation and that Australia’s creativity is recognised and valued domestically and internationally. The group agreed that developing or improving the following themes would place Australia in strong position creatively in the lead-up to 2020.

**A whole-of-government approach and cultural diplomacy**

The group considered that whole-of-government co-ordination of creativity was required. They concluded that this required governments to develop the capacity to coordinate arts, cultural and creative activity across the public sector and report on it. The group recommended that the government establish a Ministry of Culture. They also concluded that, in order to ensure that Australia’s face to the world was being properly represented creatively, the Ministry of Culture would assume responsibility for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s cultural diplomacy role. They further recommended that, in marketing Australia internationally for tourism or business development purposes, governments project a more balanced approach to Australia’s recreational activity, including images of cultural and artistic pursuits.

**Creative literacy**

The group concluded that creative literacy should be pursued as an educational objective by placing creativity, the arts and culture at the centre of the national curriculum.

**Funding framework**

The group agreed that an improved funding framework was required to fund creative enterprises beyond a project-to-project basis. This approach would balance sustainability and commercial success and innovation and risk taking.

Group members agreed to the following ideas as a means of achieving its agreed key themes:

- The government should establish a Ministry of Culture, covering broadcasting, creative policy and program administration, to integrate creativity across government and Australia’s official creative presence internationally.
- The government should develop a whole-of-government approach to societal creativity, including ministers reporting to Cabinet on innovation and creativity within their portfolios.
- The government should establish a cultural R&D fund for innovation and sustainability, to support innovative and emerging artists and to continue to support successful mid-career artists.
- The government should fund tax breaks for artists.

**Group 6**

Group 6 sought to identify pragmatic mechanisms as well as a vision. The imagined future for Australia in 2020 was as a leader in content creation. This ambition includes the notion that art is at the core of education and not marginalised but integral to the community and government. A national approach is
called for, with support so that major companies can engage in innovation and artists can establish career paths. The group considered there should be a core of creativity in every aspect of Australian endeavour and global career paths for creators.

There was a view that Australian society values and invests in the past—that is, heritage and the canon—but does not provide similar support for new arts and creativity. The arts sector should have equal space for new forms of creativity. It is important to preserve tradition, but this should not be done at the expense of the new. It was also suggested that rebalancing support from old to new should involve increasing support, not just reallocating resources.

Participants felt that an economic rationalist approach has been an obstacle to support for risk taking in the arts. Artistic creation is often about reinterpreting the past and retelling our stories, and in this context Australian voices are central to our society.

The group discussed the place of the arts in government. It was agreed that the Prime Minister needs to be a champion of the importance of the arts and creativity. Both the government and the community need to realise there is not enough funding for the arts. The group shared further concern about funding and resources lost to administration and processes, rather than being delivered to artists and arts-related activities. Additionally, arts organisations themselves need to be less bureaucratic and more streamlined.

The group supported transparency and peer review in arts funding.

Also discussed was the role of the arts in social inclusion—how you can change people’s lives through arts. While it was acknowledged that artists have a voice in society, there was also discussion about the low level of lobbying by the arts industry—including a lack of focus and organisation. Because of the diversity of the sector it is considered difficult to forge links.

These discussions led to the following initial ideas:

- appoint artists to business boards
- to increase its importance, the Australia Council should move to Canberra
- artists (writers) could be engaged to write the preamble to our (new) Constitution
- encourage philanthropy in the arts via trust funds and prescribed private funds, working through investment banks
- introduce a national curriculum that includes the arts and ensure that education begins at an early age
- seek media inclusion—for example, encourage the ABC to broadcast an arts story before the sport
- governments should adopt a whole-of-government approach and, in particular ensure that the education, Indigenous, communications, finance and treasury portfolios have an arts focus
- engage other arms of government
- ensure that all federal government expenditure includes contributions to creativity and that funding recipients are required to report against this
- establish a sustainable base of established artists to help develop a new generation.

Other ideas suggested for discussion included arts hubs, research and development, broadband, communication, distribution access and forms of media, and social equity in terms of access and cost. These themes were not discussed further by the group.
Group 7

A matrix of questions was read out and group 7 decided to focus on the education question. On arts integration in education they acknowledged or suggested that teachers are not trained enough and need to be taught how to teach creatively. It was said that not all schools have arts exposure and that the arts become optional too early in a student’s life. The problem is acute in government schools. There was considerable discussion about teachers and their value, in terms of both remuneration and status in society. There needs to be recognition that participation comes from both sides: it is not a one-way communication. This would generate a sense of pride in creative individuals and create role models. Children would be excited by going to school because of the enjoyment of being with these people. They would create and absorb and learn to learn.

Companies should support artists. If the arts were more widely taught, highly literate and skilled audiences will come from those who do not become artists themselves. People are too scared to go to things. We need more lateral thinking and philosophy.

We need to consider the ABC, SBS and National Indigenous Television (NITV) as custodians of cultural storytelling. If there is more multi-channelling there should be more Australian content. Australia should also consider ways to improve Indigenous broadcasting; in this context there was some discussion about Australian content quotas.

A number of suggestions were highlighted during the group’s discussions:

- every government school should have an arts education program, provided by a mix of resident teachers, visiting practitioners and artists in schools programs
- mature artists need to be part of the role of getting arts into schools
- establish a pool of mentors and use celebrities to help create and inspire enthusiasm
- more closely link the education system to industry, to provide career guidance for artists coming out of training institutions
- teachers need to be taught digital literacy to catch up to their students’ levels
- introduce tax breaks for firms to set up internships and apprenticeship programs
- introduce tax breaks for exhibitors of Australian films
- fund public broadcasting from the revenue obtained from commercial television licences
- provide more tax benefits for small business and self-sustaining additional financing by transfer from commercial to research and development.

Group 8

Group 8 brainstormed their ambitions, themes and ideas to help shape the arts and creative sector in the lead-up to 2020. The session included a number of discussions of themes and ambitions.

The group felt that the arts should be at the core of the national education curriculum. This would help children to be creative in their own right, introduce Indigenous culture to the centre of education, introduce dance as a creative activity (since it is the most difficult of the arts subjects to introduce into schools), provide equal weighting in schools of creative subjects with other subject, and provide more funding to extra curricular activities such as drama classes for tertiary students.
Arts in the media was considered and, to ensure that the Australian story can be told, it was suggested that because of the abundance of media channels, space must be established for creativity through the free-to-air channels. The group also agreed that Indigenous television should be available to all Australians through free-to-air channels.

Participants noted that Australia does not measure up in the international view and that this should be remedied. The Australia Council could provide scholarships to artists to travel internationally, to help them to broaden their horizons. International young artist grants should also be provided.

It was considered beneficial for artists to move into the wider community and work in other sectors (such as the health sector) to bring about social inclusion and to increase the opportunities for ongoing employment for artists.

The group then drew on this discussion to put forward their three key themes and relevant ideas:

**The worth of creative thought**
- Artists should be employed across all sectors.
- Pay 1 per cent of gross revenue from telecommunication companies, internet service providers and other content providers into a government cultural fund for artistic endeavours.
- Introduce a GST exemption for creative endeavours.

**Education**
- The core curriculum should include creative studies—preschool, years 1 to 12 and beyond.
- Creative studies should not be an additional cost for students.
- All teachers should be skilled in some way in creative studies.

**Cultural identity**
- There should be access to National Indigenous Television through free to air—for example, implementing a model similar to the SBS one.
- Develop and present Australian stories by mandating their commissioning by broadcasters.
- Improve the protection of cultural rights through a charter of rights and a treaty.

**Group 9**

Group 9 considered the question ‘What should the world be like in 2020 from a creative point of view?’

The perception of the arts was raised as a point for discussion. The group believed that the arts should have a higher standing than they have today and that artists should be better admired and understood than they currently are. Participants asked why there is a perception that the arts has a lower standing and said changes need to be made to ensure that Australians understand the importance of the arts in relation to their ability to be used in all sectors. The overall goal should be to engage the mainstream of the Australian population to be participants in art and culture. One way to do this is to change the language from ‘art’ to ‘creativity’ to ensure that it is more readily embraced. The group agreed that aspects of the economy and economic value were important but that it is also important to recognise the intrinsic value of the arts. The overall goal would be to engage the mainstream population as
participants in art and culture. The rest of the world should think of Australia as a nation of thinkers and creators, but the first step is to make Australians see themselves as part of a creative nation.

Some participants wanted to see one Australian city generating cultural frameworks to draw people from around the world. There was some discussion about whether there should be only one city. Because of our dispersed population, there is no need for a one-city model. Many in the group felt that every town can produce great art. The purpose is to embody a vision where everyone can gain access to and express their own creativity.

Conflicting views were expressed about the role of the media. Some argued that the media focused only on the top people, but others felt that this meant that ‘culture’ is on the public’s radar.

Participants agreed that the role of education is vital. The example given was that if it was raining in Berlin teachers take children to the museum; such access was facilitated by public transport being free, not having to organise in advance, and being able to go there without parental consent. Germany has written arts into its constitution.

Following these initial discussions, the group identified a number of ambitions for the stream: Australians understand the value and benefits of creative thinking and expression; everyone has the capacity to access and express their creative potential; creative thinking and expression are involved in all aspects of Australian life; and Australia is, and is seen at home and abroad as, a creative nation. These ambitions formed the basis for further discussions and development of themes and ideas.

The group considered that four policy areas would need to be influenced: changes to education policy are needed to normalise interest and engagement in arts; attitudinal change needs someone important to sanction change; infrastructure needs to be considered in the context of delivering and supporting the arts; and understanding linkages between the arts and other areas will help engage Australians.

Other comments dealt with the relationship between federal and state funding and the ability to educate people outside the formal education system. It was also recognised that, although children today can better access creative pursuits through the internet, it is not through a formal system.

At the end of the discussions, the following ideas emerged.

**Education**

- The arts should be introduced to children aged up to 5 years through parents and childcare and for ages 5–18 years through schools. For adults, more participation opportunities should be made available through specialist facilities and adult classes.
- Make classes available outside the formal system.
- Improve the quality of the curriculum and teaching.
- Provide artists ‘in classrooms’ and links with institutions.
- Create ongoing opportunities to continue with art and creativity.

**Philanthropy and support**

- Create residential creative hubs for artists, scientists and philanthropic thinkers near universities and urban developments—inner city development.
- Double the arts budget.
• Offer a tax incentive to people who make bequests.
• Raise the profile of the arts as a donation cause: provide grants to enable arts organisations to employ people to do donor fund development.

**Creative hubs**

• Create a writing hub where writers can come together and collaborate. This could be extended beyond writers and to other types of creative artists.
• Take money out of projects and put it into a creative hub to allow everyone equal access. This would give people an opportunity to create.
• Build linkages between the different creative industries and sciences.

**Group 10**

To begin, participants in group 10 introduced themselves and made brief remarks about their views of the arts and creativity. Following this, they discussed the role of the artist and change, agreeing that the role is changing because of the media and other technological tools. Technology can improve participation, skills and training opportunities. Although new tools can expand the choice of when and how creative output is experienced, digital or virtual performances will never replace live performance. The arts are currently not central to education and since they are not reported on nationally, individual schools have limited incentives to offer art courses. Participants agreed this needed to change. Art and creativity should be ingrained in the Australian culture and, to enhance this, access should take place in the regional, domestic and global communities. The group concluded that the role of the artist can change through increased community respect.

Access, participation and opportunity are the key concepts for engaging remote and regional communities. There is a need to accept the idea of thinking ‘local’ in how people express themselves. People express themselves in their local environment to reflect their experiences. Innovation by creators and technology should be encouraged.

The group set out its three main ambitions, as follows.

By 2020 creativity and art are respected and valued, giving meaning and purpose locally and internationally, across all community sectors and individually. [There was some robust discussion of the term ‘art’: some participants preferred this term because it represents the range of art forms and experiences; others thought it has too much history, being associated with set forms or elite art, and preferred the broader term ‘creativity’. Some dislike the term ‘culture’ because it is loaded. There was also disagreement on the use of the term ‘creative content’, it being too much a film or internet term, and some suggested it should be ‘creative outcome’ or ‘creative output’.]

By 2020 Australia will have introduced and integrated new technology for creative practices, recognising that old forms still have value. Australia should be a leader in productive use of new technology for art education and training. Australia could produce content that is presented at home and internationally to be consumed in new technological environments.

Arts and creativity are a central experience in all levels of education and training. [One participant expressed the view that by 2020 arts and creativity will be central to the national education curriculum, equal in respect and standing to maths and science. Another suggested,
however, that the aim is to foster universal creative participation, not just an institutionalised subject, which could end up stifling creativity.]

As a result of these discussions and identification of the three main ambitions, the following ideas were produced.

- Encourage original music in remote and regional areas. Tax incentives would help.
- Mandate more Australian content on commercial radio and television—including live performance events.
- Establish a joint task force called Screen Tomorrow to develop a strategic plan for the industry, with the industry and government working together.
- Offer a tax deduction for artistic training.
- Include creativity as a research priority in the competitive tertiary research grants system. The current point system to fund research does not include creative outputs.
- Provide supplemental income for artists—grants or welfare. Market failure and failure to recognise artists lead to income failure.
- An early childhood one-stop shop could incorporate arts outcomes and outputs.
- Provide for continuing creative education.
- People are choosing private education partly because of improved opportunities for their children to take up art, drama and music. The capacity of government schools to provide these special skills is a concern.
- A system for measuring cultural value—for example, audience reach—is needed. Institute a cultural audit to capture this.
- Provide seed funding for experimental work, for individuals and smaller organisations that are engaged in arts areas that have high cultural value (even if they are of low economic value), with the aim of improving economic value.
- A national lottery to fund the arts was proposed. It was observed, however, that this may not be constitutionally possible.
- Measures to encourage philanthropy are needed: philanthropy gives Australians a sense of involvement in the arts they love so much.
- Updated statistical research needs to be done into the level of philanthropy and private support. Identify the drivers and build on them.
- The arts and creativity need to be an integrated vision across all levels of government.
Towards a Creative Australia

**Ambitions**

Creativity is central to sustaining and defining the nation, fuelling the imaginations of citizens, nurturing our children and nourishing healthy communities.

To achieve this ambition there is a need to implement policies that will produce a sustainable creative sector, build educational capacity, integrate Indigenous perspectives and recognise the centrality of creative to the whole economy.

This will result in increased personal capacity and confidence of all citizens, including artists, a stronger economy and international understanding of Australia as a mature, creative, innovative society.

**Priority Themes**

1. Education
2. New Investment Models and Sustainability
3. Centrality of the Arts/Creativity
4. Indigenous Core
5. Audio Visual Futures
6. Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy
7. Connecting and Expanding Creative Hubs

**Top Ideas**

1. **Embedding Creativity in Education**
   - National curriculum to include arts subjects in national curriculum & include national reporting requirements:
   - Bringing art into schools, practitioners in residence, incl national mentoring program funded by philanthropic funds and tax incentives.
   - Creativity is a national research priority, access to R&D, ARC etc.

2. **New Investment Models and Sustainability**
   - National Endowment Fund for the Arts: public endowment and private philanthropy, including review of philanthropy and tax incentives to support organisations and individual artists, including patronage, expand scope of Prescribed Private Funds (PPFs)
   - HECS-type scheme for creative entrepreneurs and artists
   - Form a new organisation for promotion of Australian arts internationally
3. Whole of Government Centrality of Creativity, the Arts and Innovation
   - Creativity dividend of 1% from all departments for investment in arts broadly defined
   - Respecting creativity in all professions. Creating a Prime Minister’s prize: “Creative Australian of the Year”
   - Create a Ministry for Creative Economy and Arts, to reach across all sectors: Cross-functional linkage to other ministries and whole-of-government — including improved access through improved digital communications, digital collections, broadband roll-out

4. Indigenous Core of Creative Australia in 2020
   - Integrate Indigenous culture into our cultural institutions by appointing an Indigenous person on each board.
   - Include Indigenous art and culture within the school curriculum, within creative arts; stories, language, dance and music, art and design
   - Provide National Indigenous Television (NITV) with digital spectrum with resourcing to deliver content.
   - To provide hubs for Indigenous artists to develop their work (urban, country, regional), Resource a national indigenous theatre company, to expand audience for Indigenous culture

5. Audio Visual Futures
   - Dramatic increase in Australian content on television through, direct and increased funding of ABC, SBS and NITV; ABC Childrens’ TV channel;
   - Reform charters of public broadcasters, especially board membership and local content, review public broadcasters’ operations to identify synergies in transmission
   - Increase support at development stage of screen sector, reward success and excellence

6: Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy
   - Australian International Council to advance cultural import/export, consolidate international representation and encourage cultural R&D collaboration
   - International cultural touring fund: for every art form and creative industry professionals
   - International exchanges: for medium and long-term, or all roles eg: curators, writers, directors, critics (Asia-Link model), residencies
   - Facilitate virtual soft power: upload Australian content, online culture, hybrid technologies

7. Connecting and Expanding Creative Hubs
   - Centres of activity that enable creativity and collaboration between large and small groups, recognising public broadcasters vital part of delivery of culture and cultural institutions as creative social and educational hubs
   - Link small scale activity to achieve economies to attract R&D and share resource, and provide back office support, harness broadband to create a virtual cluster for artists to congregate, exchange ideas and collaborate
- Register of surplus government space made available to artists, tax incentives for making private space available

- Whole-of-Government approach to deregulation including government-funded public liability insurance scheme
Towards a Creative Australia

_Ambitions_

- Creativity is central to sustaining and defining the nation, fuelling the imaginations of citizens, nurturing our children and nourishing healthy communities. Indigenous culture is at the core of this.

- Creativity is broader than the arts, but the arts are central to creativity.

- We aim to double cultural output by 2020.

- To achieve this there is a need to implement policies that will produce a sustainable creative sector and support artists, build educational capacity, integrate Indigenous and settler perspectives and recognise the centrality of the arts and creativity to the whole economy.

- This will result in increased personal capacity and confidence of all citizens, including artists, a stronger economy and greater international understanding of Australia as a mature, creative, innovative society.

_Themes_

A major theme of this stream was expanding and developing education in arts and creativity to enrich and support cultural endeavours. Boosting the creative capabilities and understanding of citizens through improved access to lifelong learning was raised as a critical priority, to ensuring a sustainable sector which provides opportunities for innovation and rewards excellence.

The development of new investment models to ensure financial viability was also considered. The stream agreed that the ideal funding model combines private and public support to foster and support creativity and innovation; support emerging, mid-career and established artists, and large and small enterprises.

The stream also discussed the increasing importance of creativity in the new economy, both at home and abroad. This is central to innovation in the new industries which are fuelled by creativity and draw on the arts, entertainment and design. This will present both opportunities and challenges as traditional models of income support change. Success in this new environment demands that creativity is embedded in our education systems, economy and international representation at every level.

The stream discussed the best ways of ensuring that the creative output of Australians is made accessible. This included mechanism to support major institutions and provide new and emerging artists around the nation. The stream recognised the important role of public broadcasting and emerging broadband networks to produce and distribute this output.

The place of Indigenous arts and culture at the core of Australian creative expression was recognised by the group. This is a source of identity and pride for all and gives Australia a uniqueness which is unrivalled internationally.
Top Ideas

**Link the creative arts and education**
- Bring art into our schools by introducing ‘practitioners in residence’ via a national mentoring plan funded by philanthropic funds and tax incentives
- Mandate creative, visual and performing arts subjects in national curricula with appropriate reporting requirements for schools. Explore new opportunities for extension and development such as Creativity Summer Schools, pre-service and in-service training for teachers
- Digitise the collections of major national institutions by 2020
- Make creativity a national research priority with funding access to R&D, ARC and similar funding

**Develop new investment and support models**
- Create a National Endowment Fund for the Arts – incorporating public endowment and private philanthropy (including patronage), and provide a wide range of support including loans and grants; a review of philanthropy and tax incentives to support organisations and individual artists and expand the scope of Prescribed Private Funds
- Fund creative endeavours through a 1% Creativity Dividend from all Government Departments for expenditure on arts (including design, performance, installation)
- Develop mechanisms to reward success
- Federal responsibility for public liability obligations for arts organisations

**Indigenous core and centrality of arts and design**
- Creativity is central to Australian life and Indigenous culture is at the core of this. To measure, document and leverage the strengths of this culture, and articulate the role and improve protection of Indigenous cultures, languages and heritage through a National Indigenous Cultural Authority
- A whole of government approach to the arts, culture, design and the creative economy across all sectors, including improved resourcing, linkages and access by using broadband connections and including building connections between sports and arts
- Facilitate artists in residence across all industries and institutions to engage in story-telling, sense-making and capacity-building for citizens and
- Develop a national Cultural and Design Strategy and Policy
The future of Australian governance

Co-chairs:
Mr John Hartigan
The Honourable Maxine McKew MP

Lead Facilitator:
Mr Tim Orton
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OVERVIEW

The Governance stream was asked to consider ‘the future of Australian governance: renewed democracy, a more open government (including the role of the media), the structure of the federation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens’.

The first day of the summit commenced with a plenary session of all 100 Governance stream participants. The stream then broke into four groups which reported back to a plenary session later that day. The second day commenced with a plenary session of the 100 participants, which considered a draft summary of the Initial Report prepared by the facilitators and co-chairs of the priority themes and ideas, before further small group discussions to refine the ambitions, themes and ideas. A final plenary session determined the stream’s priority themes and top ideas, which are provided in the following record together with the summary of the group and plenary discussions. Additional ideas generated in the discussions are recorded without any attached priority or indication of level of support.

PRIORITY THEMES

The five priority themes, which emerged from the discussions under which the top ideas were grouped, were:

- constitution, rights and responsibilities
- create a modern federation
- collaborative governance: revolutionise the ways government and communities interact
- parliamentary reform
- open and accountable government.

The top ideas, by priority theme

Theme: constitution, rights, and responsibilities

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9.3 Charter of rights:

9.3.1 that Australia is a country where respect and protection of the human rights of all people are maintained and strengthened

9.3.2 that a national process is conducted to consult with all Australians as to how best protect human rights

9.3.3 that there be a statutory charter or Bill of Rights (majority support) or a parliamentary charter of rights or an alternative method (minority support).

Theme: create a modern federation

IDEAS

9.4 Reinvigorate the federation to enhance Australian democracy and make it work for all Australians by reviewing the roles, responsibilities, functions, structures and financial arrangements at all levels of governance (including courts and the non-profit sector) by 2020.

A three-stage process was proposed with:

− an expert commission to propose a new mix of responsibilities
− a convention of the people, informed by the commission and by a process of deliberative democracy
− implementation by intergovernmental cooperation or referendum.

9.5 Drive effective intergovernmental collaboration by establishing a national cooperation commission to register, monitor and resolve disputes concerning intergovernmental agreements.

9.6 Engage the Australian community in the development of an ambitious long-term national strategic plan that delivers results.

Theme: collaborative governance – revolutionise the ways government and communities interact

IDEAS

9.7 Citizenship engagement:

9.7.1 an online portal, free and searchable government information, and a space for citizens to participate and share their views - ourgov.au

9.7.2 AuSpan network – an Australian C-Span

9.7.3 deliberative inclusive processes that feed directly into government decision-making processes

9.7.4 active citizenship training as a universal component of primary and secondary school curricula and available to the broader community.

9.8 Electoral processes:

9.8.1 universal automatic enrolment to vote, voting for all Australians over the age of 18 years and automatic re-enrolment of eligible voters

9.8.2 optional enrolment to vote and voting for Australians aged between 16 and 18 years [subject to debate at the plenary session and not carried forward to the interim report].
9.9 Third sector strengthening:

9.9.1 recognising the importance of the non-government, or third, sector in public policy development and governance and protecting and promoting policy advocacy—for example, removal of taxation roadblocks and reform of charity law.

9.10 Political donations

9.10.1 Abolish private campaign finances, including third party donations, with an exemption for small individual donors, to increase trust in political parties and help create the level playing field for elections. (There was disagreement with this idea at the Plenary session, in part due to lack of opportunity to discuss this in detail but it was more widely supported when described as ‘adoption of the Canadian model’.)

Theme: parliamentary reform

IDEAS

9.11 Strengthen government accountability to parliament:

9.11.1 establishment of a parliamentary code of ethics and an Ethics Commissioner
9.11.2 provision of independent arbitration of public interest immunity claims by Ministers in respect of information required by a house or a committee
9.11.3 the government to instruct the Australian Public Service (APS) that it has a duty to cooperate with the Parliament
9.11.4 reframing of appropriation Bills to specify individual projects and programs.

