

SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN AUSTRALIA

The green paper (Cutler report) on innovation, [Venturous Australia](#), states that innovation is the imaginative response to opportunities, and identifies that the system requires renewal, refurbishment, recasting and where necessary, re-imagining. It notes the integral links between innovation and research, and the need to establish a culture that brings together the whole of the research community with industry to deliver benefits to the community. The green paper calls on government to integrate research across sectors, to commit to funding the full cost of research, to broaden and reinvigorate the CRC system, and to raise Australia's research commitment at least to the OECD average over the coming decade. We are proud of the high quality of Australian research, and we agree that our future prosperity, sustainable employment and our standing as a nation in our region and the world depends upon achieving the aims outlined in the green paper. The National Academies Forum welcomes in particular two major initiatives proposed in the green paper.

The National Academies Forum agrees that a move to full funding for research is of particular importance and should be achieved in the coming (2009) budget, as it will guarantee the resources to encourage collaboration throughout the innovation system, and simultaneously facilitate great improvements in university teaching.

The recommendation to reverse the decline of support for research over the past decade, and to achieve at least the OECD average, is equally important, and will require a long term commitment and has to be planned over the coming five to ten year period.

The National Academies Forum sees these issues as critical to Australia's economic prosperity and to our international credibility in the sciences, technologies and the humanities. We encourage our members to engage in the widest possible public discussions of the reasons why support for innovation in research will be one of the most important single determinants of Australia's future success. The issues that are under discussion are of long term importance to the viability of Australian innovation, industry and research. We hope that our members who agree will put a strong case for full funding for research, and for increasing Australia's support for innovation, to colleagues and to the public.

National Academies Forum

22 September 2008