

Media Release
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Green Paper gives Green Light

The Australian government panel reviewing the national innovation system has now tabled its green paper.

The review is insightful and holistically examines the status quo in Australia. In recognising the central role of entrepreneurial firms, the report calls for building up Australia's human capital and talent pool, improved information flows and better integration of the entire innovation system with other global efforts.

AIC Chief Executive Officer Dr Rowan Gilmore said that one of the strongest messages conveyed in this review was that 'the key actors in innovation in the economy are firms and their people, that commercialisation happens in the firm, and that governments can help firms to innovate through facilitation of skills development, establishing mechanisms for collaboration, and assisting them to access capital.'

"Collaboration between industry, research organisations and governments is an essential first step in improving the functioning of the innovation system," Dr Gilmore explained. "Although this is not a new finding, and an area where the AIC has consistently been working, this has not been a key focus of innovation policy in Australia until now".

The 700 submissions received by the review committee were examined by Leximancer, a data mining program commercialised by the University of Queensland. This mined the key themes and concerns raised in the submissions and organised them according to the views raised by the three stakeholder sectors: governments, research organisations and business.

"There was limited convergence in the views expressed by the three groups, it was as if Australia has three separate innovation systems rather than one," Dr Gilmore said.

"The solution to merging the three innovation systems into one is through ongoing and facilitated collaboration", he said. "The focus on collaboration to fill in the gaps is therefore not surprising. For almost four years the AIC has been quietly building collaborations between SMEs and the research sector through our TechFast program and between government and industry through our Government Innovation Services group."

The challenge has always been one of scale and longer-term government commitment to these activities, and the review now provides a mechanism through which such activities could be extended.

The Australian Institute for Commercialisation (AIC) provides innovation and collaboration services that help organisations grow.

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