9.12 Improve the quality of the legislative process:

9.12.1 establishment of minimum time and process standards for the passage of legislation, including Committee scrutiny (for example, 30 days), unless otherwise negotiated
9.12.2 improved community and stakeholder engagement in scrutiny of Bills and policy development
9.12.3 government to instruct the Australian Public Service that it has a duty to cooperate with parliament.

9.13 Ministerial advisors should have to appear before parliamentary committees when they are taking executive decisions.

9.14 Improve deliberative democracy and equipping citizens to participate in an engaged, modern democracy, using and including:

9.14.1 online participation
9.14.2 citizens’ juries
9.14.3 citizens’ parliaments
9.14.4 participatory budgeting
9.14.5 21st century and electronic town meetings
9.14.6 active citizenship education as part of the school curriculum.
9.15 Embark on electoral and constitutional reform to renew the role and composition of the Senate as a house of review and to make the Australian parliament more representative.

9.16 The Commonwealth government to make an undertaking to allow a vote in both houses of Parliament before (except in cases of emergency) committing Australia to war or to a war-like situation. (There was disagreement about this idea at the Plenary session.)

Theme: open and accountable government

IDEAS

9.17 Reform of the current freedom of information system to be achieved through:

9.17.1 legislating through the Electoral Act
9.17.2 abolishing conclusive certificates
9.17.3 appointment of a Commissioner for Freedom of Information
9.17.4 a full merits review
9.17.5 an exemption test based on the matters of essential public interest – for example, national security issues to be protected
9.17.6 if public service document are to be released in the public interest, they should be free and easily accessible
9.17.7 government and public service documents to be released after 15 (instead of 30) years

9.18 Charter of Free Speech to ensure:

9.18.1 no journalist to face criminal proceedings for publishing information they receive from their sources in the official conduct of their duties
9.18.2 the journalists’ ‘code of ethics’ to be strengthened
9.18.3 effective shield laws for journalists established, without the threat that they must reveal their sources
9.18.4 whistleblower protection to be respected and strengthened
9.18.5 a national commitment to protecting journalists or media producers.

9.19 Secure independent public broadcaster

9.20 Improved media diversity and accountability

Additional ideas

The following ideas were identified from the plenary sessions and group discussions. As discussed, some ideas had wide support from the group but were not carried through as part of prioritising of the ‘big ideas’, some had very limited support and some were not discussed in any detail. The ideas listed are grouped under their theme headings where possible. On the whole, ideas that were determined to be big ideas or priority themes are not repeated.
From plenary sessions

**IDEAS**

9.21 Establish a constitutional commission or convention.

9.22 The Prime Minister or parliament to write a national narrative about governance and Australia’s connection into that narrative as a community.

9.23 A national competition to draft a new preamble to the Constitution.

9.24 If the Constitution and Senate powers remain the same, it should be written into the Constitution that if the Senate blocks supply it should face the people.

9.25 The Northern Territory Intervention should happen everywhere—not just in the Northern Territory.

9.26 The Constitution should set out the relationship between the political and administrative arm of government, the relationship between Ministers and public servants, and the role of the public servant.

9.27 The principles of public service in our society should be incorporated in the Constitution so that public servants know their roles and responsibilities.

9.28 Abolish local government and have only two levels of government. There would then be a need to create more states (as many as 40) to take over the role of current local government.

9.29 Reconsider the division of power between states and the Commonwealth. Abolish local government and make the states smaller.

9.30 Develop a charter for parliamentary reform to restore the independence and effectiveness of parliament.

9.31 Establish accountability of the Executive—with specification of how public money should be spent.


9.33 Augment representative democracy with deliberative democracy. Citizens could be randomly sampled about the different issues, have time to understand and deliberate, and then inform the legislative process.

9.34 Improve accountability by keeping track of ministerial council discussions as well as delegated legislation and grant allocations.

9.35 The Westminster form of government discourages openness. We should head towards the American ‘presidential’ form of government, where there are checks and balances between the legislature and government.

9.36 Reinvigorate the professionalism of journalism by strengthening the Press Council.

9.37 Strengthen accountability through a national investigative journalism fund. This could be co-funded by industry and government and would be a way to keep healthy high-quality journalism alive in Australia.

9.38 Resolution by both houses of Parliament before committing Australia to war.

9.39 Reversing the onus for public immunity tests for Ministers.
Theme: open and accountable government

IDEAS

9.40 Defamation laws should be reformed ‘to shift the burden of proof’. A public figure alleging defamation would bear the burden of proving falsity.

9.41 Crown copyright should be abolished.

9.42 Open-access government:

9.42.1 government to apply new technologies to its records and then to make the records searchable

9.42.2 a reduced closed period for access to government documents

9.42.3 implementation of a citizens’ cabinet from the United Kingdom, currently being trialled in Queensland.

9.43 Reform of political culture in Australia:

9.43.1 creation of a Trade Practices Act s. 5.52 ‘misleading or deceptive conduct’ offence for politicians.

9.44 More public policy debate:

9.44.1 an Australian version of ‘C-span’—AuSpan (see Idea 9.5.2)

9.44.2 a public affairs digital network by 2020, with a high proportion of international work (65 per cent), book launches, interviews, and other public affairs broadcasts.

9.45 The future of mass media and the role of national broadcasters:

9.45.1 a trust established for community media and national broadcasters to secure their long-term funding

9.45.2 a removal of restrictions on multi-channelling and other economic restrictions

9.45.3 review of the role of the Press Council in the light of new media.

9.46 Elimination of jargon in governance and bureaucracy.

9.47 National platforms for various citizen groups:

9.47.1 creation of a national online service for young people or a national platform for community radios.
Theme: parliamentary reform

**IDEAS**

9.48 Improve process to make law making more efficient and effective:
   9.48.1 fixed parliamentary terms
   9.48.2 minimum periods of review for the passage of legislation.

9.49 Following an election, if an MP’s party is not elected the MP should still be compelled to see out the term and not retire.

9.50 Expand the role of the Press Council.

9.51 Establish a permanent 2020 summit to increase committee function and increase discussion of issues day to day.

9.52 Entrench the operations of the upper houses. The idea is that governments never control upper houses: their role is reserved as a house of review.

9.53 A bill of rights at a state level to strengthen the accountability of states.

9.54 Develop deliberative and new forms of democracy on tough issues through citizen assembly, participatory budget, on-line capability.
   9.54.1 Establish an independent process to resolve disputes about disclosure of information, along with an independent arbiter.

9.55 Strengthen question time:
   9.55.1 members and the public able to ask questions in question time
   9.55.2 a four-minute time limit in question time
   9.55.3 the Senate to also have capacity for supplementary questions with one-minute answers from Ministers
   9.55.4 ‘Dorothy Dixers’ to be controlled. It is a limitation that the ‘other side’ question time is the only bit of parliament that gets media coverage.

9.56 Committees:
   9.56.1 committee structure to be broadened to include subject matter experts from outside parliament
   9.56.2 lower the level of public servants that are brought before committees.

9.57 Universal automatic enrolment (and re-enrolment) from 18 (in addition to idea 9.6.1):
   9.57.1 use electronic means to make it easier for people to enrol to vote
   9.57.2 supported by a strong electoral education program (from 18)
   9.57.3 an alternative to the idea of changing the age to 16 is to have a youth parliament.

9.58 Reshape the Senate (house of review).

9.59 Representatives elected to represent groups rather than electorates.

9.60 Encourage greater use of “conscience votes” by Members.
Theme: administering government

**IDEAS**

9.61 Budget processes: need for a well-resourced and financed parliamentary budget office and research office.

9.62 An integrated planning process across the Commonwealth and state levels: a new compact between the three levels of government based around redefining roles and responsibilities.

9.63 A Federation Council: a council with a degree of independence, to facilitate Commonwealth–State relations.

9.64 Reform of the public sector, including:

9.64.1 a commission of inquiry to look at the state of the public service, the structure and likely requirements

9.64.2 the need to develop a core of strong policy professionals with ease of movement between academia and the public service

9.64.3 expedite issues of remuneration, flexibility, and mobility

9.64.4 develop a citizen- or community-focused public service and system that supports that

9.64.5 a national civil service, where working for Australia could be a profession of first choice; introduce a public service exchange program between federal public service, state and territory public service and the private sector

9.64.6 the need to strengthen institutions that develop the policy core (including the Australia New Zealand School of Government) and allow a greater flow from our neighbours in the region

9.64.7 model public servants: a new public contract outlining what a model public servant should be

9.64.8 establish a uniform national ethical framework and code of conduct for public servants across the three levels of government

Theme: constitution, rights and responsibilities

**Ambition**

Make the Constitution more suitable for the diverse 21st century Australia by removing colonial references, creating the status of an Australian citizen with democratic rights, inserting a preamble setting out aspirations for governance, and removing references to race.

**IDEAS**

9.65 Minister for Democracy.

9.66 Commission for Participatory Democracy.

9.67 Recognition of local government in the Constitution.

9.68 Suggestion box on government department websites for community feedback (on governance). All communications must be answered.

9.69 The Council of Australian Governments (key decision maker): building genuine public involvement into it.
9.70 Civic engagement: better information delivery and hubs of civic participation, presence of government in the community—roving parliamentary sittings.

9.71 Establish national days: Democracy Day; Constitution Day; Deliberation Day.

9.72 Development and implementation of a national civics curriculum.

Ambition

To achieve effective protection of rights in Australia and encourage the exercise of responsibilities

IDEAS

9.73 Non-statutory Charter of Comprehensive Rights and responsibilities

9.74 A federal Charter of Rights created in consultation with the Australian community, including:
   9.74.1 making human rights an integral part of law-making and policy-setting processes
   9.74.2 requiring parliament to consider whether laws comply with human rights
   9.74.3 enabling courts to interpret laws consistently with human rights where possible and to identify laws that do not comply with human rights
   9.74.4 providing accessible and appropriate remedies for human rights breaches
   9.74.5 intensive, inclusive consultation with the community on rights and responsibilities—moving around local communities—framed in non-legal jargon and not pre-determined by the Attorney-General.

9.75 Introduction of a statutory bill of rights that protects and promotes all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and that provides meaningful remedies where rights are violated.

9.76 The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission to have explicit extensive power over all human rights.

9.77 Articulate citizens’ responsibilities via a charter.

9.78 Improved scrutiny of the Executive and parliament—including parliamentary processes.

Ambition

To achieve a republican form of government

IDEAS

9.79 All agree that the Governor-General has the power in the Constitution—without reference to the Queen.

9.80 A system of government that derives its authority from the Australian public.

9.81 Be celebrating the fifth anniversary of the republic by 2020.

9.82 A new Constitution—retaining good bits of the existing Constitution, embodying a republic model, protecting rights, and permitting extensive community consultation.

9.83 Statehood for the Northern Territory.

9.84 The Constitution should recognise that the source of all government power and authority is the Australian people.
### Ambition

**Recognition of Indigenous Australians and appropriate constitutional change**

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<tr>
<th><strong>IDEAS</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>9.85 Treaty.</td>
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<td>9.86 An Indigenous representative body designed by Indigenous people.</td>
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<td>9.87 Entrenched and guaranteed Indigenous representation in federal parliament.</td>
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### Ambition

**Re-federate Australia**

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<th><strong>IDEAS</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>9.88 Structure government by regions, biophysical or other.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.89 Establish uniform national laws for industry, trade, finance and property.</td>
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<td>9.90 Adopt a formal role for the most local level of government in adapting national policies.</td>
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<td>9.91 Formally enforce cooperative federalism at all levels.</td>
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<td>9.92 A regulatory framework for the non-profit sector.</td>
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<td>9.93 Uniform laws for human rights, resources and infrastructure, and workplace safety.</td>
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<td>9.94 National planning framework concept: by 2020 design and implement a cooperative national/intergovernmental planning framework to:</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.94.1 address Australia’s sustainable growth and change in a global context</td>
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<td>9.94.2 develop an agreed vision for the future of Australia</td>
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<td>9.94.3 identify issues of national significance and a means to respond to them</td>
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<td>9.94.4 reconcile conflicting state priorities in the national interest and align state, regional and local planning activities</td>
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<td>9.94.5 achieve greater coordination and alignment between the governments (federal, state and local) of Australia</td>
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<td>9.94.6 ensure more efficient and effective government service delivery</td>
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<td>9.94.7 facilitate allocation of funding based on service responsibilities</td>
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<td>9.94.8 establish an agreed policy position, including principles, to facilitate outcome-based decision making</td>
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<td>9.94.9 establish relevant benchmarks and indicators to monitor performance</td>
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<td>9.94.10 determine appropriate community service standards linked to community needs</td>
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<td>9.94.11 empower citizens and communities to participate in decision-making processes—provide a context for and facilitate place-based community planning.</td>
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**Ambition**

Effective parliament, rigorously accountable and open government, and a strong and independent media

### IDEAS

9.95 A House of Representatives estimates committee.

9.96 Independent arbitration of ministerial claims of public interest immunity. Strong political leadership on open government. Ministerial advisers compellable witnesses in parliament—but only when making executive decisions in the official conduct of their duty.

9.97 Improve media diversity.

9.98 Improve accountability of the media (Press Council). Not agreed by all regarding the Press Council. Media should be accountable to the public, including radio, television and media on the internet.

9.99 More informed and empowered citizenry predicated on more accountable media.

9.100 Ban on government partisan advertising prior to the elections with the agreement of the Opposition, except for cases of emergency situations (a bird flu epidemic, for example).

**Theme: strengthened participation by Australians in their governance**

### IDEAS

9.101 A public digital channel with access to policy debate.

9.102 An online channel for access to government information, including spending information and outcomes and providing for online parliament.

9.103 Public involvement: establish a diverse set of community engagement mechanisms and multiple forms of participation to ensure public involvement. Exploit opportunities from new technology.

9.104 Strengthen the capacity for non-government organisations to participate—for example, through a community Cabinet.
RECORD OF DISCUSSION: SATURDAY

Plenary session: group of 100

The stream’s co-chair, Maxine McKew, explained that the stream would be split into four groups following the plenary session:

- open and accountable government
- parliamentary reform
- administering government
- constitution, rights and responsibilities.

Senator John Faulkner made a presentation. His major points were as follows:

Australia’s democracy is stable, but while stability is a strength, stagnation is not. Australia has changed since the Constitution was drafted. There has been growth of a more national perspective—an increase in the role, power, financial control and responsibility of the Commonwealth. Yet the Constitution and the formal structures of our government have changed hardly at all.

The nineteenth century structure of our Federation is creaking, if not being stretched to breaking point, to meet twenty-first century demands.

The 2020 summit is a chance to imagine the nation of our future. It is an opportunity to look forward, beyond the most immediate weaknesses we see, and begin to discuss the shape of the nation we would like to divine:

- a nation whose democracy means every voice can be heard
- a nation whose citizens don’t fall through the gaps between different levels of government
- a nation with a Constitution that accords full and proper respect to the First Australians
- a nation where individual rights are protected
- an Australian Republic, a fully independent nation with a head of state of our own.

The stream then engaged in a brainstorming session to put forward ‘ideas’. The following views and ideas were put forward, but not necessarily debated or agreed upon:

- Establish a constitutional commission or convention. Look at the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Constitution now. The Constitution needs to be rewritten and reworked so it is intelligible. The language should be lyrical and needs to say what it means and mean what it says. It needs to include principles of gender equality. A constitutional commission would consider the Constitution’s relevance to our values.

- The Constitution needs to derive its authority from the Australian people. We need a bill of rights. We need a constitutional preamble to acknowledge who governed this land for 50 to 60 millennia. ‘Essence of Australia is not to endure but to prevail’ and the Constitution should be rewritten along these lines.
• We should not be negative about referenda. Previous referenda have failed due to partisan conflict and conflict in different levels of government. We need to have partisan support to start with in order for a referendum to be successful.

• There is a lack of a national narrative about governance and Australia’s connection into that narrative as a community. This is about government and trust in and our connection to government. The Prime Minister or parliament should write it.

• Proposal of a national competition to draft a preamble to the Constitution. This will involve people in the process.

• There is an issue with Senate power. We still have not dealt with what happens if the Senate denies supply to the government, as it did in 1975. This is a particular anomaly in the Constitution, and this summit should recommend that it be changed. The only reason it was possible for a double dissolution was that there were trigger Bills along with an appropriation Bill. If the Constitution and Senate powers remain the same it should be made mandatory in the Constitution that if the Senate blocks supply it should face the people.

• There is a weakness in the referendum process currently. They lose for a particular reason because it is simply ‘yes’ or ‘no’. There is a model in Canada called a ‘citizens assembly’: 150 people come together and deliberate, they are informed, they make decisions. Those recommendations go to the wider community. It is hoped that the community is watching that deliberation and therefore understands. Put the people back into politics.

• The more questions you put in a referendum, the more chance there is for it to lack partisan support.

• There needs to be a Charter of Responsibilities and Rights, expressed in a way and mechanism in parliament that government can be charged: make the government answerable. It would judge the parliament every three years. Responsibilities may include intergenerational responsibility to care for the environment, responsibility to care for our children, and a duty to vote.

• New technology has radically altered the way we do things. There are now extraordinary opportunities for a government that harnesses the intellect of the people. Recommend a British model of a www.mygov intranet site. People are no longer consumers of policies; they should help to develop it. This website would help in the development of online policy and provide an interface with government.

• People in the Northern Territory are second-class citizens in their own country. The Commonwealth overrides the Northern Territory. The Constitution was written by a ‘bunch of morons in Melbourne’ and was never discussed with Aboriginal people. It is therefore invalid. The Northern Territory should be recognised as a state. Also, intervention should happen everywhere, not just the Northern Territory. The Constitution should have a preamble recognising all the Indigenous nations of Australia.

• There should be an ongoing system of collaboration between the states and the Commonwealth.

• In 2020 the public service should be secure and have quality. It should be a service that people want to join and stay. Public servants should feel they are serving the country by serving the government. The public service should have influence and input into policy.

• The Constitution needs to reflect the outcome of what the public wants. Public administration and the Constitution are closely aligned.

• There has been an increase in power of the Executive along with the development of committee systems. The power of parliament to scrutinise is being slowly whittled away (including the High Court, which effectively wiped out the appropriation power in 2007). There needs to be a reintegration of parliament.
• Institutions of collaboration need to be refined. All levels of government need to be part of national solutions, with roles and responsibilities clearly defined and all playing a role in finding a solution.

• What are the principles that underpin this collaboration? The idea of subsidiary? The idea we should have a bias against decentralisation?

• The Constitution should set out the relationship between the political and administrative arm of government, the relationship between Ministers and public servants, and the role of the public servant. The principles of public service in our society should be incorporated in the Constitution so that public servants know their roles and responsibilities.

• People feel they are over-governed and that having three levels of government is too much. This means we should abolish local government and have only two levels of government. There would then be a need to create more states (as many as 40) to take over the role of current local government.

• If we want to improve the administration of government, accountability is essential. The first idea is we have to improve freedom of information. We need to restore genuine ministerial responsibility, where Ministers are responsible for what happens in their department, whether they knew or not. Politicians should be accountable if they mislead the government. It should be an offence for politicians to engage in misleading or deceptive behaviour, similar to provisions in the Trade Practices Act.

• Reconsider the division of power between the states and the Commonwealth. In a globalised world we cannot afford to think of separate states and territories. The Council of Australian Governments is too slow, as are ministerial councils.

• Our Constitution has failed Aboriginal people. The state governments have failed too. For example, it is very hard to govern an entire state such as Western Australia from Perth because regional areas are so far away. We need radical constitutional reform and need to get rid of local government and make the states smaller.

• We need to fix federalism because it affects most aspects of public policy. In effect, we need two principles of power moving in opposite directions. Power has to be both concentrated and devolved. Think of involving people at local levels along with centralised governance. There needs to be a series of national markets.

• A Charter for Parliamentary Reform to restore the independence and effectiveness of parliament. We need accountability of the Executive, with specification of how public money should be spent. We need improvements to the legislative process, such as citizen engagement, and improvement of the protection of rights of citizens in the parliamentary process.

• Review the role of the Senate and its role as the house of review. Look at different ways to make the Senate truly the house of review.

• We should hold a governance think-tank that is nationwide, independent and involves citizens. This think-tank would seek to understand and research governance issues.

• Augment representative democracy with deliberative democracy. Citizens could be randomly sampled about the different issues, have time to understand and deliberate, and then inform the legislative process. Look to the Denmark model.

• Supplement and understand the way in which parliament operates and its limitations. Need to create a federal Ethics Commissioner who could give advice to individual parliamentarians and have a role in investigation of compliance and other ministerial codes. The commissioner or commission could provide advice to parliament.
Australia needs a Charter of Rights. Make the parliament about the people not about the politics. Greater scrutiny of delegated legislation and parliamentary delegations.

Electoral reform: the presumption that once a person is of age, they are automatically included on the electoral role.

More accountability by keeping track of ministerial councils' discussions as well as delegated legislation and grant allocations.

More open government with improved freedom of information laws. The problem is that our Westminster form of government discourages openness. We should therefore head towards the American 'presidential' form of government, where there are checks and balances between legislature and government.

There should be more rights written into the Constitution. It should be a Bill of Rights, not just a Charter of Rights. This is the only way to control what laws the politicians make.

A more diverse Parliament: by 2020 at least 50 per cent of members of parliament should be women.

Reinvigorate the professionalism of journalism. A strengthened Press Council—more accountability for sloppy journalism.

More open, accountable and transparent government. Any parliamentary, constitutional or public service reforms need to include the community.

People should be able to put forward views via an online process. People could then easily make submissions to parliament. A Citizens Cabinet similar to the UK and NZ models.

Strengthening accountability through a national investigative journalism fund. This could be co-funded by industry and government and would be a way to keep healthy, high-quality journalism alive in Australia.

A charter of Australian free speech, where the Commonwealth legislates freedom of speech and information.

Administering better government through a more efficient federal system.

Direct election of party officials.

States within nation, not prior to nation.

The stream then broke up into small groups for more detailed discussions.

**Group 1: open and accountable government**

Group 1 began its discussion by considering ambitions and outcomes for 2020.

**Ambition: an engaged third sector and civil society taking an active part in governance**

- Many services today depend on non-government organisations. Hence, by 2020 civil society should be brought into governance. The question that remains is how to engage the third sector to fulfil this ambition?

- Data on public spending, performance of the government, and information about the effectiveness of government policies is made available to all Australians by 2020. This will result in better informed
citizens, who want to know how their government fares and how public money is actually spent. Such data will also increase the level of civic interest in governance.

**Ambition: open and free access to government information**

- Government information will be available to all citizens, free of cost or charge, and easily searchable (using the latest technologies) online using a domain entitled ourgov.au
- Public officials speaking on matters of public concern will have responsibility for the authenticity of the information presented.
- Australia leads the world in constitutional protection of the right to freedom of expression.

**Top ideas**

Following the discussion of ambitions the group moved onto developing ‘top ideas’. The top three ideas were strengthening the Freedom of Information Act, constitutional protection for freedom of speech and freedom of expression, and protection of public broadcasting agencies.

**Strengthening the Freedom of Information Act**

It was argued that there is a need for a cultural change across the public service towards the FOI Act: a recent report showed a decline over the years in FOI given to the media across a range of areas. Media and journalists depend on good and reliable sources of information and will need the FOI Act strengthened to protect their sources and access to the material. Participants noted that whistleblower legislation also needs strengthening and that the new government needs to embrace the principle of open justice, which should underpin our democracy.

Some participants felt that the FOI Act needs massive reform and tremendous strengthening, coupled with a need for a clear understanding of its economic value to the society. It was argued that the benefits of reform should outweigh the costs. It was also argued that there should be law reform to accommodate FOI and freedom of speech (first amendment).

**Constitutional protection for freedom of speech and freedom of expression**

Participants argued that freedom of speech or, even more inclusively, the freedom of expression (including artistic expression), needs to be guaranteed by the Constitution (for example, in the preamble). In that sort of environment, public servants and politicians may not be so concerned about the ‘leak of information’. Certain areas of public interest (for example, matters of national security) should be protected.

It was also noted that the current system of freedom of speech creates confusion and that the term needs a clearer definition, with the dimensions of the concept delimited. A Charter of Australian Free Speech was proposed, which would also draw in the state governments. The general feeling was that secrecy prevails over openness in government.

It was also argued that parliaments should make no law impinging on freedom of expression. There should be a constitutional prohibition in place that federal, state and territory parliaments cannot infringe the freedom of speech.

Crown copyright should also be abolished.
Protection for public broadcasting agencies in 2020

Participants agreed that in 2020 national broadcasting should be preserved, well-resourced, and culturally and linguistically diverse. There should also be a strong public interest broadcasting sector that the government actively supports and in which investigative journalism is given its rightful place. It was also argued that the ABC needs to be totally independent and there should also be independent statutory reports on the question of independence. The ABC’s activities should be judged against the ABC Charter.

Other top ideas

The group then discussed a further top 10 ideas to guide Australia towards 2020.

Reform of the current freedom of information system

Reform of the current freedom of information system could be achieved by:

- legislating through the Electoral Act
- abolishing conclusive certificates
- appointment of a Commissioner for Freedom of Information
- a full merits review.

It was argued that an exemption test should be based on matters of essential public interest, such as national security issues to be protected. If public service documents are to be released in the public interest they should be free and easily accessible. In Sweden, for example, FOI happens electronically. Further:

- At present there is a pervasive culture of secrecy surrounding government documents. Many politicians are holding up the release of these documents for personal goals—for example, to avoid public embarrassment. Public scrutiny would bring more democracy to the system.
- Government and public service documents should be released after 15 (instead of the current 30) years.
- A Charter of Australian Free Speech could address all these issues.
- Some participants argued that FOI should be the last resort. It is a broad issue that cuts across different areas, including public service culture. Even though the law is there, it is frustrated by the culture.
- The change should come from the top through ministerial direction. When there is a change in culture and a broader understanding of FOI exists, the bureaucracy would be far more comfortable about releasing information.
- A caveat: if and when the revised FOI laws are put in place, would there be political pressure on bureaucracy to keep fewer records? The public would also need a guarantee (under the new FOI regime) that the public service will continue to archive its activities.

Defamation laws reformed ‘to shift the burden of proof’

It was suggested that public figures alleging defamation would have to bear the burden of proving falsity.
Open access government (refer to Idea 9.34)

Participants felt that government documents are not easily accessible and are too complicated for ordinary citizens. Government websites are complicated, too, and it is difficult to search them for information. Despite the fact that a Senate decision of 10 years ago made it a requirement for government departments to file information about their activities, no journalist has access to these files. Hence ordinary citizens cannot use government information that is already available.

To overcome this, it was suggested that government first needs to apply new technologies to its records and then to make them searchable. In addition, the closed period for access to government documents (currently 30 years) should be reduced. It was also noted that the Citizens Cabinet model from the United Kingdom is currently being trialled in Queensland.

A charter of free speech

In addition to the issues raised under the heading Constitutional protection for freedom of speech, it was suggested that no journalist should face criminal proceedings for publishing information they receive from their sources in the official conduct of their duties. A national commitment to protecting journalists or ‘media producers’—a more inclusive term—should be put in place.

Participants also noted, however, that journalists must also have a ‘duty of care’. Nobody has ever been tried in the past under the journalists’ code of ethics, which should also be strengthened. It was also felt that whistleblower protection needs to be respected and strengthened.

Reform of political culture in Australia

Participants argued that political culture in Australia needs reform in a number of areas. For example, a deviation from the party or government line is viewed very negatively, whereas in other democracies disagreement is permissible. It was also noted that the media needs to play a role in the reform of a political culture towards greater openness. Another suggestion was the creation of a Trade Practices Act s. 5.52 ‘misleading or deceptive conduct’ offence for politicians.

More public policy debate

Participants felt that there is a need for first-hand, unedited access to the records of public policy debates. A program along the lines of ‘C-span’ in the United States or Canada could be established. An Australian version of ‘C-span’—AuSpan—would make a big difference to the public policy debate.

It was hoped that a public affairs digital network would be established by 2020, with a high proportion of international work (65 per cent), book launches, interviews, and other public affairs broadcasts. There was an idea for the channel as an electric wall, available to all Australians, where you can hang almost anything. It was also felt that the general public should be involved in providing advice to government Ministers. Drawing on the example of New Zealand, this would only strengthen policy advice provided to government. Finally, participants felt that regular briefings from government departments are needed to feed into public policy debate.

The future of mass media and the role of national broadcasters

Participants noted that there may not be a ‘mass media’ in its current form by 2020 as a result of the advances in new technologies. The question raised was, how does government talk to the citizens without mass media in 2020? Another question was, who is going to fund the good media in 2020? Is there a need for the investigative journalism fund to protect the diversity of our media and provide funding, particularly for smaller media outlets?
In addition, the following issues were raised:

- Australia needs both big (mass) media and small media outlets.
- Greater media self-regulation should be explored by the media companies.
- The media should also be more accountable by 2020: there should be a media duty to tell, corresponding to the public right to know.
- Public interest should be considered ahead of media popularity ratings.
- National broadcasters should be the venues of public education and offer a space for dissemination of mature judgment on ideas. They should be a repository of knowledge, rather than just of information. The challenge is not to make the media look elitist.
- A trust should be established for community media and national broadcasters to secure their long-term funding.
- More foreign language programs will dominate media in 2020.
- Media will be more deregulated by 2020. There should be a removal of restrictions on multi-channelling and other economic restrictions.
- The role of the Press Council needs review in the light of new media.

**Journalism in 2020**

There is a need to invest in ‘good-quality journalism’ for the future (for example, through training and education). Journalism needs to be de-professionalised and supportive of other journalists who are good writers in diverse fields (for example, the investigative journalists). Today it seems that some media producers are more accountable to their sponsors than to the public. The accountability of media producers should be addressed. Consumers of information and listeners should be better protected, and there should be more effective shield laws to protect journalists from being required to reveal confidential sources.

**Elimination of jargon in governance and bureaucracy**

There is too much jargon in bureaucracy and in government documents, which is obfuscatory. There is a need for clear writing, thinking and speaking.

**National platforms for various citizen groups**

A national online service for young people or a national platform for community radios should be created.
Group 2: parliamentary reform

Ideas and issues

Group 2 had a brainstorming session and put forward the following ideas and issues.

- Vision and aspiration for the nation: Where do we want to go in terms of health, skill shortages, energy policy (eg if China is buying energy companies, and so on)? How do we want to look in 2020?

- Having a more accessible and representative parliament, shaking up the party system. This could be done in part through loosening up preselection processes to get a more diverse parliament.

- Ideas should be more accessible to the public. The concept of an open parliament, with the use of a committee system. Question time does not allow scrutiny of parliament; it could be revised.

- How can parliament reassert itself against the Executive? Members should be more able to voice views without holding party lines.

- Troops should not be committed to go to war without a public vote.

- Electoral roll problems: people get turned away on election day due to things like a wrong address. Electronic reform: automatic (including same-day) enrolment.

- Links between money and politics should be taken away.

- There should be ways of settling disputes between parliamentary forums and systems of government.

- Fixed parliamentary terms. Minimum periods of review for the passage of legislation. Parliament should take its role as the law-making body as efficiently as it can. Improve processes, to make law making more efficient and effective.

- Encourage involvement: not just telling people to write to their local member. If someone is elected and the party isn’t elected, they should still be compelled to see out the term and not retire if the party doesn’t win.

- Need to fix the federation—the relationship between states—in particular, financial relations, which lie beneath a lot of the problems in everyday governance. Expand the role of the Press Council. Politicians need to have less fear that they will not be treated fairly in media. Members of parliament need to feel more relevant. There could be some kind of permanent 2020 Summit to increase committee function and increase discussion of issues day to day.

- The operations of the upper houses need to be somehow entrenched. Governments operate much better when they do not control both houses. There is currently an over-representation of some states (such as Tasmania, and the Australian Capital Territory in the lower house). The big idea is that governments never control upper houses; their role is reserved as a house of review.

- Parliament should be somewhere where:
  - The Executive is the Executive but there are limits.
  - Parliament as the legislature should be designed to pass good legislation. This involves good debates about making legislation better.
  - Protect children’s rights by 2020.
  - Parliament should be seen as somewhere that citizens can have a say and feel welcome.
- Bill of Rights at a state level. Queensland does not have an upper house of review. States are able to do what they want to some extent. Bill of Rights would mean that states cannot water down accountability. Ministers do not want to know what is happening, because once they know they are seen as accountable. Ministers should be accountable and consequently responsible for knowing what is going on.

- Decisions that are coming forward should span generations and not just be focused on what is best for now.

- There should be a realistic view of the pressures facing Ministers and support mechanisms put in place to protect the integrity of the process. Ministers do not say that they do not want to know: it is more about having the correct advisory system in place to ensure they do know.

- No MP stood up on behalf of Dr Haneef, for example. The outcome is owed to the vigour of the fourth estate (the media). The greater measure of an MP’s effectiveness should perhaps be their independence.

- Greater engagement of people—young people in particular—in the legislative process.

- The ‘circus’ of question time doesn’t give a positive view of parliament or promote confidence in the system. The community should be able to contribute questions to parliament. This could be achieved by greater use of technology such as the internet.

- The voting age should be reduced to 14. Young people want to be involved, so why not engage them?

**Main themes**

Two main themes emerged from the morning’s brainstorming session—a parliament we can be proud of and maximising election participation. The group split into two to further discuss these themes.

**Theme: a parliament we can be proud of**

*Develop deliberative and new forms of democracy on tough issues through citizen assembly, participatory budget, online capability.*

There should be an independent process to resolve disputes about disclosure of information, along with an independent arbiter (mesh with freedom of information), including:

- engagement of citizenry, corporations and the community
- minimum review periods and standards for legislation
- an opportunity or mechanism to solicit broader information
- better harnessing of the Australian Public Service process
- more specific budget appropriation.

**Commitment to war**

It was suggested that a commitment to take Australia to war should require approval from both houses of parliament.
Strengthen parliamentary processes

- **Question time:**
  - members and public able to ask questions in question time
  - a four-minute time limit in question time
  - the Senate to have the capacity for supplementary questions, with one-minute answers from Ministers
  - ‘Dorothy Dixers’ to be controlled. It is a limitation that the ‘other side’ question time is the only bit of parliament that gets media coverage.

- **Budgetary process:** descriptions of budget appropriations (measures) should be more specific. We should stop allowing vague descriptions of what money is intended to be spent on.

- Introduce a requirement that both houses of parliament vote on sending troops to war prior to any troops being deployed. No specific ideas on how to do this—perhaps through a conscience vote.

- Develop deliberative and new forms of democracy on tough issues such as citizen assembly, parliamentary budget. Public policy formation and consultation should include online discussion.

- Corporate standards of governance should be applied to parliament, although some participants suggested that this already exists.

- Issue becomes one of time available rather than engaging with parliament. Business is also ahead of government as they can make decisions quicker. Need a mechanism to devolve legislation.

- Committee structure should be broadened to include subject matter experts from outside parliament. Ministerial advisors should be included when they are taking executive decisions. Perhaps lower the level of public servants that are brought before committees.

- Concept of a deliberate democracy.

- There should be a code of ethics; a Commissioner of Parliamentary Standards was also raised.

- Discussion reinforced the view that Senate estimates is the most effective accountability method. House of Representatives hearings would also bring additional level of accountability, but would only be a small step.

**Theme: maximising election participation**

*Universal automatic enrolment (and re-enrolment) from age 18*

It was argued that using electronic means would make it easier for people to enrol to vote. However, this would raise the issue of having a national identification system (such as an identification card), which may not be preferable.

It was suggested that enrolment to vote should be optional from 16 years of age and automatic at 18 years. To be effective, this would need to be supported by a strong electoral education program (from 18 years). It was noted that the United States and Canada have embarked on student voting processes, which are aimed at educating students on the electoral process. The concept is that this makes them more engaged when they are able to vote. An alternative suggestion to the idea of changing the age to 16 was to have a youth parliament.
Universal ‘citizenship’ education system in schools

It was suggested that citizenship education be included as part of the primary and secondary education system, as well as programs to address older people who haven’t had the electoral voting education program at school.

- Any education program has to focus on the principles that underpin democracy.
- No national youth forum is really in place at the moment. There are separate organisations in each state. The thing is that a lot of the issues are federal. These forums also seem to have the same kind of people involved, rather than truly reflecting young people more broadly.
- This kind of idea is broadening the definition of ‘electoral participation’ beyond just voting.
- Roll out things like advocacy training—how you as an individual and as part of a group can influence democracy, ‘active citizenship’.
- Should other groups be entitled to vote? For example:
  - Should non-citizens (permanent residents) be entitled to vote? People may have strong reasons not to have taken out citizenship and consequently it may be appropriate for them to be entitled to vote even though they are not citizens. Countries such as the United Kingdom have this.
  - Should prisoners be entitled to vote?
- Support the ‘third sector’ to be able to consult with the broader community. We don’t resource this sector to be able to consult fully.
- Breaking the ‘taboo’ of talking about politics and public affairs. It is seen as a bit of a ‘conversation killer’ at dinner parties.
- Government doesn’t seem to be using the internet. It could be such a powerful forum but is currently under-used in the government context.
- Government websites by their nature are fairly constrained and boring. A website such as i.gov.au would need to be exciting and dynamic.

Reshape the Senate

The Senate should be reshaped to be more reflective of the diversity of issues and the community, and the parliament as a whole to be more reflective of the community.

- Representatives could be elected to represent groups rather than electorates.
- Public funding of elections is vital to independence.

Group 3: administering government

The group 3 team leader opened the session by noting that the Governance stream plenary session had allocated to the group two themes: the federal system, covering Commonwealth–State relations; and the future of the public service.

The team leader invited participants to raise any issues that might not have been raised during the stream’s plenary session. The following issues were raised:

- Governance for Indigenous Australians: need to fix up the ‘complete mess’ of Commonwealth–State relations, including as it related to governance for Indigenous Australians. In the longer term, the idea of regional government could be a good one. The Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Commission had not worked at the national level but had been successful at a regional level (based on 35 regions).

- Performance and outcomes: need to focus on performance and delivery of outcomes, rather than just focusing on frameworks.
- Government structures designed around service delivery, not the needs of citizens.
- Budget processes: need for a well-resourced and financed parliamentary budget office or research office. At a broader level, the issue was to redefine the budgetary process to increase the importance of sectors rather than ‘silos’. Budgeting in defence, for example, differs from budgeting in health or education.
- Planning framework: from the perspective of local governments, state and Commonwealth governments both try to work in regions. This can become difficult. Need for a framework to agree what is in the national interest. The main issue is working together.
- Model public servants: need a new public contract outlining what a model public servant should be. Recognise that public sector work is different and falls within the framework of ministerial responsibility. Public servants also need to be able to balance their family obligations and should be encouraged to adopt life-long learning. A framework for how a model public sector employer should support that.
- Needs of citizens: need to focus on the critical needs of citizens.
- An integrated planning process: an integrated planning process across the Commonwealth and state levels is important. Need a new compact between the three levels of government based around redefining roles and responsibilities.

**Ambitions**

Participants were invited to focus on the ‘big picture’, starting with broad, general statements about how they wanted Australia—in particular, the federal system and the public service—to look in 2020.

**Federal system**

Participants agreed on the following ambitions for the federal system:

- roles, responsibilities and structure
  - balance between cooperative and competitive government
  - biophysical informing the structure
  - rationalised roles—centralised functions and devolved functions
  - common system, with varying implementation
  - linear, not multi-layered, government
  - regulatory framework for non-government organisations
  - subsidiarity and empowered local communities. (Note that subsidiarity is a legal principle that says that issues should be dealt with by the lowest or smallest competent authority.)
• characteristics
  - streamlined, accountable, responsive
  - agile, innovative
  - succeeds in a globalised world
  - performance standards and citizen-focused service delivery
  - accountable, honourable politicians—respect for them
  - inclusive governance for Indigenous Australians and regional Australians.

Other issues raised in discussion included the following:

• The need for clear roles: a streamlined, accountable, efficient, responsive and effective federal system with rationalised and renegotiated roles and responsibilities.

• Address globalisation: globalisation will be a dominant theme of the coming century. Need to deliver Australia benefits and progress in the globalised age. This leads to consequences about the federal system that we want.

• Address rapid change: the pace of change means we will need agile government, capable of rapid response and innovation. Therefore there is a need for multiple centres of power.

• Empower local communities: involve local communities in the policy making process.

• Balance between cooperation and competition and diversity: the balance will change over time.

• Linear government: need to restructure government so that it is linear, not multi-levelled. This would allow it to react quickly.

• Regulation of non-government organisations: governance is not just about government. It also relates to the regulation of private and community sectors in delivering services, particularly in delivering appropriate levels of transparency.

• A Federation Council: idea of a Federation Council, which has a degree of independence, to facilitate Commonwealth–State relations. We should start with the proposition that change can happen, not that it will be resisted.

• Agreement on the ‘big issues’: need collective agreement on the big things that need to be done as a nation, but implementation varies depending on the nature of the state or region. Need a planning process that engages people to determine what should be done, with implementation at the level where it needs to be done.

• Differing performance: how do you deal with differing performance at the local level? Must have form and substance so that by 2020 there is a central government that devolves responsibility for implementation and uses contractors when the local region cannot perform.

• Politicians: performance, accountability and behaviour. Need to be far more accountable, honest and honourable. [There was some disagreement on listing this as an ambition. In particular, the following counter-points were raised:
  - We do an enormous disservice if we denigrate our politicians. Cheap shots are unprofessional, unfair and inaccurate.]
- The issue is how elected politicians perform and carry out their duties—particularly given the propensity of the media to focus on the negatives. Need to ask what we can do to enhance the ability of the politicians to perform.

- Australian federal politics has been remarkably clean and pure. Until the Theophanous Case there had been no serious allegations of corruption against federal politicians. The Australian political system (with its two-party system and an aggressive media) is set up to find and expose allegations. A suggestion (in the stream plenary session) to apply s. 52 of the Trade Practices Act to parliamentary process is foolish. We are looking at two different issues: the Trade Practices Act regulates statements of fact, while Parliament is meant to allow for dialogue between opposing views.

- Subsidiarity: need policies to be implemented at the most appropriate level.

- Respect between levels of government: need to encourage respect for all levels of government—and between levels of government. Arrogance of one level believing it is better than the other is damaging.

- Refocusing service delivery: need to make service delivery citizen centred.

### The public service

Participants agreed on the following ambitions for the public service:

- **roles and perceptions**
  - integrated national public sector—one employer? Movement between levels of governments and sectors
  - closing the gap between perceptions and reality of public service—including well-understood nomenclature and a highly valued public service
  - clear rules of engagement for Ministers and the public service.
  - proper level of ministerial accountability

- **workforce attributes**
  - expectations of movement and flexibility—positive
  - properly remunerated public service
  - creatively liberated public service
  - flexibility of work arrangements
  - highly ethical standards.

Other issues raised in discussion included the following:

- Damaged public service: the notion of the public service has been fragmented; we have ‘lost the plot’ on skills development. Need to develop a core of strong policy professionals with ease of movement between academia and the public service. Need to strengthen institutions that develop the policy core (including the Australia New Zealand School of Government, and allow greater flow from our neighbours in the region.

- Environment: in the context of the importance that we now apply to the environment, need to determine the biophysical parameters of government. Need to sort out biophysical questions about the
best scale of government in Australia to allow for a consistent framework. In many regions the people reflect the biophysical environment in which they live.

- Perceptions of public service performance: we have a very high quality public service. One of the problems we face is the huge gap in perception between how the people view the public service and what it actually does.

- Improving public service nomenclature: public servants are all government workers and often define themselves as ‘public servants’. There is no definition in the names to define what they do—as opposed to the private sector, where there are clear descriptions of individuals’ positions, such as ‘factory worker’ or ‘managing director’, which give a clear description of what they do.

- Changing work systems: need to recognise the difference in expectation of employers in the coming years—recognition of the rising cost of petrol, e-commuting, and other coming differences.

- Remuneration and encouraging ideas: a properly remunerated public service, with appropriate benchmarks. Also need a process for liberating the public service to develop big ideas. (A survey in New South Wales, for example, found that the people who most wanted to abolish state governments were New South Wales government workers.) A lot of public servants in the system can see better ways to work: we need to liberate their creativity.

- A national civil service: idea of a national civil service, where working for Australia could be a profession of first choice. Need broader views about what it means to work in the public service. How do you drive that?
  
  - Response: theoretically a good idea, but recognise the difficulties in having one national public service. Employers in each level of government still need to be able to instruct employees about how to develop policy for their level of government.
  
  - In the interests of professionalism, move officers between levels of government. Link movement between jurisdictions to promotion to senior executive.

- Flexible working arrangements: need flexibility in working arrangements for the public service; there is, for example, currently greater flexibility in academia. In 2020 public servants will need to be able to work more flexibly—including by being able to work in their homes. For example, the World Bank has people living in Paris who work in Washington.

- Working for Australia: need to get public servants saying they work for ‘Australia’, not for the public service or a particular department.

- Creativity: the issue of creativity is very important, particularly in the lower levels of the public service.

- Independence of senior public servants: ‘who is the employer’ of senior public servants is a big question. In New Zealand, for example, senior public servants are employed by, and have contracts with, the Public Service Commission—not the Executive. There is no commission of inquiry at the federal level.

- Ministerial responsibility: notions of ministerial responsibility and accountability are old-world notions. We should have a proper definition of ministerial responsibility as one of our ambitions.
Ideas

The group split into three sub-groups to generate and prioritise ideas. The group noted ideas generated in the stream's plenary session in the morning and added the following concepts for discussion:

Reform of federalism

- Proper recognition of what is the national interest.
- Cooperative federalism with clarified and streamlined roles and responsibilities.
- Set national goals and performance standards for national programs.
- Staged approach: medium-term—Interstate Commission; long-term—begin now with a national deliberative process about the structure and workings of the federation.
- A Federalism Commission: register intergovernmental agreements, monitor those agreements, adjudicate on disagreement, research.
- Expert body and constitutional convention.
- Allocation of roles and responsibility (on the basis of subsidiarity).
- National integrated planning framework: national, state and local plans.
- Finance: cost-efficient government.
- Uniform system of laws for industry, trade and financial regulation.
- Citizen engagement in government.
- A citizen and community focus in service delivery.

Improving the public service

- Greater interaction between policy development by the public service and those in the community that will be affected by it.
- Greater incentives and recognition for innovative performance and development of expertise and capacity to move between levels of government service.
- Build colleges of ideas: colleges of experts from levels of government, academia, community and business sectors to work on options to establish a way forward in policy terms.
- Harmonisation of service delivery and policy between state and federal governments.
- Ministerial and public service responsibility.
- Enhance the capacity and reputation of the Australian public service by creating a new consensus of the modern public sector employee and employer; building a national ethical framework and code of conduct for public servants and creating models for cooperation and mobility of staff between layers of government (and removing obstacles).
- Careers in public sector have to be more financially viable—better remuneration.
- Inquiry into politicisation of public service—frank and fearless advice.
**Discussion of ideas**

**Federalism**

There was discussion about the main themes which flowed from the ideas that had been raised during the sub-group discussions. There was general agreement that the ideas fell into two main themes:

- What the federation looks like: reallocate powers, responsibilities and finances between the levels of government. Need to find the mechanisms for doing it, which could be a three-stage process. Start with an expert body, move to a broader body (such as a constitutional convention), and get people involved (perhaps through a referendum).

- How the federation works: support cooperative federalism and developing a mechanism to deal with it. This could be a Federalism Commission to deal with the cooperative areas of federalism (such a commission could register and monitor intergovernment agreements, adjudicate disagreements and conduct research). Such a commission would be relatively cheap and could have similar roles to the Productivity Commission. The point was made that there is an opportunity to use our existing structures and make them work more effectively and cooperatively.

There was some discussion about the importance of community engagement, including in discussions about the future of Australian governance. It was felt that many people around Australia would like to be involved in discussion of the structure of government.

There was discussion about the need to define what is ‘the national interest’. There was a general view that there was a need to look at the bigger picture, rather than setting up something that just became a legal mechanism. There was some discussion about making constitutional reform to support cooperative federalism, including by restoring the cross-vesting system (undoing the *Walker Case*) and cooperative schemes being administered by one level of government (undoing the *Hughes Case*).

It was noted that the central proposal (a process to review roles, responsibilities and structures) was designed to eliminate waste and extravagance in the way that the federal system works today, an inquiry that deals with the ‘whole box and dice’. Want a well-informed report that can lead to follow-up action. Some will lead to different processes (like a constitutional commission); some will lead to a COAG-style process.

There was some discussion of whether a Federalism Commission should be responsible for adjudication—and whether that would make intergovernment agreements justiciable (the principle of an agreement having legal effect). Some participants said this should only be the case where the agreement amounted to a form of contract. Some said it could lead to problems of separation of powers.

There was comment that Australia has a uniform economy, including uniform competition laws. But there are differences between different jurisdictions, including in property law. Consistent with the idea of uniform national laws, it was considered that there should be uniform laws in relation to commercial and property transactions. A counterpoint was raised, noting the need for flexibility in legal frameworks, particularly in relation to Indigenous communities.

There was some discussion about the definition of ‘subsidiarity’, including its historical context, its use in the European Union, and its relation to the delivery of services.
The public service

Some participants suggested that there was a general malaise and disenchantment in the public service over their relationship with the Executive. Others said this was not a general observation. Some said there was a need to restore integrity in, and the independence of, the public service. There was no agreement on the method of how to do it; one prominent suggestion was to establish a commission of inquiry, like the Coombs Inquiry, looking at ‘everything’ to develop a picture of how we want the public service to look in 2020.

There was some discussion about standards of ethics in the public service, including who should set, monitor and adjudicate them. There was discussion about capturing ministerial staff in public service ethics and about extending accountability provisions for politicians to ministerial staff and the public service. There was a suggestion that senior public servants should be appointed by a public service body, rather than being ministerial appointments.

There was discussion about attracting and retaining staff for the public service. It was said that there was no problem attracting good staff, but there was a problem in keeping them. There was general agreement that there was a need for greater incentives and recognition for public service expertise—not necessarily monetary—and for experience outside the public sector to be valued.

There was reference to the need to talk about the shape of the public service in 2020. One participant said there would be value in having fewer employers, so they can talk to each other more efficiently. Others noted that changes in information technology would transform the public service and that the service in 2020 would need to be a modern one. One noted that some states have a 10-year plan, with clear objectives and regular reports against objectives.

There was a discussion about the need for closer engagement between citizens and government in the development of policy. Some suggested there needed to be a fundamental structural change so that the public service is working with citizens to meet their needs, rather than leaving the citizen to work through the maze of available services. Some characterised the issue as a need for systems that allow public servants and others to engage collaboratively on policy development.

The group noted that many of the specific issues it identified could be addressed in the next three to five years, rather than being goals for 2020.

Top ideas

The group agreed to the following top ideas to report to the stream’s plenary session.

Federalism

- Establish a process to review roles, responsibilities and structures of our federal system.
- Establish an expert commission to review the issues.
- Constitutional convention to consider proposals from the expert commission and form a deliberative democracy process.
- Action by joint government decision or referendum.
- Federalism Commission to oversee and recommend on disputes and assist COAG.
- A national planning strategy to pull together plans in the national interest.
The public service

- Commission of inquiry.
- State, structure and likely requirements.
- Taking into account role, technology requirements, ethical and professional standards, methods of appointment.
- Need to expedite issues of remuneration, flexibility and mobility.
- Develop a citizen- and community-focused public service and system that supports it.

Group 4: constitution and rights

Ambitions and aspirations

Group 4 agreed on the following ambitions and aspirations for 2020:

- To increase public involvement in constitutional and governance processes (including change).
- To achieve effective protection of rights in Australia and encourage exercise of responsibilities.
- To achieve a republican form of government.
- Recognition of Indigenous Australians and appropriate constitutional change.
Ideas

The group then brainstormed ideas.

Ambition: to increase public involvement in constitutional and governance processes (including change)

- Citizen assemblies.
- Citizen parliament.
- Participatory budgets.
- Minister for Democracy.
- Commission for participatory democracy.
- Recognition of local government in the Constitution.
- Reform and support of the third sector (not-for-profit and community organisations) to help their constituents engage in government and public processes.
- Deliberative democracy—formalise community consultation processes (via structured system of peak bodies to discuss major issues).
- Automatic enrolment to vote at 18.
- Suggestion box on government department websites for community feedback on governance. All communications must be answered.
- Alternative technologies—mygov.com, a mega website.
- Preamble developed (inclusive of all Australians) after discussion and/or national competition.
- Council of Australian Governments (key decision maker)—building genuine public involvement into it.
- Civic engagement: better information delivery and hubs of civic participation; presence of government in the community; roving parliamentary sittings.
- Rewrite Constitution to make it intelligible, accessible and inclusive.
- Democracy Day; Constitution Day; Deliberation Day; national days.
- Democratic classrooms—promoting civics.
- Development and implementation of a national civics curriculum.
- Publicly funded education program in schools and the community on human rights.
- Make the Constitution more suitable for the diverse 21st century Australia by removing colonial references, creating statue of Australian citizen with democratic inputs, inserting a preamble setting out aspirations for governance, removing references to race.
Ambition: to achieve effective protection of rights in Australia and encourage exercise of responsibilities

- Lower voting age to 16.
- Non-statutory Charter of Comprehensive Rights and responsibilities.
- When we talk of rights let’s not forget to incorporate responsibility.
- Statutory charter of human rights and responsibilities.
- Not just talk about how, but also what rights are to be included—economic, political, Indigenous rights (land rights and native title).
- A federal Charter of Rights created in consultation with the Australian community could foster a human rights culture in government and Australian society by:
  - making human rights an integral part of law-making and policy-setting processes
  - requiring parliament to consider whether laws comply with human rights
  - enabling courts to interpret laws consistently with human rights where possible and to identify laws that do not comply with human rights
  - providing accessible and appropriate remedies for human rights breaches.
- Intensive, inclusive consultation with community on rights and responsibilities—moving around local communities, framed in non-legal jargon, and not predetermined by the Attorney-General.
- Introduction of statutory Bill of Rights that protects and promotes all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and that provides meaningful remedies where rights are violated.
- The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission to have explicit extensive power over all human rights.
- Articulate citizens’ responsibilities via a charter.
- Improved scrutiny of Executive and Parliament—including parliamentary processes.

Ambition: to achieve a republican form of government

- Preamble inclusive of all Australians through discussion or competition.
- All agree that the Governor-General has the power in the Constitution, without reference to the Queen.
- A system of government that derives its authority from the Australian public.
- Be celebrating fifth anniversary of the republic by 2020.
- A new Constitution: retaining good bits of the existing Constitution; embodying a republic model; protecting rights; permitting extensive community consultation.
- A community-led process starting now which leads to community-owned republic.
- By 2020 people should get the republic they want.
- Statehood for the Northern Territory.
• The Constitution should recognise that the source of all government power and authority is the Australian people.

• Two-stage referendum: break link and don’t hold up the republic due to concern about the replacement model. Second, confirm the final model three to five years later.

**Ambition: recognition of Indigenous Australians and appropriate constitutional change**

• Delete racially discriminatory provisions from the Constitution.

• A preamble to the Constitution that acknowledges Indigenous custodianship of land and waters and recognises the unique contributions of Indigenous people.

• Treaty.

• Indigenous representative body designed by Indigenous people.

• Entrenched and guaranteed Indigenous representation in federal parliament.

The group raised the following issues:

• What is the huge idea: The republic and a Bill of Rights were regarded as the fundamental changes from which everything else flows.

• General consensus that we hadn’t found the big one yet.

• The possibility of a three-stage process to modernise federation: a major inquiry could be conducted to set the scene. Convention route an option to explore.

• Why aren’t people ‘excited’? Reprehensible for a group like this to take cheap political shots. This will limit the ability to do something on governance in this environment. Because politicians are doing a good job—no need for a Bill of Rights. Both of the views (for and against the Bill of Rights) to be recorded as outcomes of the Governance stream.

• Fixing federalism viewed as one of the ‘big ideas’: collaborative federalism and the mechanisms to support that:
  
  - Referral of legislative power should work better.

  - Federalism Commission should be established to register intergovernmental agreements and adjudicate disputes between jurisdictions.

  - Implement the ideas that we can to fix federalism; have a referendum to address the ones that you can’t.

• Increased community participation and ownership: mechanism to do this would be to have an independent agency for federalism. An independent panel to draw ideas on governance. Christmas Island could be closed to pay for it.

• People need an avenue for getting their ideas across to government: the concept of an online portal with information on how politicians are voting and an easy way for the public to make submissions.

• Have an ambitious set of national development goals long term, spanning electoral cycles, inspirational.

• Apathy is a myth: It atrophies through lack of use. People need avenues for engaging politically. Participation needs to be deeper than just online.
• We should make a commitment to achieve a republic by 2010.

• Larger idea: by 2020 we will be celebrating the fifth anniversary of the new Constitution of Australia. One that has been constructed consultatively; one that embodies how we want the country to run.

• Our vision for Australia by 2020 is that we will live in a republic and have contributed to the development of a Constitution that recognises rights of citizens and states, and that we are reconciled with Aboriginal Australia.

• Focus on federalism and accountability.

RECORD OF DISCUSSION: SUNDAY

Participants considered and debated a draft document that summarised Saturday’s discussions. Based on these discussions, it was agreed that the steam would break into four groups along the lines of the following priority themes. The priority themes were:

• an Australian republic in which the rights of all Australians, including our first Australians, are recognised

• review of the Australian federation

• effective parliament and open and accountable government, as well as a strong, independent media

• strengthened participation by all Australians in their governance.

Each group was to produce one big idea, three concrete proposals and three goals.

An additional theme of ‘Excellence in the public sector for 2020’ was discussed but not pursued.

Group 1: an Australian Republic in which the rights of all Australians, included our first Australians, are recognised

It was felt that the draft record from Saturday seemed to tie the republic to the Bill or Charter of Rights and it was decided that the two issues should be separated.

Australian republic

• This should be a two-stage process:
  - stage one: that a plebiscite be held on the principle that Australia becomes a republic and severs ties with the Crown
  - stage two: this is to be followed by a referendum on the model of a republic after broad and extensive consultation.

Indigenous recognition

• That the Constitution be amended to include a preamble that formally recognises the traditional custodians of our land and waters—our Indigenous Australians.

• That the Constitution is amended to remove any language that is racially discriminatory.
• Conduct a national process to consider a compact of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

**Protection of Australian rights**

• Support in principle for looking at ways in which Australian rights can be protected.

• An Australia where the respect and protection of human rights for all people is maintained and strengthened.

• A national process is conducted to consult with Australians on how to best to protect human rights.

• The group expressed majority support for a statutory Charter or Bill of Rights.

• The group expressed minority support for a parliamentary charter or other alternatives.

**Group 2: review of the Australian federation**

It was noted that members of the ‘excellence in the public service’ sub-group had joined this sub-group. It was agreed that this reflected that public sector reform, while important, would not be the stream’s big idea. Ideas on public sector reform had been captured in reports of the earlier sessions.

The facilitator identified key ideas carried over from the previous day:

• review of the roles, responsibilities and structures of our federal system

• a Federalism Commission to oversee and recommend on disputes and assist the Council of Australian Governments

• a national integrated planning framework to pull together plans in the national interest

• electoral and constitutional reform to renew the role and composition of the Senate as a house of review

• potential gap—the role of local government.

One participant opened by noting that another stream (Economy) had suggested a Federalism Commission, whose first task would be reviewing the roles of different levels of government. He said that a representative of the Local Government Association had deliberately avoided raising local government during discussions on the first day of the summit, so as not to distract attention from an existing government commitment to review local government.

The facilitator noted a call in the stream plenary session for practical suggestions, rather than ideas based on process. He identified four ideas from the earlier sessions that seemed to fall into this category:

• structuring government by regions—biophysical or other

• establishing uniform national laws for industry, trade, finance and property

• adopting a formal role for the most local level of government in adapting national policies

• formally enforcing cooperative federalism at all levels.

Participants suggested a number of other concrete ideas, including a regulatory framework for the non-profit sector and uniform laws for other sectors. One participant suggested there should be uniform laws
for human rights (it was noted that this may fit better into the sub-group looking at rights), resources and infrastructure, and workplace safety. Another participant offered a contrary position, highlighting that non-uniform laws allow flexibility and diversity to deal with different circumstances in different states.

There was general agreement that the sub-group should return to the four ideas carried over from the previous day.

Idea 1: review roles, responsibilities and structures of our federal system

There was substantial discussion over the phrasing of the first idea. There was general agreement that it should include reference to all tiers of government, to finance, and to a three-stage process for reform. There was also agreement that there was a need to acknowledge problems with the current system—including that it was wasteful, based on an old colonial system, and did not reflect the current reality of regions.

There were various formulations of the first idea, with the following being the agreed formulation:

Reinvigorate our federation by setting up a process to enhance Australian democracy for all Australians by examining the roles, responsibilities, financial arrangements and structure of all levels of governance of our federal system through a three stage process incorporating expert, representative and deliberative processes.

There was discussion about the need for federalism to reflect the diversity of service delivery in different circumstances. There should be a recognition that there was no ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach to federalism, and that informal systems had supplemented federalism. It was agreed that this concept was captured by the term ‘reinvigorating federalism’. There were strong minority views that the idea should refer to ‘rebuilding federation’ or ‘refederating Australia’. By vote, it was resolved to use the term ‘reinvigorating our federation’.

Idea 2: a Federalism Commission to oversee and recommend on disputes and assist the Council of Australian Governments

There was similarly detailed discussion about the framing of the second idea from the previous day. One participant said that the idea of a Federalism Commission was a specific suggestion, independent of the process set out in the first idea. Participants recalled that the previous day the group had envisaged the Federalism Commission as being a body to register, monitor and adjudicate intergovernment disputes. There was general agreement that this had not been captured in the idea carried over from the previous day. There were various formulations of the second idea, with the following being the agreed formulation: ‘Make inter-governmental collaboration effective and transparent by establishing a Federal Commission to register, monitor and adjudicate inter-governmental agreements’.

One participant said there was a need to step back to the ‘macro’ level. Participants agreed that the goal of a Federalism Commission was to make intergovernmental collaboration more effective. There was discussion about whether commission should ‘drive effective intergovernmental collaboration’.

One participant said that key issue for such a commission was to overcome the blame game. He said the idea was more about monitoring reform than about driving it. A Federalism Commission would put a spotlight on the system to show people how the system is working—and when it is not.
One participant said there was a need to move away from the term ‘federal’. The term ‘intergovernmental commission’ was suggested by one participant as a replacement, before the group agreed to use the term ‘national cooperation commission’.

There was some discussion about use of the term ‘resolve’. Some participants suggested that this term could include the concepts ‘mediate’ and ‘adjudicate’. One participant asked how a body could be asked to adjudicate between different levels of government, saying that giving a commission those powers would lead to problems of separation of powers.

Idea 3: a national strategic plan

One participant said there needed to be a process to develop what the levels of government are collaborating about—a nationally developed plan. Some participants said the current Council of Australian Governments processes needed to be developed. Another participant said there was a need to look at implementation and delivery, delivering results in the national interest. At present there is a big difference in performance across the states, it was said.

One participant was of the firm view that this was a dangerous proposal, saying the development of a national plan was the subject of Australia 2020 and a number of other existing discussions. She said that including this idea would water down the other content being discussed by the sub-group. Others disagreed, pointing to positive strategic plans in Tasmania and South Australia.

One participant asked that the following idea be recorded as a significant one: amend the Constitution to allow intergovernmental cooperation. The group agreed that it was too late to consider this idea fully, but that it would be included in the final record of discussions. The group agreed that the other idea (reforming the role of the Senate) and the identified gap (local government) were captured by the first and second ideas.

Big idea

The group agreed to the following big idea, concrete proposals, other ideas, and ambition to present to the stream plenary session:

- Reinvigorate the federation to enhance Australian democracy and work for all Australians by reviewing the roles, responsibilities, functions, structures and financial arrangements at all levels of governance by 2020. We propose a three-stage process with:
  - an expert commission to propose a new mix of responsibilities
  - a convention of the people, informed by the commission and by a process of deliberative democracy
  - implementation by intergovernmental cooperation or referendum.

Concrete proposal

There were two low-cost concrete proposals:

- Drive effective intergovernmental collaboration by establishing a National Cooperation Commission to register, monitor and resolve disputes concerning intergovernmental agreements.
• Engage the Australian community in the development of an ambitious long-term national strategic plan that delivers results.

Other idea
• Embark on electoral and constitutional reform to renew the role and composition of the Senate as a house of review.

Ambition

It was agreed that the sub-group’s ambition could be characterised as ‘Create a modern federation’.

Addendum

One participant asked that the following idea be included in the notes from this session.

Nation Planning Framework Concept 20/4/08 (refer to Idea 9.87)

By 2020, design and implement a cooperative national/inter-governmental planning framework to:

- address Australia’s sustainable growth and change in a global concept
- develop an agreed vision for the future of Australia
- identify issues of national significance and a means to respond to them
- reconcile conflicting state priorities in the national interest and align state, regional and local planning activities
- achieve greater coordination and alignment between the governments (federal, state and local) of Australia
- ensure more efficient and effective government service delivery
- facilitate allocation of funding based on service responsibilities
- establish an agreed policy position including principles to facilitate outcome based decision-making
- establish relevant benchmarks and indicators to monitor performance
- determine appropriate community service standards linked to community needs
- empower citizens and communities to participate in decision-making processes.
- (provide a context for/facilitate place-based community planning).
Group 3: effective parliament and open and accountable government, as well as strong, independent media

Gaps in proposed priority themes and ideas missed

- **Effective shield laws for journalists**—agreed by all.
  - These laws cannot be generalised away. The participants wanted to ‘cut through this debate and put the issue in the national debate’.

- **Effective whistleblowing protection for public servants**—agreed by all.

- **House of Representatives estimates committee**.
  - This was a point of disagreement among participants.

- **Independent arbitration of ministerial claims of public interest immunity**—agreed by most.

- **Strong political leadership on open government**—agreed by all.
  - This is a low-cost idea. Mechanisms need to be put in place to make a cultural change (in the bureaucracy).

- **Ministerial advisers are compellable witnesses in parliament**—agreed by all, but only when making executive decisions in the official conduct of their duty.

- **Improving media diversity**—agreed by all.

- **Improve accountability of media (Press Council)**—not agreed by all regarding the Press Council.
  - Media should be accountable to the public, including radio, television and media on the internet. All power should be accountable, including media. There was a dispute over the issue of the Press Council in the media.
  - More informed and empowered citizenry predicated on more accountable media.

- **Ban on government partisan advertising before elections with agreement of Opposition, except for cases of emergency situations (for example, bird flu)**—not agreed.

- **Reduce time of release of Cabinet and public service records**—some participants disagreed.
  - Reducing the time from 30 to 15 years, unless if it is not in the public interest to do so.
  - Some participants included a proposal that this should be the case unless the government remains in office, adding that ‘the whole point about the release of Cabinet or public service documents is that ministers can make decisions with maximum freedom, for as long as that government is in office’.

Discussion of ideas

**Strengthen Executive accountability to parliament and improve parliamentary process**

Participants voted ‘yes’, but there was disagreement on processes:

- This could be done by adding or reframing of appropriation Bills to specify projects and programs.

- Everyone agreed about the need for a more transparent and open Executive.
• Independent arbitration of public interest immunity claims by Ministers in response to parliamentary inquiries.

Improve the quality of the legislative process

Minimum process standards in both chambers:
• proposed minimum time of process standards for legislation through both chambers—for example, 30 days. There was a disagreement on this
• better legislation by 2020. Public interest immunity will make things better
• minimum time and process standards for passage of legislation.

An undertaking to allow a vote in both houses of parliament before (except in case of emergency) committing Australia to war or to a war-like situation

Participants voted ‘yes’ on this idea.
• Seems like a good idea and there is a provision in case of an emergency. Examples from other democratic countries considered.

Strengthen freedom of information to improve access to information

• FOI was also about lobbying which should be a more open process.
• An idea for an independent Freedom of Information Commissioner to be established.

Strengthen defamation laws to change the burden of proof to proof of falsity

• There is a need to reform defamation laws (rather than the word ‘strengthen’) so that the public figure bears the burden of proof of falsity.

Deregulate the electronic media and strengthen media self-regulation

There was a disagreement among the participants on both issues:
• For the first idea, the conclusion was that this was a very complex idea and there is no time to agree on this issue. There were two ways of framing this idea—deregulating media and making media policy that works in the interests of media consumers rather than media providers.
• On the second idea, some delegates were strongly opposed, saying that media self-regulation under law is ‘illogical and dangerous’.
• Most participants agreed to a proposal to abolish Crown copyright, but it was noted that this might incur high costs.

Other ideas

• Another suggested theme—stronger parliament, more open and accountable Executive, empowered citizenry, and strong, diverse, accountable, ethical and independent media.
• Greater protection for the freedom of expression, either a Charter or Bill of Rights—strongest possible protection of freedom of expression.
Top ideas reconsidered

- More accountable and open Executive.
- Ministerial advisers more compellable when making executive decisions.
- More accountable and diverse media (reformed and responsible).
- Declaration of war decided by the Parliament except for emergency situations.

Group 4: strengthened participation by all Australians in their governance

- A public digital channel with access to policy debate.
- An online channel for access to government information, including spending information and outcomes, and providing for online parliament.
- We will institute deliberative democracy and equip citizens to participate in an engaged, modern democracy.
- Public involvement: establish a diverse set of community engagement mechanism and multiple forms of participation to ensure public involvement. Exploit opportunities from new technology.
- Electoral processes: universal automatic enrolment
  - optional enrolment for over 18s
  - universal suffrage, not excluding prisoners and others.
- Democratise political parties and abolition of private campaign finances, including third party donations.

Additional ideas

- Strengthen the capacity for non-government organisations to participate.
- Public involvement—integrated planning.
- Remove the community taboo surrounding political discussion.
- We will institute deliberative democracy and equip citizens to participate in an engaged, modern democracy.
- Public involvement: establish a diverse set of community engagement mechanisms and multiple forms of participation to ensure public involvement. Exploit opportunities from new technology.
- To implement the concept of a deliberate democracy and to equip citizens to participate in an engaged democracy, we could have a community cabinet.
- Need to revolutionise the way that we (the community) participate.
- Community cabinet.
- Digital channel.
- There also needs to be more work around collaborative decision making—for example, participatory budgeting).
• The big idea is that people are at the forefront of government (government by the people rather than for the people)

Presentation to the full stream

One big idea

Collaborative governance revolutionise the ways government and communities interact.

Four concrete proposals

• Citizenship engagement:
  - online portal, free and searchable government information, and a space for citizens to participate and share their view—we call it ourgov.au
  - AuSpan network
  - deliberative, inclusive processes that feed directly into government decision-making processes
  - active citizenship training as a universal component of primary and secondary school curricula and available to the broader community.

• Electoral processes:
  - universal automatic enrolment to vote and voting for all Australians over the age of 18 years and optional enrolment to vote and voting for Australians aged between 16 and 18 years.

• Third sector strengthening:
  - recognise the importance of the non-government organisations and the third sector in public policy development and governance and protect and promote policy advocacy—for example, removal of taxation roadblocks, reform of charity law.

• Political donations:
  - abolish private campaign finances, including third party donations, with an exemption for small individual donors, to increase trust in political parties and help create a level playing field for elections.

Plenary session: report back by groups

Each of the groups reported back their big ideas and concrete. The stream agreed to five big ideas and discussed a range of concrete proposals.

Five concrete proposals were put to a vote (each participant had three votes) before the stream to identify the top proposals. The results of the vote, as determined by the facilitator, were:

1. Constitutional preamble to recognise prior Indigenous custodianship of land and waters—90 votes
2. Automatic enrolment—low cost; 65 votes
3. Campaign financing (Canadian model)—20 votes
4. A National Cooperation Commission to register, monitor—100 votes
5. Public interest immunity tests for Ministers—20 votes.

Areas of disagreement

One participant, who identified himself as an Indigenous Australian, said he did not personally consider a constitutional preamble recognising prior Indigenous custodianship as being his top idea. He asked that this be recorded.

The group that suggested automatic enrolment had also suggested optional voting for people aged between 16 and 18 years. One participant voiced strong opposition to this idea, saying that the difference in participation rates between Australia and the United States was compulsory voting. He said that introducing optional voting for people aged between 16 and 18 could be the ‘thin edge of the wedge’. There was agreement to record this suggestion as an ‘other idea’.

One group suggested that there should be a resolution by both houses of parliament before committing Australia to war. There was disagreement on this but agreement that it should be recorded as an ‘other idea’.

The stream’s co-chair suggested complete abolition of private campaign financing, including third party financing, with campaigns to be publicly financed and capped. Another participant suggested that consideration be given to a model being used in Canada, which was described as banning contributions by big companies but allowing contributions by individuals.

The co-chair suggested considering limits on government advertising before an election. There was some disagreement on this proposal, which the group agreed to record as an ‘other idea’. One participant said that preventing campaign advertising was a dangerous game and had been ruled by the High Court as a restriction on existing constitutional freedoms. Another said this was not an issue, because the Constitution could be changed. Yet another said the two issues (campaign financing and election advertisements) should be separated. There was no agreement to include campaign financing as one of the stream’s ideas.

One group suggested introducing reversing the onus for public immunity tests for Ministers. There was no agreement on this idea, but the group agreed to record it as an ‘other idea’.

Conclusion

The Governance stream agreed on the following big ideas and concrete proposals to put to the plenary session.

Five big ideas

1. An Australian republic.

2. Collaborative governance—revolutionise the way government and communities interact.

3. A modern Australian federation—reinvigorate the federation.

4. A Bill or Charter of Rights for all Australians, including Indigenous Australians.

5. Open and accountable government.
Concrete proposals

1. The preamble in the Constitution to recognise first peoples’ custodianship.

2. Automatic enrolment (low cost).

Australia’s future security and prosperity in a rapidly changing region and world

Co-chairs:
Professor Michael Wesley
The Honourable Stephen Smith MP

Lead Facilitator:
Ms Siobhan McKenna
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OVERVIEW

As an active middle power, Australia must be smart and creative in the exercise of its international influence. A key question for the summit was how Australia should best work through global and regional institutions to ensure that the shift in the global distribution of power occurs peacefully. In addition, Australia needs to deal with the challenges brought about by globalisation and work with its neighbours in the Asia–Pacific region to address development challenges and a security interest in ensuring that they prosper rather than fall behind.

Before the summit, participants in this stream were asked to consider the following questions:

1. How adequate are the regional and global institutions of which Australia is a member and should Australia propose any necessary reforms?
2. How should Australia maximise its cooperation with its longstanding ally the United States?
3. Does Australia have a role in trying to manage a positive set of interactions among the great powers?
4. How can we leverage both our multicultural society and the Australians who live abroad to better contribute to Australia’s continued prosperity?
5. How should Australia advance its international trade and economic interests effectively in a globalised world?
6. What are the best mechanisms for protecting Australia’s maritime boundaries and maritime environment?
7. Should Australia play a role in building international mechanisms for stabilising world energy markets?
8. Are there potentially new avenues for development of partnerships and aid delivery that can be tried with some of Australia’s neighbours?

On the Saturday of the summit the 100 participants tasked with discussing Australia’s future security and prosperity in a rapidly changing region and world—called the World stream—were addressed by the facilitators, who explained the objectives of the stream’s work and the process the stream would adopt. The stream would need to develop key ambitions for Australia’s future in the world by 2020 and identify within that, three to five major themes relevant to the achievement of those ambitions. At the end of the first day participants would report back on progress and by the end of discussions on the second day the stream would need to produce a brief report setting out the key ambitions, three to five themes and policy ideas. The objective was not to produce consensus but to generate ideas through collaboration, drawing on participants’ expertise and passions.

The first stage of the process involved asking participants to answer as many questions as they could from a list provided. The questions asked participants about their vision for Australia’s future in the world by 2020, and from these ideas the key ambitions for the group were determined. Participants were asked to record their answers on paper and then come together in small groups to share their visions. Each group formed a team to synthesise their findings, highlighting goals and ideas. Finally, in this stage each team reported its findings to the four other teams.
DETERMINING AMBITIONS

Participants were given a scenario. The date was 19 April 2020. Participants were in the back of a taxi on their way to be interviewed by *Time* magazine. *Time* was doing a feature article on countries whose security policies and international relations were benchmarks for the rest of the world. As they prepared for the interview participants were asked to think back to the catalyst provided by the 2020 Summit for the transformations Australia had achieved over the previous 12 years. Participants were asked to reflect on the following:

1. How do you describe Australia’s place and contribution in the region and the world today in 2020?

2. What were the key ambitions or goals to come out of the 2020 Summit?

3. How did these ambitions help Australia?

4. What were the most important topics discussed at the summit?

5. What were the best ideas to come out of the summit?

6. How were those ideas executed in policy? What were the tangible and practical results?

7. At the summit there was one profound breakthrough. What was it?

8. What has changed most between 2008 and 2020?

9. What were the barriers to change and how were they overcome?

10. How did you personally contribute to the transformation?

Participants articulated their visions, ambitions and views, which mostly fell into four broad themes: ties with the Asia–Pacific region, Australia’s stance on foreign policy, Australia being identified as an effective and responsible international citizen, and security. Some specific comments are outlined here; the full list is in Attachment A.

**Ties with the Asia–Pacific region**

- Australia will need to understand and work with Asia’s increased profile in the international environment and particularly the roles of India and China in shaping global forces and outcomes.

- Australia should be an engaged global citizen within our region through strategic integration of the study of Asian languages and societies at all levels of the education system, encouragement of Australians to live study and work in Asia, and participation in collectively addressing the common challenges of the region.

- Australia’s ambition for 2020 should be closer political, economic and human integration between Australia and the South Pacific.

- Australia would have free trade agreements with every country in the Asia–Pacific region and an active and comprehensive program of cultural exchanges. Travel barriers in the region would have been removed.
Australia's stance on foreign policy

- By 2020 Australia should be a world leader in global collaboration and facilitation, with policy analysis based on synergies, identifying how problems could be solved simultaneously; foreign policy would be integrated with domestic and social policy.

- In 2020 Australian foreign and expenditure policies are more focused. Priority is given to enhancing regional security, tackling climate change, dealing with global population growth, and encouraging global mobility.

- Australia should embrace new ideas about how best to foster and benefit from regional and global prosperity and to promote regional peace.

- Recognise that policy choices are not part of a zero-sum equation. Strong relations with the United States could exist side by side with good relations with other countries and active participation in multilateral fora.

An international citizen

- By 2020 Australia would have developed into an effective middle power democracy that values and upholds human rights, strong communities and a sustainable environment, strongly supports the United Nations, and draws on the expertise in civil society.

- Australia will need to cultivate a model of middle power diplomacy that encourages a multilateral framework for resolving conflicts and fostering values, principles and capacities among Australians that promote a culture of peace locally, nationally and internationally.

- Australia should be an active participant in the UN Human Rights Council and commissions dealing with programs to implement human rights observance here and abroad.

- By 2020 Australia is a model international good citizen committed to the rule of law, peaceful resolution of differences and sustainable global economic and social systems based on democratic principles and, importantly, practice.

Security

- By 2020 Australia should have redeemed its role of global citizen and creative middle power, including by driving progress towards a Nuclear Weapons Convention and seeking to address the process and consequences of global warming. We should seize the power of the sun, wind and waves to show how energy can be sustainable.

- A key ambition should be that globalisation and technology development create the realisable circumstances for global peace through weapons countermeasures and global-scale multilateral security organisations.

- Nuclear non-proliferation and reduction and preventing the spread of various security threats are issues that need to be examined. Australia should lead by example in the nuclear field by focusing on our own region first and then playing a key role as a mediator.

- Police and other security agencies harness new technologies and create a culture of innovative thinking, policy and practice and create new structures appropriate to the 21st century. We need to aim for a decrease in crime and security threats through the reform of old structures and innovation. We need to recognise that old structures die hard and use new investment, fiscal incentives and research to overcome resistance.
Following discussion of these individual visions, group members consolidated their goals and ideas. This process brought out the following shared views on ambitions, ideas and breakthroughs for Australia’s future in the world.

**Ambitions**

- Develop an integrated understanding of human security challenges, including resource security, human and labour rights, terrorism, community sustainability, inequality and poverty.

- Greater integration with our region through funding and creating education programs for Australians in our region for significant periods and a national, long-term program to significantly increase our region's language into our school and university curricula.

- Re-prioritisation and re-balancing of diplomacy by committing more resources for the diplomatic corps, to enhance a voice for Australia, being more active in focusing our resources on key powers in our region, and having core strategic objectives that ‘pass the test of time’.

- Fostering innovative approaches to strengthening global multilateral security organisation to achieve global peace; breaking down federal–state barriers; interstate and inter-regional mobility of police, security and regulatory personnel; and recruiting people of our region into our police and security agencies.

- Good international citizen within a global democracy as an active middle power and model these values domestically.

- An integrated partner in the Asia–Pacific region. Draw on capacities of our multicultural communities and harness collective abilities across the region.

- Elevating gender equality and women's rights to all aspects of Australia’s international engagement.

- Embrace our role and ensure comprehensive engagement with Asia–Pacific.

- Become a sustainable society and economy.

- Properly resourced future planning capacity in the public sector.

- Build independent international relations and policy in a rapidly changing environment.

- Learn regional respect and leadership.

- Whole-of-government approach by being a good neighbour in the Pacific, Asia and globally, promoting Asian and cross-cultural literacy and including diversity of representation and decision making.

- Positioning Australia as a responsible middle power, an international citizen leading by example.

- Create opportunities and mechanisms that encourage and promote sustainability.

- Australia as a principled, consistent, proactive country, leading and promoting cohesion locally, regionally and globally.

- Australia is known as respectful, helpful, engaged and constructive and models good practice, policies and attitudes.

- Australia knows its place, understands the common ‘wealth’, and uses wellbeing indicators, not just poverty.

- Australia is the good neighbour, is culturally informed, knows its own strengths and appreciates strengths of others.
Breakthroughs

- Cross-government integration and re-targeted aid.
- Building institutions at global, regional and national levels.
- International rule of law.
- Soft power diplomacy.
- Capacity building.
- Achievement of practical outcomes through consultative and deliberative processes.
- Global citizenship begins at home.
- A new approach to poverty.
- Identity shift in how we live and contribute in our region and the world.
- Redefinition of sustainability.
- Strategic engagement to assist development.
- Indicators developed to monitor—a report card on government, business and civil society.
- Choose areas where we can make a real difference.
- Wealth creates opportunity, which creates stability.
- Translating research into practice.
- Take-up of innovative communication technology.
- Clearly enunciated national policy on human security and global mobility.
- Full collaboration between government, private sector, non-government organisations and communities around global and regional policy initiatives.
- Change our approach by listening and learning from Asia, being Asia literate and being included and trusted by the region.
- Stronger constructive and collaborative relationship so we can address challenges together.

Ideas

- Conflict resolution by using a multicultural community, language and knowledge skills, foreign affairs and intelligence, regional institutions, resilient social networks, and key infrastructure.
- Ensure military operates through respectful engagement, moral standing, leadership by example and encompassing international human rights.
- Australians are globally intelligent. Every child has an Asian language, education system is a global player. Build and sustain new communities and new models of community policing that foster human rights and cultural sensitivity.
- Leadership in opening up migration pathways through nation building and balancing anti-terrorism.
• Develop a Pacific Community with our neighbours: prioritise women’s rights, help with climate change and food security, provide culture exchange programs, establish a regional human rights commission, strengthen work opportunities for Pacific citizens in Australia, and establish a Pacific women’s centre to support UNIFEM.

• Focus on rural development by bringing the city to the village.

• Australia being genuinely committed to mutually defined development goals.

• Coordinate climate change programs with China and India, including general mitigative and adaptation programs.

• Trade to facilitate development and partnership which will harness the social benefits of trade, improve food security and reduce poverty.

• Due diligence on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

• Develop clean energy technologies and apply them in a leadership sense.

• Test demonstration projects on reduced energy use.

• Articulate a national agenda or strategy and then act on issues, including ‘near-region’ economic community, civil society engagement, establishing credibility through internal decisions, and building soft power.

• Create a formal soft power policy and strategy by government.

• Long-term planning for sustainability—economic, environmental and social—to provide for security and sustainable community.

• Fundamental link between development, security and human rights, as opposed to military and territorial security.

• Facilitating and responding to global mobility.

• Fostering a culture of education, encouraging and promoting cultural literacy, research and development.

• Increase engagement with international and regional institutions to promote the effectiveness of those institutions and to promote international law and peaceful dispute resolution.

• Build national consensus for global and regional literacy.

• A reverse Colombo Plan—a supported gap year for Australians in Asia, the Pacific and Africa.

• Introduce new approaches to aid in this region.

• Strengthen respect for United Nations and rule of law.

• Overarching strategy that reflects our values.

• Engaged and activist nation but also an independent actor.

• Australia has a new foreign policy articulated in a consultative statement that is culturally informed and supportive.

• Food security challenge integrates all relevant responses such as disaster management, ecological disaster, climate change and movement of people (urbanisation and refugees).
SPECIALIST PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Following these discussions and presentations to the group, participants considered the broader context to 2020, which the visions, goals and ambitions of Australia’s future in the world would need to accommodate. Specialists from among the participants made short presentations on the following issues to help other participants consider external perspectives.

China’s rise and its effects on the region

Participants debated the issue of how countries such as Indonesia and Papua New Guinea would be able to deal with the growing influence of China in the region and what role Australia had to assist them in this regard. It was noted that so far China did not seem interested in exporting its political values. Its interaction with the region was economically focused or motivated by rivalry with Taiwan.

Noting China’s growing military power and its emerging role as a major aid donor in the region, participants agreed that while China’s visibility had increased rapidly there remained uncertainty over what it was seeking to achieve, especially in the long term. Securing energy supplies was one obvious goal. One strand of thought that had emerged was that the Chinese themselves were not entirely clear about their aims in the region. China was also wrestling with the question of what it meant to be a responsible international citizen. It was debating whether it should be trying to shape the international diplomatic environment in which it operated or abide by the existing rules.

There was general agreement that managing the China–India–Japan triangle would be a challenge over the decade ahead. And while China–US relations were now stable this was unlikely to always be the case. Was there a role for Australia as a mediator between the two? Some participants thought there probably was, especially on Taiwan.

Food security

If left unaddressed, food security challenges could result in significant instability, including in Australia’s region, as poverty levels increase. Further alienation would result, which would feed into political and insurgent movements and organised crime. The capacity of states to respond to the cumulative weight of food security and other challenges would be tested. The presenter wanted to see the government take on a food initiative to raise awareness of the problem in Australia’s region. Australia also had a crucial role to play as a food exporter. Investment should increase in agriculture and food stocks should be rejuvenated to act as a buffer.

A participant noted that the world population would peak at about 9 billion and a significant reduction was likely from 2020. Moving from relative oil independence to energy dependence will also affect the economy unless Australia examines nuclear energy. Another participant spoke in opposition to genetically modified food and agribusiness and argued for a return to biodiversity models. Large companies were ‘killing off’ diversity of seed production. But food security and ecology were closely related and Indigenous knowledge should be better deployed.

New paths to education and development

The success of the Colombo Plan was raised and consideration was given to the possible benefits of reproducing this model of education exchange in sub-Saharan Africa. The Colombo Plan was established by the Commonwealth in 1951 to bring together developed and developing countries through education scholarships. The focus was on scholarship recipients progressing development in local communities on returning to their home country.
Participants agreed that the Colombo Plan presented a very good model that could be supported by a national centre for dialogue and conferences in South East Asia. Such a centre could facilitate changes in Australia, the region and beyond, in addition to offering scholarships and enabling research. There was discussion of how to promote research and to rebuild capacity and respect within Australian education institutions. A Colombo Plan would be reliant on Australian education to develop the capability and skills required for an individual to return and make progress in their home country. Severe doubts were expressed about the fundamentals of the Australian education system.

The ethics and values of institutions were seen as a critical factor underpinning all education. Further comment was made on the absence of any ethical dimension to education programs. For example, business graduates were not required to undertake ethics modules, while engineering students learnt the same damaging techniques that have been followed for decades. These concerns with elements of Australia’s education program were acknowledged. However, the broader framework of the Colombo Plan would be sufficiently supported by the general quality of Australian education, with training in particular areas made available as requested.

The view was expressed that there was a need to develop an education in broader areas of human rights and responsibility. This should not be limited to education systems but also imbued in business and all aspects of life.

While the presentation argued for a Colombo Plan in sub-Saharan Africa, the need to focus on the Pacific was raised. One participant noted that a stronger focus on Africa was required because of the existing attention to the Pacific and the immediate region.

The possibility of placing Australian students—both high school and tertiary—in Asian nations was raised. This concept of a ‘reverse Colombo Plan’ was discussed in the light of various examples of restrictions on student travel to Asian countries. Travel advisory warnings were also cited as an impediment to student exchanges with Asia, which was considered a critical issue for Australia’s integration into the Asian region. The view was expressed that there was less need for the same extent of integration into the African region.

In conclusion, it was agreed that aid administered through education was a very positive model and would allow Australia to make an excellent contribution to the international community. A strong desire was expressed to shift discussion of aid programs to development models and pathways out of poverty. Australia had a significant capacity to contribute through training in real job skills and in return would achieve benefits for its domestic interests and those of the region more broadly.

**Nuclear proliferation and arms control**

The presenter stressed the need for a properly resourced disarmament agenda. A trend toward unilateralism had affected international forums. More funding was required to build international capacity and our own leverage in coming years. Australia should continue to act globally while concentrating efforts in its own region. The current stability in East Asia should be locked in, possibly through a broad declaration of regional restraint. A South East Asia or broader caucus could cut across the north–south divide that was undermining the effectiveness of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Australia could also become a centre for the production and distribution of nuclear fuel to meet the energy needs of countries in our region. And a regional system could be developed to establish high proliferation and safety standards. Australia should build up its nuclear engineering skills to encourage the development of proliferation-resistant technologies. Fuel should be made far less dangerous for countries to store. Enrichment could be shared on a regional basis (such as through a regional enrichment facility under international supervision) and a global ban on reprocessing put in place. The presenter argued...
more broadly for Australia to regenerate its activism. It should develop nuclear expertise and increase pressure on states with nuclear weapons to move to disarmament.

One participant noted that heavyweight nuclear weapons were reducing in efficacy as ballistic missile defence technology improved. The development of tactical nuclear weapons was on the rise. The participant argued for energising Australian nuclear sciences around the exploitation of thorium. Australia had the world’s largest thorium reserves, and thorium-powered reactors do not produce nuclear weapon–relevant waste. If a decision were made, thorium reactors could be operating in Australia in four to five years.

Another participant agreed with the need to focus on nuclear weapons disarmament. Consensus was growing in the UN General Assembly for the nuclear weapon states to have a reduced role for nuclear weapons in their policies. To support that, Australia could ‘denuclearise’ the US alliance by declaring that it did not want to be covered by a nuclear umbrella. The presenter noted that such decoupling would be difficult because many countries derived reassurance from the US nuclear umbrella.

Another participant noted that doing special deals with India to bring it into the non-proliferation community was problematic. The Non-Proliferation Treaty was already unable to meet its full potential due to the existence of ‘haves’ and ‘have-nots’. Adding India, Pakistan or Israel would create a third category of ‘know you have them but turn a blind eye’. In addition, it was noted that the regional dimension was underplayed and that Australia could contribute more to regional stability by engaging states that are not in the Non-Proliferation Treaty, including Pakistan and North Korea.

Another participant argued for re-establishing the Canberra Commission, with its scope widened to encompass biological, chemical and nuclear weapons of mass destruction. If Australia were concerned by non-proliferation, trade should be taken off the agenda. Russia should not be receiving exports of Australian uranium (a move Australia’s economy could withstand) until those issues were sorted out.

The role of non-government organisations in foreign policy

It was noted that NGOs existed to fill the space in areas where the state was unable or unwilling to act. But it was also pointed out that sometimes NGOs operated in support of governments or to supplement what governments were doing. The role of NGOs was not in all cases antagonistic to governments.

The burden of fundraising was noted as a factor distracting NGOs from focusing on their core business. The comment was made that some NGOs now seemed to operate as virtual multi-nationals, focusing more on making money for themselves than helping their constituents. There was debate about whether large international NGOs should turn over their funds to local NGOs, thus essentially putting themselves out of business. Local NGOs could only be empowered if they were properly funded. There was agreement about the necessity of engaging local communities in the work done by NGOs. Local buy-in was crucial to the success of any program. There was agreement that in some instances competition on the ground among NGOs was highly damaging.

Pandemics and Australia’s security

Australia prides itself on a willingness and ability to respond quickly in the event of a regional crisis. It was noted, however, that in the event of a pandemic, this would not be possible as there are barely sufficient resources to support our own population and that this presents a challenge for policy areas to prepare the population for such an eventuality. To counter this concern, it was further noted that Australian society is more reliant on the sophisticated systems that will fail first, in contrast to much of the populations of our regional neighbours that have a largely rural based economy.
(and hence are more resilient). There is also potential to leverage from Australia’s science knowledge, applying biowarfare technology to tackling the challenges of a pandemic.

An ethical question was raised, concerning Australia sourcing base material for influenza vaccines from Indonesia but leaving the source country unprotected.

A point was made regarding societal expectations that information and assistance would be immediately available in the event of a crisis. Managing these population expectations was necessary, as it would take some time for systems to be rebuilt.

The fragmentation of responsibility for preparing households for disaster was raised, with state and territory and federal governments all involved in various aspects. It was also noted that household preparation was focused more on food supply than power supply.

There was some criticism of the lack of action by Australian authorities to intervene and arrest the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS in Papua New Guinea. While the onset of the epidemic was addressed very early and treated well in Australia, there was concern that Australia has not made the most of our ability and capability for preventive treatments and measures.

There are some simple solutions available that require little more than entrepreneurial skills to establish the solution. In the case of bird flu, establishing sewerage systems and securing the water supply in major Asian cities was seen as a comparatively simple but essential preventive measure. A concern was also expressed that Australian doctors were hesitant to work in difficult environments such as East Timor, where 500 rural doctors from Cuba were engaged in preventive work.

OVERVIEW OF YOUTH SUMMIT OUTCOMES ON AUSTRALIA’S FUTURE IN THE WORLD

The first ‘big idea’ presented by the Youth Summit representatives was for the establishment of a Global Health Impact Fund. This fund would serve as ‘a complement to the current drug patent systems’ and would reward innovators in proportion to the actual health impact achieved. This idea prompted limited discussion, although there were concerns over the maintenance of testing standards and particularly the question of human trials. It was stated by one participant that there had been attempts to exploit marginalised elements of society (for example, sex workers) in the developing world in order to test and fast-track drugs in the past, and care would be needed to ensure this system did not inadvertently promote similar behaviour.

There was also some discussion of the need for a performance measurement system with regard to the health impact achieved by a particular initiative. Gauging the actual health impact could be very difficult and may be open to manipulation or abuse. This was not an insurmountable problem but was an area of the proposal which would need careful development.

The second big idea presented by the Youth Summit participants was to ‘operationalise the concept of the “responsibility to protect”’. This idea involved a ‘drastic rethinking of traditional state sovereignty’ and a proposal to accept and implement a new paradigm for intervention by the international community in situations where a state was unable or unwilling to act to bring an end to humanitarian crises such as genocide or other egregious human rights violations.

This concept drew significant discussion, including around the complexities of national sovereignty and the question of when an ‘intervention’ would constitute an ‘invasion’. It was also noted that there were many levels of intervention that fell short of military intervention. The participants noted that where military intervention was necessary it would need to be underpinned by international law, and this is why the idea from the Youth Summit called for a codified system to operationalise the concept. It was noted in this
regard that much work was under way in this area and that the Asia–Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect had recently been established in cooperation with the University of Queensland.

It was also noted that once an intervention began it was important that there was a structure to transition to capacity building, and ultimately to return sovereignty to the local population. There was some discussion at this point around a third, related, idea generated by the Youth Summit, which was for the establishment of a deployable public service. This concept would involve the development of a ‘bureaucratic reserve’ of government officials available to assist in the development of governance in less developed countries and failed states. Some concern was raised by one participant over the use of the term ‘protect’, noting that this may be perceived as being paternalistic or neocolonial.

**IDEA GENERATION**

The facilitators introduced a list of major topics distilled from earlier discussions and invited participants to ‘vote with their feet’ by choosing one topic to work on with a view to generating specific policy ideas. Following discussions in these separate groups, participants came together in the plenary session to convey these discussions to everyone in the stream.

**Terrorism and human rights**

The group considered that Australia needed an evidence-based approach and to understand the factors underlying terrorism. In responding, Australia would need to recalibrate the balance between soft and hard power. Australia should seek to base policy recommendations on recognition of a direct link between denial of human rights and terrorism as a tactic. Good counter-terrorism is human rights consistent; there should be no trade-off between human rights.

The group believed that an Australian Bill of Rights was needed, as was a review of counter-terrorism legislation, operations and organisation against relevant international human rights laws and norms. The group also believed that a cohesive national approach to prevent terrorism—a preventive, not reactive, approach—based on recognition of the importance of cultural and religious diversity was needed.

**Nuclear weapons and non-proliferation**

The group reported that its discussions were marked as much by creative differences as by agreement. In thinking about how Australia could make a contribution, however, it was agreed we would have to look at strengthening existing instruments and doing new things.

Australia would need to take a proactive position for the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2010: this would be an important focus. Beyond this, we would need a strategy on how Australia could cooperate on security and disarmament. New ideas included:

- pursuing the idea of an East Asian Accord for nuclear restraint—including India
- taking account of nuclear industry revival down the track in South East Asia, creating a South East Asian nuclear community—‘Asiatom’ (a South East Asian version of Euratom)—to build confidence and share technology.

The group also considered the possibility of a White Paper on new strategic technologies coming down the track that were likely to effect the doctrine of nuclear deterrence (in particular, missile defence). Australia needed to pursue and encourage policies that reduced the attraction of nuclear weapons as a deterrent. Finally the group considered there was a need for an Australian Ambassador for Disarmament by the time of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.
Engaging India and China

The group noted that the relationship with China had been economically focused for many years but was now developing a political strand to it. The group reported that China’s values and its political environment was very different from Australia’s. But did we have a right to preach to China? The general view was that we did have a right to speak in defence of our values, so long as it was done respectfully and with recognition of the need to take into account, China’s position. There was some agreement that Australia could play a role as an intermediary between China and the United States.

The group questioned the basis for our engagement with India being different from our engagement with China. The Indian economy was booming and could in years to come rival China’s. Could India be an alternative (to China) as the underwriter of Australian prosperity? Consideration needed to be given to a benchmarking exercise comparing how Australia engaged with the two countries. Establishment of a three-way dialogue between Australia, China, and India, discussing climate change and energy security, should also be considered. An India Institute should be established to raise awareness.

Australia’s role in the Pacific

The group considered its breakthrough idea was that Australia should develop with its neighbours a Pacific Community. Australia should aim for a peaceful and prosperous region by 2020. In doing so, we should look at other integration models around the world. Such a community would be an appropriate expression of partnership with the Pacific region.

The group considered that important elements of the community plan would be a labour mobility scheme with a development angle, such as education opportunities and possibly a path to permanent migration; helping the region meet the challenge of climate change, including being prepared to accept migrants; exploring the possibility of a regional peacekeeping force and fostering close links between armed forces in the region; developing people-to-people links, including training Pacific island public servants. Australia should foster comprehensive engagement in the Pacific from the grass roots up.

The group believed that Australia should be seen as a proactive partner in the region and as a good international citizen. A Pacific Council could be established to help engage Australians more in Pacific affairs and involve Australians in twinning and partnering with Pacific organisations at the grass-roots level.

The group also considered that partnerships with Pacific nations should include linkages between governments of all levels, corporate and organisations representing civil society. They should be based upon capacity building, focused on staff exchanges, leadership programs, volunteering, mentoring and the mutual exchange of expertise and experience. Initiatives should focus on current priorities for the Pacific region and allow for long term sustainable relationship building in relevant sectors, such as health, education, water and the environment.

Good citizenship in regional and international institutions

The group’s view was that the most important theme was the need for Australia to re-engage pro-actively and constructively with multilateral institutions and in UN reform. Australia should sign or ratify outstanding international treaties on human rights, arms control and the environment, such as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the optional protocols to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Australia should express clear support for the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and implement domestically the requirements of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on the rights of women in conflict.
The group believed that Australia should more effectively implement its international human rights obligations domestically, including through a statutory Bill of Rights and accompanying proposed new federal legislation with an international law impact statement. The group further believed that Australia should reject the concept of pre-emptive defence, embrace collective security as embodied in the UN Charter, and undertake activities to implement the ‘responsibility to protect’ domestically and in the Asia-Pacific region. To achieve these goals Australia should empower civil society more effectively, so that NGOs could play a stronger role in Australia’s international engagement.

**Development assistance: new approaches**

The group believed that its big idea was that Australia’s development assistance in future should be shaped by what is needed on the ground and by what would advance gender equality. This would require an integrated whole-of-government and whole-of-society response. Development cooperation was not just a matter for AusAID or the development sector: it needed to be promoted by everyone.

The aid program needed to be based on consultation with local communities, with an evaluation process that looked at the overall human and ecological impacts. In Australia, a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach needed to include education of the community to help them see how their lives affected others and fair-trade initiatives in government and private sector procurement. Incentives needed to be provided to foster corporate responsibility. Employment opportunities needed to be created for women, including through cooperatives.

**The role of Australia and other nations in our region**

The group reported that the key issue they confronted was to determine what was ‘Australia’s region’. They concluded that Australia was in fact in several regions: Australia was at the base of the South East Asian region, part of the Indian Ocean region, and part of Oceania. They then talked about Australia’s role in those areas and agreed that Australia’s role should not be seen to be patronising or invasive. Instead Australia’s role was to contribute to both the economic and non-economic growth of stability in the regions in which we interact.

The group settled on three big ideas—first, to run a regional 2020 summit and seek the views of regional neighbours on their expectations of Australia’s role; second, to promote a free-trade area in ASEAN plus 6 grouping, of which Australia was a member (something similar to Closer Economic Relations with New Zealand regionally); third, to establish a medium by which people of our region could communicate to Australia what their expectations of Australia in the region might be (on the web, for example).

**The US alliance: the demeanour of our diplomacy**

The group believed that Australia’s strategic policy and relationship with the United States needed to be clearer. Australia itself needed to be clear about who we are and what we want to be; we needed to make our national position clearer to the United States. To this end, Australia needed to build a greater capability to lobby and influence the US Congress, and strong support should be provided to the new US Studies Centre in Sydney. Australia also needed to understand the US view of China better, and we should play a stronger role, including by defining to the United States our strategic interests and view on the Asia-Pacific, China, and so on. The Australian Embassy in Washington may require more resources to discharge this task effectively.

On Australia’s diplomacy, the group believed Australians needed a clear, well-communicated understanding of our strategic and foreign policy directions. More resources needed to be devoted or reallocated to soft power and cultural diplomacy and to long-term foreign and defence
policy planning, potentially in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Australia could leverage more effectively off our multicultural communities to facilitate a better diplomatic dialogue. The group also considered we could review the roles, missions and resources of key security agencies, including the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the Australian Federal Police and the Office of National Assessments. Finally, the group believed Australia should consider hosting a UN agency in the country.

**People to people: labour mobility, students, diaspora and migration**

The group considered that a Pacific Economic Community should be created. There should also be a 2020 Summit in the region. Australia needed to encourage the mobility of labour, people and ideas, as a means of contribution to regional prosperity and our own. Civil society dialogue with the Asia–Pacific region needed to be drastically increased and broadened.

Australia’s approach in the region should be based on respect for human rights practices and policies—particularly for women and sex workers. Organisational twinning programs between functional areas should be encouraged and facilitated. Indeed, the role of community bodies needs to be rethought given the enormous positive contribution they could make to the region’s development. Given the rising youth demographic, Australia’s response needs to include peer support models. The language on aid should change: Australia should celebrate and embrace difference.

**Language and cultural skills: being literate in our area**

The group considered their big idea to be ‘Asia literacy’, which needed to be mainstreamed into Australian society; knowledge of Asian and regional languages and society to enhance Australia’s global engagement and national global intelligence.

The group believed that a national strategic plan for mainstreaming Asian studies was needed, with committed funding support at least equivalent to the National Asian Languages and Studies Strategy for Australian Schools at all levels. We would need to ‘bite the bullet’: Asian language studies in schools would need to be compulsorily supported by a reinvigoration of professional teacher training and training for native speakers who may not have previously had proper training. Incentives would need to be created for language studies at school and university levels, including bonuses, HECS exemptions and serious tax exemptions that would make universities commit to investing resources in Asian language programs.

The group also thought the government should re-examine travel advisories, which can act as a disincentive to universities sending students overseas. There would need to be support for twinning, exchanges and in-country programs, backed by aggressive promotion, or, the group said, the plan would not work.

**New threats to security**

The group considered that we need to broaden our concept of ‘security’ to encompass a range of non-military challenges to our economic, social and environmental security. The challenges were diverse—pandemics, climate change, resources (food, water and energy), transnational crime and terrorism, natural disasters, and maintaining critical services for sustainable cities. In the face of these challenges it was necessary to build individual and community resilience. A high-level, independent community advisory body should be established to advise the government on the new threats. Australia should develop its smart power capacity. A White Paper on policing and law enforcement should be commissioned. Additionally the group believed Australia needed evidence-based management systems informed by economic, social and environmental sustainability indicators.
Finally, the group considered that a new regional governance body—for example, a Pacific Union—could be established based on regional cooperation models elsewhere, including in Europe and the Caribbean.

**Development assistance: new approaches**

The group believed that its big idea was that Australia’s development assistance in future should be shaped by what is needed on the ground and by what would advance gender equality. This would require an integrated whole-of-government and whole-of-society response. Development cooperation was not just a matter for AusAID or the development sector but needed to be promoted by everyone. The aid program needed to be based on consultation with local communities, with an evaluation process that looked at the overall human and ecological impact.

In Australia a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach needed to include education of the community to help them see how their lives affected others and fair-trade initiatives in government and private sector procurement. Incentives needed to be provided to foster corporate responsibility. Employment opportunities needed to be created for women, including through cooperatives.

**Empowering and protecting women**

The group believed that the treatment of women was a good litmus test of emerging security threats, and that empowering and protecting women should be a primary concern across all policy objectives. By 2020 Australia should be leading the way on women’s participation in governance, management, and economic and social life. Towards that end Australia should adopt the UN mandate on 30 per cent participation by women in decision-making roles.

In terms of specific policy objectives the group believed Australia should implement a national action plan recognising the vulnerability of women, as set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1325; there should be a rigorous adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and Australia should sign the convention’s optional protocol.

The group also believed that Australia’s aid should target grass-roots women’s NGOs, especially helping the poorest of the poor; support domestic violence programs and relevant protocols; recognise the fact of sexual discrimination; address pay inequality; introduce universal mandatory maternity leave at home; and integrate gender perspectives into peacekeeping planning.

**Defence**

During the plenary session feedback, some participants aired the view that hard-edged defence and strategic issues had not been sufficiently discussed thus far in the stream. They invited interested participants to meet separately to discuss some of the relevant issues.

The Defence group agreed that clearly there had been a shift in focus in discussions of defence and security in recent years. These issues were seen in a much different and broader light. The group asked itself where Australia was going to get new ideas about defence. The answer was not readily apparent. It was noted that promises made by the Hawke government of an 8 per cent growth in the defence budget had lasted only a year because of the difficult economic circumstances at the time. The group wondered whether this might happen again if there was a decline in China’s economy or the economic cost of climate change affected our capacity to fund defence. The group noted the need to assure defence of a funding base on which it could make long-term decisions, even in times of economic downturn.
The group agreed that Australia needed to decide between a relatively expensive policy of limited self-reliance or another model—the New Zealand model of greater reliance on allies. Neither of these latter options was considered desirable or feasible.

One participant noted that discussions at the summit had focused on soft power and preventive security measures. While this is important (as prevention is better than cure), the role of hard power was lost at the summit. It seems inevitable that Australia will maintain a standing army capacity—prepare for war and adapt for peace—however, can we maximise our military capabilities to work constructively on soft power security and preventive measures. The Australian Defence Force already plays a key constabulary and peacekeeping role in our region and an instructional and skills transfer role in the Middle East. Why not enhance these roles and use our military for peace. Is that possible? Given the 2008 Defence White Paper, has Australia lost an opportunity to influence defence strategists to think more about the ADF’s existing and future role in soft security?

THE FIVE THEME GROUPS

It was explained to the stream that the co-chairs had reported back to the co-convenors overnight and had presented the key ambitions, themes and policy ideas that had emerged from discussions. These initial ambitions, themes and ideas were presented in the form of a ‘house’, with the roof forming the key ambitions; the first floor, the themes; and the ground floor, the top ideas. The stream’s proposed ambitions were presented as reinvigorating and deepening Australia’s engagement with Asia and the Pacific; to foster a reputation as an effective global citizen; and to make an active contribution to the resolution of global challenges. The key themes and policy ideas were as follows:

1. **A concerted campaign to develop regional literacy in Australia (including the development of language skills and cultural awareness)**
   - A new, resourced, national language plan (including mandatory training and further teacher training).
   - Incentive-based language training and cultural familiarisation (tax breaks for remittances, supported international study).
   - A benchmarking study on our national language capacity.

2. **A broader conception of security to encompass a range of emerging non-military challenges**
   - Establish a PM’s high-level independent advisory commission on new threats.
   - Develop our "smart power" capacity (innovation and creativity) underpinned by evidence-based management (economic and social sustainability indicators).
   - A comprehensive national plan on foreign policy which incorporates soft power.

3. **A new approach to the Pacific (including labour mobility and development assistance)**
   - Create a Pacific Community (including the possibility of a Pacific union).
   - Labour mobility (including police and military).
   - Civil society dialogue including organisational and functional twining.
4. **Greater focus on human rights, respect for international law, and greater engagement in international institutions**

- Create an Ambassador for Disarmament.
- Strengthen rule of law programs.
- Pursue an East Asian accord for nuclear constraint and build a South East Asian nuclear community.
- Greater investment in education in developing countries (including consideration of a contemporary Colombo Plan).
- Implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

5. **Major Powers - engagement with the US, Japan, China and India**

- Establish an India Institute as we have for China.
- Establish a trilateral dialogue with China and India, commencing on climate change and energy.
- Learn lessons from our engagement with China and apply them to India (benchmarking).
- Greater coordination amongst Australian agencies in their interaction with the United States.

Participants were asked to divide into the five theme groups and inject ideas into the discussion so that the final output reflected both practicality and innovation.

**A concerted campaign to develop regional literacy in Australia (including the development of language skills and cultural awareness)**

The group considered the importance of a vision for the development of greater Asian cultural and linguistic literacy in Australian society. There was broad agreement that there was a need for policies that directed outcomes and included concrete targets.

The final agreed version of a response to the plenary session stated that, by 2020, 60 per cent of all Australians will speak a second language, as a means of securing our prosperity and identity into the future. There was substantial debate about the merits of a target and about the realism of the 60 per cent target by 2020. Participants acknowledged debate was restricted by the lack of available data on second-language skills but decided to set an ambitious target by improving its OECD standing. The group agreed it was also important that the link between language skills and economic self-interest was made: developing language skills is crucial to Australia’s trade prospects and ongoing economic development.

There was some debate about the merits of making language study mandatory at various levels of education. This specific action was excluded from the final document on the basis that this initiative was about building language skills across society, and it was acknowledged that education through formal schooling was only one method for language instruction (others include through families or vocational education).

A final area of discussion was the current travel advisory system. Some participants argued that restrictive travel advisories are used by universities and travel insurance companies to limit cultural exchange where significant travel warnings are in place. A number of participants asserted that the current system was overly conservative, flawed and inaccurate. One participant noted the
important role the system plays in protecting the lives of Australians travelling in regions where risks and threats exist. It was agreed that a review of the current system and its use was required.

A comprehensive, cross-agency, national strategic plan for a major reinvigoration of Australia's fast-diminishing Asia literacy was identified as a goal, as was the need to build the software for our global engagement in trade, security and culture. The group also wanted education at all levels to re-skill our nation for the ‘Asian century’. The following ideas to achieve this were stated.

### IDEAS

10.1 Introduce a national strategy for Asia literacy.

10.1.1 By 2020 a comprehensive national Asia literacy strategy at all levels of the education system, backed by funding at least equivalent to the former National Asian Languages and Studies Strategy for Australian Schools, will have re-skilled Australia to capitalise on opportunities in Asia.

10.1.2 By 2020 Australia will no longer be the worst-ranked OECD country for second-language skills. It will be positioned to benefit from the economic reality of an increasingly Asia-centric world.

10.2 Australians will directly experience Asia.

10.2.1 Thousands of young Australians will be linked to Asian communities through support for school twinning, exchange programs, mentoring, and in-country and community-based learning programs.

10.2.2 Barriers to Australians studying in Asia will have been removed.

10.3 Language education will be mainstreamed.

10.3.1 Learning a second language (Asian or otherwise), integrating regional world and ways of knowing, will be compulsory in our education system. This would strengthen the work of the United Nations by promoting inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue between the communities or our region.

10.3.2 Introduce reinvigorated professional teacher training, including for native speakers and our ethnic communities. Chinese, Japanese and Indonesian will be priority languages, but a wide range of other languages will be available.

10.3.3 University fee exemptions and other financial incentives will have rebuilt Asian studies in our universities to be global leaders, by creating renewed institutional expertise and increasing student numbers.

10.4 Review the current travel advisory system.

### A broader conception of security to encompass a range of emerging non-military challenges

Participants noted that when Australia’s national security was discussed there was a tendency to see it in offshore terms, but national security also involves fostering secure communities within the country. Issues existed around the harmonisation of structures and the relationships between agencies. Better information and intelligence sharing were required between policing and intelligence agencies, which would assist in better informed decisions about resource allocation. Issues surrounding how those agencies should engage the community and how the diversity of communities could be harnessed needed to be addressed.
It was suggested that there was a lack of policy coherence in responding to the challenges posed by food, energy, water and health security, and sustainability in the face of climate change. Any solution should involve integration of policies and agencies’ efforts to fast-track clean energy development and deployment regionally, starting with the Pacific island countries.

Finally, it was noted that there was a need for greater analytical and predictive capacity. The knowledge base needs to be broadened, and a policy advisory committee could include representatives of the business and scientific community. Another participant argued that greater effort was needed to develop knowledge of water and energy security needs in Australia as a step towards overcoming ‘short-termism’ and achieving a focus on long-term objectives.

A number of ideas were canvassed:

- Use new technologies in Australia to deal with food security, water and energy.
- Harmonise criminal legislation.
- Better articulate state and federal law enforcement responsibilities.
- Examine relevant legislation and the structure of agencies to address any overlap, duplication or ‘siloing’ of expertise.
- Provide real incentives to states for law enforcement at the local level.
- Consider placing an Australian criminal code on the Council of Australian Governments agenda.
- Provide support for soft, rather than hard, power objectives.
- Put attention on developing sustainable cities and resilient communities.
- Form a discrete policy advisory committee to bring ideas to the Prime Minister.
- Adopt strategies for using Australia’s ‘smart power’ capacity in partnership with global initiatives such as those in the areas of micro-credit.
- Re-target the aid program, away from health and into innovation.
- Ensure greater coordination among Australian agencies in their interaction with the United States.

Following further discussion of these ideas and incorporating views from earlier discussions, participants summarised their thoughts and came up with targeted ideas for achieving their objectives.
IDEAS

10.5 National harmonisation.
   10.5.1 Uniform criminal legislation is required to cut through lack of consistency and harmony.
   10.5.2 Remove overlapping law enforcement expertise to achieve economies of scale and harness innovative technologies to drive reform.
   10.5.3 The National Security Committee of Cabinet should exercise leadership to push for meaningful, real information and intelligence data sharing.

10.6 Create resilient and harmonious domestic communities.
   10.6.1 Community security should be re-balanced to support soft power and domestic security capacity.
   10.6.2 Consideration of a community security White Paper should be placed on the Council of Australian Governments agenda.
   10.6.3 A working group involving 2020 Summit members and other experts should be established to work on progressing the White Paper idea.

10.7 Introduce a new approach to foreign policy that uses ‘smart power’ to address new security issues in a collaborative way.
   10.7.1 Integrate policies and agencies’ efforts to fast-track clean development and deployment, informed by a coherent plan, starting in the region.
   10.7.2 New research and analytical capabilities are required on non-traditional security threats.

10.8 Establish a high-level advisory council with balanced representation from industry and the scientific, public and academic communities to advise the Prime Minister and Cabinet on emerging security issues and policy options.

10.9 Assess Australia’s maritime area to inform long-term management and planning.

10.10 Improve the analytical ability of agencies using evidence-based management systems to develop and monitor sustainability and other indicators related to energy, water and food security.

10.11 Innovation in Australia and AusAID should help Australia’s neighbours meet the challenges of food production in a world dealing with climate change.

A new approach to the Pacific (including labour mobility and development assistance)

In relation to a new approach to the Pacific, three topics were identified as the key areas for focus by participants.

The first, Pacific partnership, considered an important element being trade liberalisation, recognising that vigorous trade was vital for addressing poverty and facilitating development. Any model of closer integration had to be based on improving living standards and opportunities without undermining sovereignty.

Second, with labour mobility, participants agreed that allowing Pacific citizens to work across the region, including in Australia, could benefit the economic wellbeing of the whole region. There was lengthy discussion about which type of labour mobility scheme might work best, but all participants agreed that,
whichever model was used, it needed to be firmly based on respect for labour rights. There was discussion about whether the scheme should be a seasonal worker scheme targeting certain unskilled sectors of the market or whether it should be broader and encourage professionals to enhance their skills in Australia, too. The fact that earnings would be returning to the Pacific and improving living standards there was welcomed.

Third, social exchange initiatives were necessary to provide greater interaction with the Pacific. Participants envisaged a Pacific Human Rights Commission and new models of community policing and discussed whether there could be a possibility of the Australian Defence Force recruiting soldiers from the Pacific. The group agreed there needed to be more exchanges of professionals and public servants and more exchanges at the community level to foster a better level of mutual understanding and common approaches to tackling common problems such as climate change and food and energy security. Participants stressed the importance of working to ensure that improvements were not limited to urban areas but improved the rural Pacific as well. They also focused on the tremendous value of using modern technologies in IT to foster closer ties and address mutual challenges.

**IDEAS**

10.12 Pacific Partnership: confederation or free association between Australia and the Pacific, beginning with micro-states.

10.12.1 Build stronger linkages, breaking down the practical barriers that limit trade, and work towards creating a seamless single market across the Pacific islands, New Zealand and Australia.

10.12.2 Remove technical barriers—in shipping, for example—to yield immediate efficiencies and promote more trade and investment.

10.13 Labour Mobility: a rights-based labour mobility initiative for South West Pacific, including East Timor.


10.14.2 Encourage greater exchange of professionals and public servants and exchange of information on approaches to tackle climate change and food security.

10.14.3 Use modern technologies in IT to foster closer ties and address mutual challenges.

**Greater focus on human rights, respect for international law, and greater engagement in international institutions**

A number of strong themes emerged in the discussion of Australia’s role in and engagement with multilateral international institutions. Strong views were expressed regarding the need for Australia to demonstrate a commitment to human rights and gender equality. It was asserted that this commitment should underpin Australia’s role as an international citizen and be reflected in all aspects of foreign policy.

There was strong agreement on the notion of seeking to model domestically values that we seek to promote internationally. It was broadly agreed that Australia should offer a model of values-driven policy at home and lead by this example in offering a human rights–inspired foreign policy. This would require a commitment to national policy implementation of international obligations.
There was support for the assertion that Australia needs to be fully engaged in the UN reform process, although it was also noted that Australia first needed to engage more effectively with the United Nations generally. Active participation in UN forums was considered essential to support Australia’s bid for membership of the Security Council. A specific suggestion was put forward to promote stronger engagement with the United Nations by seeking to establish a regional office of a UN human rights organisation in Australia. This suggestion was rejected by many in the group as both undesirable and striving to achieve unachievable goals within the region.

It was agreed that Australia should aim to be a prominent, properly resourced participant in nuclear diplomacy, in an age of nuclear revival, to strengthen non-proliferation, working towards a world without nuclear weapons, with an East Asian consensus on nuclear restraint and building a South East Asian nuclear cooperation community.

There was discussion of the doctrine of the responsibility to protect. It was suggested Australia could draft some kind of ‘means test’ or more comprehensive criteria. The underlying concern was agreed to be the protection of human rights, and there was discussion about the most appropriate response—military, non-military or combined civil–military. There was support for the view that community building and assistance to fragile states is a more effective pre-emptive measure to address a situation where human rights violations are likely to develop.

These discussions resulted in the following ideas.

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### IDEAS

10.15 Reaffirm our commitment to the international rule of law and ensure that Australian commitment to gender equality is reflected in all aspects of domestic and foreign policy.

10.15.1 Commit to implementing domestic obligations consistent with our international and human rights obligations, including the consideration of the domestic implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

10.15.2 Develop a Commonwealth statutory Bill of Rights.

10.15.3 Develop multilateral treaty obligations in the areas of trade, human rights, labour and environment.

10.15.4 Review domestic legislation for human rights impacts and compliance.

10.15.5 Repudiate the doctrine of pre-emptive self-defence.

10.16 Pursue nuclear disarmament.

10.16.1 Establish an Ambassador for Disarmament.

10.16.2 Create properly resourced nuclear disarmament diplomacy, built on regional cooperation on nuclear expertise and non-proliferation.

10.17 Create deeper institutional engagement with a view to state and peace building.

10.17.1 Strengthen collective security.

10.17.2 Support the UN Peace-Building Commission.

10.17.3 Use preventive diplomacy.

10.17.4 Establish civil–defence partnerships.

10.17.5 Establish a deployable public service.
Major powers: engagement with the United States, Japan, China and India

Participants considered that the term ‘power’ should be changed to reflect the fact that all key majors were trading partners of Australia and that the main opportunities created by these countries to 2020 rested with their economies. The theme title was therefore changed to ‘Engagement of major regional economies: the United States, Japan, China and India’.

Participants reviewed the key policy ideas that had come together from previous discussions and noted that a concept of an East West Institute had been suggested. They agreed that a key ambition for Australia should be to play a mediating role between eastern and western civilisations given the rise of India and China but that there were risks as well as opportunities. A participant noted that it was vital not to lose sight of the importance of India to Australia’s future. Compared with the United States, China and Japan, research into and study of India was neglected in Australia. If an East West Institute was not attractive as an option, possibly the government should establish and or better fund institutes covering Australia–United States, Australia–China, Australia–Japan and Australia–India. This would ensure a deep Australian understanding of these countries’ politics, economies, societies and cultures.

It was noted that there are economic opportunities created in our relations with the four majors. Several participants agreed that energy security was a key linking theme in our relations with them. Australia was a major supplier of energy and raw materials to China and Japan and increasingly to India; we also had major energy interests with the United States. Energy and energy security concerns were a source of opportunity and risk for Australia in its relations with the majors. Several participants voiced strong support for Australia taking a leading role in fostering energy security in the region: they noted that was a vital part of Australia’s future prosperity and that Australia had strong standing as an energy supplier. This gave Australia a key role in leading policy development on energy security and climate change. At the same time Australia should embed its future security and prosperity in promoting economic growth in the region and promoting capital mobility in the region.

Out of these early discussions the following general ideas were suggested:

- Establish an East West Institute.
- Ensure that Australia has established well-resourced study institutes covering the United States, Japan, China and India.
- Create trilateral dialogue with China and India, focusing on climate change and energy.
- Become a key player in emerging forums on climate change and energy.
- Take a lead role in fostering energy security in the region.
- Use forums such as the ASEAN plus 6 and the East Asia Summit to promote strategic dialogue and economic integration in East Asia.
- Due to insufficient transparency and reciprocation, seek greater policy coordination among Australian agencies in their interaction with the United States.
- Australia should invest surplus energy sales in solutions for climate change.
- Establish a regional peacekeeping centre to train Pacific regional armed forces, community and government leaders in mediation, conflict resolution and capacity building.

One participant referred to the idea of a regional 2020 meeting. In response, however, another participant suggested that this might be seen to be imposing an Australian template on the region.
After reviewing and considering these discussions, participants concluded that the following concrete policy ideas had garnered majority support from the group.

**IDEAS**

10.18 Establish a Regional Energy Security Forum, including all four majors and Australia.

10.19 Prepare a regular public report on the US–Australia alliance, which will force the government to explain what is happening in the US–Australia relationship.

10.20 Establish an Australia–Japan regional peacekeeping centre.

10.21 Establish and fund four study centres covering the four majors to ensure Australia has a deep understanding of these countries’ politics, economies, societies and cultures.

**TOPICS AND ISSUES NOT DISCUSSED**

At the end of the discussions, participants left with the co-chairs and the facilitation team, a list of themes and issues in relation to which time had not allowed further discussion:

- The possibility of reducing demand, limiting economic growth and encouraging society to adopt lifestyle expectations that are sustainable.

- Phase out the military response in Afghanistan while recognising that the motivation of defence personnel is usually altruistic and humanitarian. As part of this, ensure that returning Iraqi- and Afghanistan-deployed personnel are treated with respect.

- How are Australia’s Future Fund and private superannuation investments affecting safety and security? We need to ensure that investments meet socially responsible benchmarks, do not take from the poorer people to make richer groups richer and do not undermine social cohesion.

- Refugees and immigration detention: consideration of an end to prison-like detention centres, more community support, and an end to bridging visas, which don’t give access to welfare benefits and don’t allow the holder to work.

- What is the role of the media, advertising and social behaviour in Australia on security?

- In the event of carbon trading, we need to ensure there is not an increase in inequality both domestically and internationally.

- Introduce more training within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on ‘ways of knowing’ and on regional and world views.

- Ensure that all policies are people centred and include measurable gender indicators, including gender intelligence.

- The government should not proceed with buying cluster bombs, should commit to not introducing armed police or military to areas that do not yet have arms, and should take more action against the trade in small arms.

- The government should look at expanding and re-balancing international volunteering programs to include south-south volunteering and peer-to-peer youth volunteering.

- Consideration should be given to how Australia’s migration policy would respond in 2020 to large-scale and unexpected arrivals as a consequence of climate change.

- Expand the aid budget to include our far Pacific neighbours in Latin and South America.
• Establish a research alliance focused on energy, food, water, defence and security, which would be multi-disciplinary and multi-organisational and would include regional organisations.

• Ensure that agriculture and rural livelihoods are a priority in every country strategy to address biodiversity, food security and climate change.

• Given that global military spending is $1.2 trillion, it would be useful to discuss this in the context of security thinking and action: it is relevant to Australia’s resource allocation for the spectrum of security threats and demands we face.

• Provide alternative, equitable models of business and trade as a means of contributing to the eradication of poverty in the region.

• Increase Australia’s diplomatic role as a peace and conflict resolution facilitator.

• Reform the disaster management framework to reflect local, state, national and regional capabilities.
Following is the full list of ‘ambition’ comments received from individual stream participants.

- By 2020 Australia should be an engaged, cosmopolitan and pragmatic nation. A key ambition is for Australia to have greater institutional engagement, a commitment to global governance and regional engagement. The summit should articulate what Australia stands for in the world and discuss how these interests will evolve over the next 12 years.

- Australia needs to develop ideas for its future in the world that take into account what can be achieved in practice, given our limited ‘clout’ internationally, so we need to focus on our region.

- Looking ahead, the big change in Australia’s international environment will be Asia’s increased profile and Asia’s (India’s and China’s) role in shaping global forces and outcomes; Australia will need to adapt to this.

- To achieve security, prosperity and quality of life, Australia should be an engaged global citizen within our region by 2020 through the strategic integration of the study of Asian languages and societies at all levels of the education system, encouragement to live study and work in Asia, and participation in collectively addressing the common challenges of the region.

- By 2020 Australia should be integrated into the region in educational, linguistic and security terms. We should be global citizens with a familiarity with the cultures of the world and region. The summit should signal the need to transform educational policy towards the societies of our region, to help us integrate better with the Asia–Pacific and improve our security.

- A big idea would be to appeal to Australians’ sense of adventure and curiosity by sending tens of thousands of young Australians into the Asian region for extended study and residence, using local languages. In-country and overseas study needs to be facilitated through a new Asian studies curriculum in schools. By 2020 as many Australians should be studying overseas as foreigners now study here.

- Australia will need a comprehensive national plan for the teaching and learning of Asian languages and studies across all levels. We need to understand and work with others in our region.

- By 2020 Australia should be a world leader in global collaboration and facilitation, with policy analysis based on synergies, identifying how problems could be solved simultaneously. Foreign policy would be integrated with domestic and social policy.

- The summit would permit recognition of the need for a cross-fertilisation of ideas and the development of a new paradigm of policy that stressed integration of policy challenges and the interconnectedness of challenges, including climate change and counter-terrorism.

- The world of 2008 saw Australia facing broad and diverse challenges such as climate change, terrorism and the rise of new Asian powers, but policy was driven too much by trade-offs and balancing; foreign and domestic policy divided artificially. The interconnectedness of challenges was not sufficiently recognised.

- By 2020 Australia should be a fearless advocate for human and trade union rights in the Asia–Pacific region, and in doing so we are not concerned about harm to economic relations because we are confident business will continue despite strained relations. By so doing, Australia started a trend: pressure on authoritarian and elitist regimes increased and one by one they crumbled peacefully as in Eastern Europe in 1989.
By 2020 Australia would have developed into an effective middle-power democracy that values and upholds human rights, strong communities and a sustainable environment, strongly supporting the United Nations and drawing on the expertise in civil society.

A key ambition for 2020 would be to reposition Australia as an effective and responsible international citizen in the region and the world. The summit should address climate change, international citizenship and a fairer, just Australia. The breakthrough should be that Australia was really positioned and respected in the Asia–Pacific—a new model of democracy and engagement.

Policy options that should be considered are establishment of a regional climate change multi-stakeholder working group with clear targets and time lines; active engagement in the United Nations; and introduction of mandatory corporate reporting of social and environmental implications of Australian companies doing business in the region.

By 2020 Australia would have helped bridge the north-south divide and galvanised Australians to meet domestic and global challenges creatively.

The most important topics for the summit should be reconciliation, environment, governance and conflict prevention, taking account of the views of the Youth Summit and those with limited voice.

By 2020 Australia has shown great leadership in both a multi-dimensional functional response to short-to medium-term community needs but also providing regional and global leadership through mentoring on proven solutions to health, security and economic development.

Australia should aim to secure important investment in and development of our economy, which could translate in practical terms into a more advanced, equitable community and be an important facilitator of global economic and environmental solutions.

A key ambition is for Australia to act independently while maintaining strong multilateral and bilateral alliances based on the economy and trade, politics, and our past and our future.

By 2020 Australia should become an influential middle power in a digital age, effectively assisting Australians while supporting others, with a well-informed public able to effect change and challenging the process of policy formulation and execution.

By 2020 Australia should be using its strategic resources and people to help create prosperity, sustainability, peace and security in the region.

By 2020 Australia should have redeemed its role of global citizen and creative middle power by driving progress towards a Nuclear Weapons Convention to remove a huge threat of global meltdown. We should seize the power of the sun, wind and waves to show how energy security can be sustainable.

Australia must recover its international reputation (now in tatters), remove the threat of nuclear exchange, and define ‘security’ to include human security to address threats such as food, water, HIV and climate change. Food, not weapons, should be stockpiled. Our relationship with the United States should be modernised. We should be more independent in our views and policy at the United Nations, regionally and bilaterally.

By 2020 Australia should be open, secure and prosperous; we should have helped the world negotiate peacefully through polarising tensions. Education will be vital to build for the future—to overcome fear borne of lack of exposure and experience.

Australia’s ambition for 2020 should be closer political, economic and human integration between Australia and the South Pacific. We should open our labour market and explore the possibility of Australian Defence Force recruitment of Pacific Islanders.
- Australia’s big challenge is to manage the decline in US and western power relative to the rise of new Asian superpowers peacefully; we should retain a ‘sphere of influence’ in the South Pacific to avoid to greater influence by outside powers, including China.

- A key outcome from the summit should be national consensus on embracing large change or creating new systems to deal with issues, rather than incremental change or improvement to legacy systems.

- A key ambition should be that globalisation and technology development create realisable circumstances for global peace through weapons countermeasures and global-scale multilateral security organisations.

- By 2020 Australia should be recognised as a leader in conflict management and global forward planning.

- Key issues to address include nuclear non-proliferation and reduction, and prevention of the spread of various security threats. We should lead by example in the nuclear field; focus on our own region first; play a key role as a mediator and not over-extend ourselves strategically or environmentally.

- A key ambition for Australia in 2020 would be for police and other security agencies to harness new technologies, create a culture of innovative thinking, policy and practice, and create new structures appropriate to the 21st century. We need to aim for a decrease in crime and security threats through the reform of old structures and innovation. We need to recognise that old structures die hard and use new investment, fiscal incentives and research to overcome resistance.

- By 2020 Australia should be integrated into the region as a respected contributor, particularly to the ASEAN Plus processes. We should aim for huge economic and cultural gains from our region, with a focus on educational exchanges.

- By 2020 Australia should be seen as an insider in our Asian neighbourhood, and our South Pacific neighbours would see Australia as a partner that engages with equality and dignity; we need to be more independent, not just an extension of the United States. We need to build our prosperity, our people and our skills base through stronger links to our neighbours. All Australians should be comfortable with their neighbourhood.

- In particular, we should strengthen our focus on India and the Indian Ocean. India should be one of our top three relationships, along with the United States and China. We should encourage action on climate change by all countries in Asia, including China and India.

- By 2020 Australia should be a leading player in promoting nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament as part of the East Asian community—setting a blueprint for the world. We should be a regional centre for the safe supply of nuclear fuel and expertise to help the region’s energy needs and mitigate climate change. Our nuclear diplomacy should have contributed to global disarmament and stability. Australia should try to escape a fate of reduced production and growth associated with the export of dirty energy.

- By 2020 Australians should be able to speak at least one Asian language, and the nation should be a regional hub for clean energy technology, including nuclear technology.

- Australia should aim to be a creative and activist middle power, an interlocutor between China and the rest of Asia and the United States and Europe. We should be an expert but sensitive protagonist of Australian values in the region; a bridge between cultures, and a driver of innovation.

- To achieve these aims we need to have a clear, positive definition of our national identity and value based around multiculturalism and reconciliation. At the summit we need to discuss how to advance
these aims through boosting Asian languages and using forums such as APEC and second-track dialogues.

• By 2020 we need to be a deeply Asia-literate society—economically, culturally and socially integrated with Asia, including through listening and learning.

• A key ambition for 2020 is that Australia should embrace new ideas about how best to engage in regional and global prosperity to promote regional peace and become a genuine part of the eastern hemisphere. Education in world languages, culture, history, politics and economics should be driven by a desire to be viewed as ‘global citizens’ first and Australians second—a contentious idea.

• These ideas should help position Australia in a global context, so that by 2020 Australian attitudes about our place in the world and world perceptions of us have changed. Education policies need to promote Asian language and context—a national, open-minded, globally focused curriculum.

• Australia should develop an overarching framework for furthering Australia’s security and prosperity by prioritising the challenges confronting the nation and articulating policy responses. The key challenges are climate change; food, water and energy security; pandemic diseases and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. A commission should be established to advise government on optimal responses to food, water and energy insecurity, and Australia should mount a major national initiative designed to manage the impact of climate change in partnership with the region.

• By 2020 Australia’s vision of security and prosperity should have become more inclusive of the rights and needs of other peoples and nations, with policies putting into practice the values of compassion, justice and inter-cultural respect.

• Australia will need to cultivate a model of middle-power diplomacy that encourages a multilateral framework for resolving conflicts and for fostering values, principles and capacities among Australians that promote a culture of peace locally, nationally and internationally. A more inclusive approach with collaboration between governments, civil society and empowered citizens is needed to construct good policies and a participatory, self-critical approach to implementation.

• By 2020 Australia needs to be better engaged and connected with the world and the region. We need to improve our cross-cultural literacy and improve the language skills of the community. The summit should set a goal for getting savvy about our neighbours. We need to better leverage off our strong relationships in the Asia–Pacific region (including alumni and expatriate connections) to achieve economic, security, development and environmental outcomes; we need to understand the dynamics and power structures at play.

• To achieve a more engaged and connected Australia by 2020, old-style thinking, fear-driven and small-minded approaches and Anglo-Celtic world views and assumptions will need to be challenged. Otherwise Australia is in danger of being left behind, and our interests will be sidelined.

• By 2020 Australia should be a republic; a good neighbour secure in the region and with a deep understanding of the people of countries of the region; a proud member of the Pacific community, which is a common market where people move freely across borders; and a confident trading nation, where rights are respected and workers valued.

• Australia should be an active participant in the UN Human Rights Council and commissions, leading with programs to implement human rights observance here and abroad. A nation where women fill at least 30 per cent of all private and public senior positions, where pay inequality is in the past, achieved by mandating quotas for participation and rebates for private compliance. By 2020 we should have held our next constitutional convention, entrenching human rights. An Aboriginal woman should be our president, and we will have had our first woman Prime Minister and chief justice.
• Australia should be a rigorous friend to the region in foreign affairs, a leader on state-building and
governance and using our aid to promote successful programs towards the achievement of the MDGs,
especially empowering women.

• By 2020 Australia should be a partner and continue as an active sponsor of the social, cultural and
economic development of the region, part of an active regional governance forum that contemplates
regional governance concerns. The forum will set commonly agreed objectives and targets and will
operate in a wider multilateral context of a reformed United Nations, which will have an expanded
Security Council.

• By 2020 there will be an increased movement of people, with workers able to travel more freely across
borders. Australia’s decision making and leadership should reflect the make-up of our community, and
we should advance the issue of reconciliation and finally address the underlying causes of Indigenous
poverty and disadvantage.

• By 2020 Australia should be a uniquely embedded and diversified state in its breadth and depth of
interests. We will have hedged masterfully the risks evident in 2008, but the benefits accruing from the
opportunities of 2008 have been substantially consumed. The profound breakthrough at the 2020
summit was that Australia realised it must become embedded with all the new growth poles to create
the best kind of trust—that of mutually assured prosperity through joint recognition and tackling of
risks. The summit should open the eyes of the policy community beyond issues such as the US
alliance, Sino-Japan, Taiwan, North Korea. The non–East Asian, non-Euro offshoot world entered the
debate.

• By 2020 Australia must be for the first time meaningfully strategically self-sufficient, which means that
alliances, while critical, will be supportive of our national interests, not driving policy. To achieve this
we will have had to build Australia’s hard and soft power capabilities so we can determine our own
economic framework. We’ll need to be aware of potentially great dislocations in Asia, North America
and Europe generating significant migratory and health pressures. There is no linear projection of
possible political and economic trends.

• Australia will need a strategic policy coordinating and planning body in the Department of the Prime
Minister and Cabinet and an evolving grand strategy. We’ll require appropriate soft power skills and
assets to create Australian prestige and authority abroad and identity security and motivation at home.
We need to see that our future will change. We must control it by planning and self-sustaining
development. The international community and alliances will not protect us.

• The 2020 Summit should lead to a new national commitment to re-imagine multiculturalism as outward
looking, to create a nation that engaged globally with diverse culture and societies, especially in
Australia’s region. Australia needs a multilateral foreign policy commitment to global good citizenship
while securing our trade and security interests as Asia rises.

• The key to Australia’s future will be enhanced linguistic and cross-cultural skills, especially Asia-
literacy. The key breakthrough from the summit would ideally be the government’s embrace of a wide
range of funding initiatives in foreign affairs, education, trade and mainstreaming Asian literacy,
reversing the catastrophic collapse in national Asia literacy since the mid-1990s. We should move
from being the lowest ranked OECD nation in second language skills to become a global leader by
2020. By 2020 rising Asia literacy should contribute to a fall in hostility toward Asia and increased
social cohesiveness, including for Muslims and local communities. Australia should be a model for
dealing with social, cultural and religious tensions.

• By 2020 Australia should be an engaged middle power, acting as a foreign policy entrepreneur that is
agile, imaginative, creative and active.
The key breakthrough from the summit should be an acceptance of the certainty of change without specific predictions. Australia must focus on building capacity—knowledge, skills and resilience. In doing so we must rise above opposition between stories of triumph and infamy in our national discourse by building a sense of confidence and pride in ourselves while being engaged and humble towards other nations.

By 2020 Australia will be recognised as a good international citizen that has leveraged its soft power status as a wealthy, democratic and culturally diverse and cohesive state for concrete foreign policy returns. It has served on the Security Council, played a role in reforming the United Nations and been proactive on issues such as global poverty, disease, terrorism management and global warming. Australia will need to recognise the complexities of globalisation and proactively prepare itself to meet the challenges. Change will not be easy, and significant policy adjustments will meet resistance.

The most important topics at the summit should be new approaches to the application of power and influence; intelligence reform, building new relationships with new partners across a wider agenda; streamlining the domestic intelligence community; and greater financial investment in soft power.

By 2020 Australia will be well placed to survive as a functioning and safe nation and society because our geography and policies protect us from the global chaos created by the pandemic of 2012, the financial crash of 2013, and the oil war of 2016.

The summit helped us find the courage and vision to hope for the best but plan for the worst; to envisage policies for water, energy and the disease pandemic that buffered us, and wider international shocks and contribute to peace and security in the region.

By 2020 Australia should be a leader and example of best practice, balancing between innovation and adopting proven global initiatives. We should strengthen regional ties and exchanges, sharing ideas and strategies. We should seek a stronger involvement on the ground in the region through volunteers, students and policy makers.

The profound breakthrough from the summit should be to refocus military planning, strategic planning and capability development to respond to the realities of regional engagement and need.

By 2020 Australia is a model international ‘good citizen’ committed to the rule of law, peaceful resolution of differences and sustainable global economic and social systems based on democratic principles and, importantly, practice.

The summit should begin by developing a process of shifting the initiative to the broader population and generating a new national consensus to adapt to inevitable changes and new realities—to shift the economic and social consensus from consumption to investment, sustainability and inclusion.

By 2020 Australia would be a country that continued to be comprehensively engaged in the Asia–Pacific region and one that stood for and promoted a vigorous and healthy internationalism abroad.

In 2020 Australia would be a country that continued to seek and foster security and institutional strength in the Pacific.

By 2020 Australia would have been successful in convincing the United States that multilateralism can work in Asia, provided the relevant forums concentrated on matters of real substance—arms control, governance, democratic progress, and so on.

The summit should recommend that more Commonwealth resources be devoted to long-term policy planning and the development of a whole-of-government national security policy planning group within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, drawing on relevant agencies.
• By 2020 Australia would be a leader in contributing to conflict resolution and a global advocate for human rights, drawing on an Australian society that respects diversity and is harmonious and equitable.

• Australian policy approaches would be innovative and flexible in 2020. Australia would recognise that the choices it made were not a zero-sum equation. For instance, strong relations with the United States could exist side by side with good relations with other countries and active participation in multilateral forums.

• In 2008 Australia’s concept of its national security was too narrowly conceived. The summit was an opportunity to ensure that by 2020 it would encompass the full range of emerging non-military threats, including climate change, resource competition, global wealth disparities and pandemics.

• By 2020 Australia would have fully embraced a holistic approach to combating terrorism, one that places emphasis on recognising and respecting diversity. Australia’s current counter-terrorism legislation would have been amended.

• By 2020 Australia would be a world leader in Asian language teaching, including the best research-led pedagogy.

• Australia should foster literary talent in the region, including through regional a literary award, akin to the Booker Prize, to attract and promote the best Asian and Pacific writers.

• In 2020 the depth and breadth of Australia’s engagement with the Asia–Pacific region would be a model for our engagement with the rest of the world.

• In 2020 Australia would continue to educate international students, particularly from Asia, as a means of increasing our understanding of foreign cultures and building longer lasting economic ties. There would be recognition of the benefit to Australia of student-to-student links and friendships.

• By 2020 Australia would be an astute, celebratory, respectful, wise and engaged nation that understands its place in the world and embraces the interests of the globe as a whole.

• By 2020 the notions, programs and spirit of international volunteering would ensure that good global citizenship is the paradigm that drives our foreign policy, including our approach to development assistance.

• Australia would understand in 2020 that the ‘common wealth’ is to be shared by all communities, rather than secured behind an artifice of a protective mind-set that cannot face a future for all.

• By 2020 a nation’s wellbeing, rather than its poverty or wealth, would be the basis on which we looked at other countries.

• In 2020 Australia would have abandoned progress as the driver of its policies and would have instead embraced solidarity and hospitality as the foundation on which it build its international approach.

• By 2020 Australia would have implemented policies that link individuals, organisations and communities in sustainable relationships of mutuality and respect.

• By 2020 Australia would be an active and respectful nation that supports nations facing challenges and has a stronger, more flexible and more robust framework for responding to international disasters, based on a coherent strategy.

• In 2020 development assistance would lie at the core of our approach to helping nations recover from disasters.
• Through the Council of Australian Governments and the Police Ministers Council, in 2020 agreement has been sought with state governments to develop a strategic preparedness report, which would ensure that Australian households were better prepared for an increased occurrence of natural disasters. By 2020 state and federal barriers to coordinated disaster management have been removed.

• By 2020 Emergency Management Australia has become a Council of Australian Governments agency.

• In 2020 Australia has withstood the consequences of a pandemic that struck in 2012 and the twice-yearly Cyclone Larry–like events.

• By 2020 Australia has abandoned the 2008 paradigm. It looks outwards and recognises the new global challenges, including their interconnection, and has adopted an approach that ensures we can guarantee our future and be a global leader.

• The summit has allowed Australia to actively tackle climate change, to implement strategies to boost Pacific regional security, to explore alternative sources of energy, and to fully embrace the rights of Indigenous Australians, including their political role. By 2020 this last point has been enshrined in domestic legislation and informed Australia’s approach to the relevant international statutes.

• The summit should prompt new thinking, so that by 2020 Australia is a true global leader in responding to climate change, adopting alternative sources of energy and boosting Indigenous prosperity.

• By 2020 a Pacific Federation has been achieved. Australia is closely integrated in the Asia–Pacific region, including as a full member of all regional economic and security forums. Australia would also be an active contributor to international organisations.

• Flowing from the summit, by 2020 Australia will understand the relationship between regional engagement, our status as a republic, and our own national integration.

• In 2008 too much was spent on unproductive sectors such as defence. A key ambition for 2020 should be increasing health and education opportunities and ensuring they are the focus for Australia’s foreign and defence policy.

• By 2020 Australia has improved the education system and boosted rural and regional development, including through increased federal and state cooperation.

• By 2020 Australia has re-invigorated its national oceans policy.

• Bureaucratic ‘stove-piping’ has been addressed by 2020.

• One view expressed at the summit was that in 2008 Australia was seen too often as a white, western country. By 2020 this will have changed.

• In 2020 our engagement in the Asia–Pacific region will have been promoted through the development of our common maritime interest, which aims to protect and secure the oceans.

• An ambition for 2020 should be that Australia will be a major regional country that contributes to building peace, understand the importance of respecting other cultures, and provides technology to increase access to water and food for the poor in the Indian Ocean region.

• In 2020 Australia has stopped thinking of the world in terms of boundaries.

• Australia will deal with extremism of all kinds and has abandoned the 2008 mind-sets that put up barriers between people.

• By 2020 Australia will be focused on the people and will be its own master.
• In 2020 Australia will be working cooperatively on the ground with people, around Australia and elsewhere, building on its diaspora connections.

• In 2020 Australia understands the region and the world and no longer sees them through US eyes.

• By 2020 Australians will be Australians and not anything else. Australia will be seen as a global example of freedom and opportunity, with strong democratic institutions and the best health and education systems in the world.

• By 2020 Australia will have used the wealth generated by our natural resources to build a knowledge economy and will have become a global leader in science, education and the understanding of other cultures.

• Australia will be using this expertise in 2020 to the benefit of neighbouring countries through educational exchanges (along the lines of the Colombo Plan) and building goodwill.

• By 2020 Australia’s international aid programs will focus on building capacity in the region to ensure the benefits of the aid are long-lasting.

• In 2020 Australia will have built national institutions that have endured through many changes of government.

• In 2020 Australia encourages innovative and fresh thinking at home and in partner countries.

• Unlike in 2008, in 2020 long-term thinking lies at the centre of Australian policy making.

• A key goal of the summit should be that by 2020 Australia is committed to social justice and parity of wealth and opportunity. In 2020 Australia will have shed the role of ‘deputy sheriff’. Its words will be matched by its deeds, and it will be committed to seeking to understand the grievances of others, both at home and overseas.

• Australia will be spiritually engaged and cosmopolitan in 2020. Australia’s missions abroad will be cosmopolitan hubs.

• By 2020 Australia will have embraced revolutionised rationality. It will be a techno-rational and contemplative society that accepts its universal responsibility.

• Australians will in 2020 understand and practise attentive love and *dadirri*. (A unique gift of the Aboriginal people, *dadirri* is deep inner listening and quiet, still awareness, recognising the deep spring that is inside all people.)

• The summit needs to ensure that by 2020 Australia is be committed to the Millennium Development Goals, as well as to international and intra-national harmony and cohesion.

• By 2020 Australians will be undertaking mindfulness training. Australia will have harnessed its multi-civilisation resources and recognised the salience of Indigenous culture. Knowledge of Indigenous culture will have extended to cities, towns and the tourist industry.

• In 2020 Australia will use ‘gross national happiness’ as a way of measuring its success as a society.

• By 2020 Australia will have become a much more considerate and culturally aware nation. Australia will engage more effectively with Asian neighbours through linguistic and cultural competence.

• The summit has ensured that by 2020 mutual respect and understanding of Australia’s neighbours will have helped us sit more comfortably in Asia.
• The 2008 view of Australia’s national security is too narrow. By 2020 Australia will have a broader conception of its security, including recognising the threat of climate change.

• By 2020 Australia will have implemented a national water conservation plan and boosted the quality of its education system.

• By 2020 Australia will have relocated its agricultural industry to northern Australia, resulting in higher productivity and allowing the use of the natural rainfall closer to Asia. Australia will also have established trade hubs in northern Australia through the use of an improved rail system.

• The summit should ensure that every Australian child will have the opportunity to learn a foreign language in 2020.

• By 2020 Australia will be recognised as a country that is mature, calm and secure in its place and in its relationships with the region. It will be a genuine global citizen, with strong boundaries around its behaviour. These would be based on inclusive humane policies that build long-term trust.

• In 2020 Australian security policy would include responsible hard policies, which do not create public compliance and thus private resentment. Australia’s security policy would also include grass-roots long-term soft policies that address the root causes of radicalisation and terrorism.

• The summit will prompt an understanding that, like health care, successful security outcomes are rare.

• Australia will have an expanded concept of security and prosperity that includes truly preventive measures. Australia will have understood that preventive security requires a long-term commitment.

• Australia’s responsibility spectrum would include the Asia–Pacific region.

• The summit will enable a breakthrough in national thinking. When considering the future impact of the implementation of policy in a complex region, Australia should look forward three to six generations.

• The fear and ‘group-think’ of 2008 will by 2020 have been overcome by steady ethical, honest leadership within Australia. This leadership will have assisted in the development of better international relationships.

• Unlike in 2008, by 2020 Australia will have recognised that its prosperity is tied to the Asia–Pacific region. In 2020 Australians will speak the languages of the region and know themselves by knowing others. Australians will have developed regional expertise that informs and educates public opinion about the Asia–Pacific region.

• In 2020 Australians will be active regional and global citizens who contribute to a sustainable and shared prosperity.

• Australia will be comfortable communicating with its neighbours. There will be a public discourse between Australia and its neighbours.

• A key goal of the summit should be to put in place a strategy to ensure that by 2020 Australians are working collaboratively in innovation and research as a means of providing solutions to global problems. Australia’s efforts in these endeavours would provide a platform on which we build our international reputation.

• In 2020 Australia will be a wealthy democracy, but it will be constrained in an increasingly severe way by climatic and water-related problems.
• In 2020 Australia will continue to promote ideas and initiatives to advance prosperity and political openness in Asia and the Pacific, but in relative terms its standing, influence and leverage are not as strong as they were in 2008.

• The summit should ensure that by 2020 Australia has redirected much of its development assistance through the private sector, universities and non-government organisations in countries in our region and no longer relies on working through weak regional governments.

• In 2020 Australia will be effectively leading and helping the Asia–Pacific region to adapt to the profound challenges facing the region. Australia will be well regarded in the region and will have established an enormous amount of goodwill.

• An idea identified at the summit was that by 2020 Australian development assistance programs should be focused on concrete local capacity building, sustainable agriculture, water provision, energy production, and city planning.

• By 2020 Australia’s strong engagement with the region has many delivered many benefits. The region is secure and prosperous despite overall global trends, which include food shortages, lack of clean drinking water, increased natural disasters, and fossil fuel shortages.

• By 2020 Australian exports have been redirected to include innovations such as solar energy.

• Australia will by 2020 find its security in the world and the region, not from it. Australia will recognise that its security is tied to the stability of Indonesia and the Pacific and that its border security depends on the strength of the justice and policing systems in Asia.

• Australia will be working to ensure climate security by encouraging the green growth of India and China.

• The summit should ensure that by 2020 Australia will have adopted and implemented a strategy for peace building in the region. The components of this strategy would include a coherent intelligence and analytical capability, a bureaucratic reserve that could be deployed to regional trouble spots, and an overarching paradigm for our development assistance program that emphasises investment, not aid.

• In 2020 Australia will be a true friend of the region, contributing actively to the development of regional solutions. It has moved away from the ‘deputy sheriff’ role.

• Coming out of the 2008 summit, Australia should implement a review of the possible challenges to Australia’s prosperity and security.

• By 2020 Australian law enforcement, policing and criminal justice agencies have built truly effective partnerships, enabling them to deal effectively with criminal and other threats.

• By 2020 Australians feel comfortable that the right balance has been found between the rights of the individual and the protection of the community.

• In 2020 Australia has begun to move from having courts of law to having courts of truth and justice.

• From the 2008 Summit have emerged effective frameworks that enable continuation of the dialogue initiated by the summit and give effect to the ideas that were thrown up by the summit.

• The summit should aim to ensure that the biggest change that occurs between 2008 and 2020 is that Australians have adopted a real sense of community.

• By 2020 education has become the platform for developing opportunity for all Australians.
A key ambition for the summit should be that Australia reaches an understanding by 2020 that the greatest barriers to change are 'status quo' thinkers and lack of imagination. In 2020 Australia understands that rivalry and protection of bureaucratic turf between agencies and governments are also barriers to change.

Australia would be by 2020 a respected middle power that used its influence in the Asia–Pacific region and beyond to help broker considered diplomatic solutions to major global problems such as climate change. Australia would be committed to multilateralism and would 'look before it leapt'.

Out of the summit it was crucial that ideas emerged that enabled the formation of policies that promote regional engagement, strengthen the Australian identity, and help Australia achieve a greater understanding of its place in the world. As a means of achieving these goals a nationwide program for teaching Asian languages and studies (including the history, politics and economics of the region) should be introduced at all levels of the education system. The program should include the introduction of substantial in-country study programs.

By 2020 Australia is no longer scared of its Asian neighbours. In looking at its neighbours, Australia sees opportunity, not threat. This would be underpinned by greater mutual understanding and engagement.

By 2020 Australia, still a young country by international standards, has developed a capacity to make a difference. It has a great population, one that is diverse. Australia respects its local communities and helps new and emerging groups. Australia does not frighten or demonise its people.

Australia by 2020 has planned for the future and set itself big goals. Once the goals were agreed to, Australia stayed the course. New ways have been developed to judge our performance against the goals that have been set. We all understand.

In 2020 Australia works with its neighbourhood. It helps struggling democracies and see the countries in the Asia–Pacific region as genuine partners.

By 2020 federal, state and local governments understand the roles they should play.

The need to reduce parochial thinking and break down bureaucratic barriers in all countries was identified as a key goal for the summit to pursue. An ambition should be that by 2020 the conflict between the states and the federal government has been eliminated.

Australia is by 2020 a sensible and effective contributor and an international player of influence.

By 2020 Australia is committed to regional integration as its contribution to good global citizenship. Australia has developed a ‘Pacific Community’ within the Asia–Pacific region, which has helped the region become peaceful and prosperous. Australia has entered a new era of partnership and cooperation with its neighbours.

There was insufficient understanding in 2008 of the link between Australia’s prosperity and security and that of the region. The summit should come up with a strategy to ensure that by 2020 this has changed. By 2020 Australia should be in a position where it benefits from a secure and prosperous region, rendering unnecessary armed interventions such as the Regional Assistance Mission in the Solomon Islands. Security and prosperity in the region in 2020 would allow a greater focus on economic growth. By 2020 Australians are proud of having helped reduce poverty in the region.

By 2020 Australia exists in a safe, prosperous and equitable international community.
In 2008 Australia’s role in the region was undercut by our lack of understanding of different cultures. The summit needed to ensure that by 2020 Australia was a respected nation in harmony with regional states and supporting regional prosperity.

By 2020 Australia understands the true drivers of national and international security.

By 2020 Australian government policy reinforces social cohesion in Australia and drives productive international agendas.

By 2020 Australia understands the link between prosperity and development in the Asia–Pacific region and Australia. Australia also understands the emerging risks in the region and the emerging opportunities.

By 2020 Australia has introduced mechanisms enabling governments, business and non-government organisations to better capitalise on resources and ‘know how’ to better solve global problems.

By 2020 Australia has reduced economic disparities in Australia and within the region. Australia has also rethought notions of accountability.

In 2020 Australian foreign and expenditure policies are more focused. Priority is given to enhancing regional security, tackling climate change, dealing with global population growth, and encouraging global mobility.

By 2020 Australia is powerfully engaged multilaterally. It is a key player in the United Nations and in the region, including in regional institutions.

The 2008 summit should set greater integration with Asia as one of its goals and ensure that plans are in place, so that by 2020 this has become a reality.

In 2020 Australia upholds the international rule of law, is committed to respecting human rights, manages climate change to reduce human displacement, and has strengthened the international and regional architecture.

By 2020 Australia exists in a balanced world in which equity and justice are valued and promoted. Australia has learnt from the past. It celebrates the good things that had happened and grieves over the pain that was inflicted.

Unlike in 2008, in the Australia of 2020 dialogue has replaced conflict and cooperation has replaced competition. Australia is empathetic; it has lateral vision; and it leaves a light footprint. Trade is balanced in favour of weaker countries. Natural resources have been conserved. Policies and life choices are directed towards building a better future. Australia uses technology for the good of everyone and no longer follows blindly.

In 2020 Australia listens to silent voices. It also listens to those who do not like Australia and is open to change.

By 2020 Australia leads the world in having created a community educated to be globally literate, with a particular focus on the Asia–Pacific region.

The 2008 Summit committed to defining and implementing national education policies that were adequately resourced to effectively teach to all Australians languages and cultural understanding. By 2020 this has been done.

Building on the 2008 Summit, Australia has by 2020 committed itself to developing its place in the world through increasing emphasis on soft and smart power. Resources have been shifted from defence and intelligence to boosting public diplomacy, with a particular focus on conflict prevention.
• By 2020 national barriers have been overcome through the introduction of a comprehensive public education program that uses ideas and processes identified by the summit to engage communities throughout Australia.

• In 2020 Australia would be a world leader in eradicating poverty and restoring peace and stability by enabling the full participation of women, men, and girls and boys.

• By 2020 improving gender equality has become the overarching goal of Australia’s international development assistance and regional security policies.

• Australia would be working in 2020 in partnership with the region to create a more equitable world.

• Australia would have by 2020 reduced barriers to the participation of women in business and would have provided alternative masculine identities for men in the security sector.

• By 2020 Australia will support creative initiatives enabling the development of positive masculine identities. It will support initiatives to give woman confidence to stand up to intimidation, and it will have increased female participation in the security sector. ‘Old-school’ norms in the security sector and in business have been done away with. These changes have been facilitated by the shared real stories of how change can happen, which took place at the 2008 Summit.

• By 2020 there is an understanding in Australia that the region has not reached its full potential because half the population has been excluded. There has also been in Australia a change in values, attitudes and national priorities, and there is a move towards people-centred action.

• In 2020 Australia would be an international role model and good global citizen. It would be recognised as a desirable international education destination and would have introduced a ‘Colombo Plan’ for Africa. Its education system would have developed a better understanding of Asia across the Australian population. More Australians would have studied and lived in Asia. This would have helped Australia to become more closely engaged in Asia.

• Australia in 2008 was too ready to ignore international law. By 2020 Australia will respect and uphold international law. The doctrine of pre-emption will have been rejected.

• By 2020 Australia will have ensured that it is appropriately represented by capable delegations at key international events.

• Australia’s approach to helping solve the problems of the Asia–Pacific region would be determined by the recipients of Australian assistance and not by western or colonial-style solutions.

• By 2020 Australia will be a great global citizen of the region and will be working with other countries in genuine partnership to solve the region’s problems.

• By 2020, and in response to an international food and energy crisis, Australia will have developed a plan to deal with climate change, high oil prices and increased demand for biofuels.

• Australia will focus its aid program on poverty reduction and the achievement of mutually defined development goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals.

• Australia has improved its relationships with Pacific countries by offering assistance to those displaced by climate change and offering greater access to the Australian labour market.

• By 2020 Australia is a leading country providing solutions to resolve humanitarian and human rights problems.

• The Australian public would be involved in the development of government policy.
Australian children would think not just of themselves but also of their role in the community.

By 2020 Australia will be fully integrated into Asia. Mutual respect would underpin our relationships.

Australia would display the highest ethics and employ innovative communications using the best IT and other technologies.

In 2020 the government will have ensured that business and the academic community are fully engaged in its policy approach to Asia.

By 2020 better means of screening and protecting people from the threats posed by biological, chemical and radiological weapons will have been developed. These measures will be remote and non-intrusive.

By 2020 Australia will be investing substantially in science and technology as a means of boosting economic growth and our leadership in the region.

While hanging onto our Australian identity, by 2020 Australians will also be active global citizens with global perspectives.

By 2020 Australia will be a nation that thinks globally and bases its ideas on respect for the cultures and histories of the countries in its region. Australia will be fearless about embracing difference, instead of using it to its advantage.

Our key ambition by 2020 should be to educate our children to be globally intelligent and to ensure that Australia is able to train and reward this intelligence. This approach would enable Australia to stay nimble at a time of enormous change.

The key challenge for the summit should be to establish a strategy that would enable Australia, by 2020, to build mutuality into all its dealings with the region.

By 2020 policies should have been put in place to allow children to learn about the languages, histories, geographies, economies, arts and spiritual beliefs of the region.

By 2020 Australia would be a major middle power in the world and a strong contributor to economic advancement and world peace and stability. It would also be a model for how others should treat their own citizens.

Australia in 2020 would be seen as an important part of the Asia–Pacific region and a strong contributor to its prosperity and sustainability.

By 2020 Asian studies and the teaching of Asian languages will be commonplace.

By 2020 Australia will have free-trade agreements with every country in the Asia–Pacific region and an active and comprehensive program of cultural exchanges. Travel barriers in the region will have been broken down.

In 2020 Australia will see itself as part of the Asia–Pacific region and not as a European outpost.

By 2020 Australia will not be the ‘deputy sheriff’ but, having won the respect of the region, will be a regional leader. Australia will be a ‘regional facilitator’ of international law initiatives and will promote a democratic and just regional outlook.

By 2020 Australia will be a respected and respectful lead power in the region. This dramatic change took place as a result of the 2020 Summit in 2008, after which the Prime Minister decided to reorient Australia’s engagement with the Asia–Pacific region at all levels.
Following the summit, Australia rapidly became more responsive to the dire crises that many grass-roots communities in the region were experiencing.

By 2020 Australia will have undertaken to honour its due diligence in terms of its international covenants, especially Convention on the Elimination of All Forms Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The effect of these actions has been that communities in conflict and in post-conflict situations are stabilised by the protections given to women and girls. These include judicial and practical protections such as the introduction of anti-domestic violence protocols and measures to protect reproductive rights.

By 2020 the position of women in grass-roots communities in the region has been improved by the delivery of legal literacy programs and the introduction of primary and preventive health education, as well as the provision of medicines. Women are also able to safely and successfully contest national elections, leading to women’s parliamentary representation reaching 51 per cent across the region.

In 2020 Australia has ensured that humanitarian laws were disseminated through non-government organisations at a fraction of the cost of the aid provided in 2008.

By 2020 Australia has redefined its strategic objectives for enhancing its security by asserting itself as a legitimate and sincere middle power. Australia in 2020 would be interested in security from a people-centred perspective.

Funding for Asian studies would be diverted to universities from the public service.

As a respected regional power, by 2020 Australia has a better understanding of its strategic objectives and a better capacity (through mutual understanding) to enhance its security and prosperity and that of the region.

By 2020 Australia will have set up educational and cultural exchange programs and scholarship training, including with Myanmar and North Korea, whose human security needs had previously been forgotten.

By 2020 Australia will have created coalitions of middle powers that draw in Canada and the European Union to address security challenges and prosperity.

The summit should aim to ensure that by 2020 Australia is a more socially cohesive nation.

In 2020 Australia is a consistent and proactive leader in promoting social cohesion locally and globally. Australia has adopted an integrated local–national–regional–international system and approach to a broad concept of human security based on human rights.

By 2020 Australia has consolidated and enhanced its practice of treating its own citizens and others with dignity and respect. There is no longer a divide between security and human rights. Australia’s security approach also addresses transnational crime. Australia has undertaken a review of policing and established a regional security forum.

By 2020 Australia has methodically brought local, state and federal agencies together in partnership with key regional neighbours.

By 2020, Australia has become an inclusive regional leader that approaches security broadly and dynamically. Organisational and governmental ‘stovepipes’ have been broken down by political will and dynamic leadership and by buy-in from the grass roots.

In 2020 Australia is an enabling and cooperative leader in the region, having put in place measures to ensure sustainable progress. These measures are informed by a deep understanding of
the region and our role in it. As a consequence, Australia's security relationships have improved and the stability and prosperity of Australia's children is assured.

- By 2020 Australia understands the link between the region's prosperity and Australia's security. Coordination between bilateral and multilateral donors has been improved. Donors are more accountable for the aid they provide. Real aid effectiveness had been implemented. Stronger links have been established between research and development. There is a better developed mechanism for evolving from humanitarian intervention to development assistance. The delivery of aid is improved by better coordination and communication.

- By 2020 Australia will be a visionary leader on the international stage. We will have contributed to a global culture of rights protection—particularly in health and humanitarian crises.

- By 2020 a key breakthrough for Australia would be the understanding that security and rights are not mutually exclusive. In a shrinking world, Australia would understand that it is no longer an island and would be taking a cooperative, not competitive, approach to security and prosperity.

- By 2020 sovereignty has ceased to be an absolute right and had been reformed as a ‘responsibility to protect’, or R2P. R2P would have been implemented through the establishment of a special peacekeeping force and a deployable public service for governance capacity building. It would provide a consistent framework for cooperative security and rights protection. A health impact fund would have been set up to provide an incentive to companies to tackle disease in the developing world.

- In 2020 Australia's role as a peace facilitator in regional and international conflicts is much enhanced. By focusing on and promoting better conflict resolution skills with national education agendas, within community groups and at every level of government, a culture of conflict resolution has developed in Australia. This has enabled Australia to engage in a more productive manner in facilitating peaceful and productive ends to conflicts and crises.

- Following the summit policies were developed to integrate conflict resolution skills into national school curriculums, at universities and in the workplace.

- Following the summit Australia broke away from the close alliance with the United States and began introducing more independent policies based on a greater appreciation and acknowledgment of our place as a middle-weight country in Asia, rather than the misconception of Australia as a European or exclusively western country in the middle of nowhere.

- One of the barriers to change is people thinking that traditional security measures and military responses or violence are appropriate. They need instead to think that, when presented with a problem, crises or conflict, their first thought should be: how do we resolve this?

- By 2020 Australia should be an influential power with the capacity to broker understandings between widely divergent global interests, respected for its strong stand on human rights, and committed to dialogue and respect for difference.

- Australia should renew its commitment to a global culture of human rights and constructive and active global engagement with a focus on the Pacific and Asia. It should establish a reputation as a predictable and reliable development and aid partner and create stronger relations of trust and respect with neighbours.

- A key ambition should be the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the region beyond 2015, and the best idea would be to create a regional human rights institution. By 2020 a culture of human rights needs to be embedded and practised in nations of the region.
• By 2020 Australia should be a republic with a female Prime Minister of non-Anglo extraction, a bridge between East Asia and the declining west and a country trusted and accepted as part of Asia. There should be seamless interaction between Australia and the Asian region, its cultures and languages.

• A key goal will be a national strategy for Australia’s place in Asia covering our identity, Asia literacy and membership of regional bodies. Policy should be geared for Asian engagement through absorption of Asia literacy into the national psyche, including funded programs and investments in language, culture and education. Every student from kindergarten to year 12 should be fluent in an Asian language.