

Committee Secretary

Australian Manufacturing Industry inquiry

Department of the Senate

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

AUSTRALIA

SENATE INQUIRY INTO MANUFACTURING IN AUSTRALIA

Dear Senators,

This inquiry is an opportunity to get Australia back on track to a sovereign nation after a decline in all aspects since 1971 when the dollar was taken off the gold stand and then Australia floating the Australian dollar in 1982

This resulted in Australia concentrating on financial services which reduced the real economy of manufacturing and agriculture. These graphs of Australia's decline is shown on your website of Trade and Investment

Our economic growth has been in continual decline since then and we are becoming more dependent on overseas countries for our basic needs. A side effect of that is a reduction of our middle class and an increase in poverty which has resulted in increase in homelessness, mental health problems with big increase in general poor health, suicide, with elder and child abuse. Our health system has consistently been attacked with closing of regional district hospital beds making any hundreds of km for people to travel for basic services and major services nearly impossible to access by a large proportion of the population.

This can be all tracked back to the takedown of our physical economy as a producer, Manufacturing. Australia needs to regain major resilience, a rise in living standards for all Australians.

The senate must look at what has happened to Australia over this period and write the wrongs.

Look at the era that Australia had in it's biggest growth period when we took advantage of having a Commonwealth National Bank which funded the great projects of car manufacturing, tool making, value adding with steel and Aluminium manufacturing.

This led to the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge ,the building of the Snowy Mountains Scheme with production of major water storage , electricity and irrigation, opening up new barren areas into productive farm land as a major food bowl. New towns were built and science flourished.

Training of the population through Tafe colleges in every town.

The railways had their Railway Training Institutes even supplying engineering through correspondence courses for country people employed on the railways across the country. colleges in favour of ill equipped , poor, incomplete training by private

We have nearly destroyed our Tafe training trainers. These training establishments only train in modules and do not give a complete training for someone to be qualified to go into business for themselves.

Australian engineers trained war veterans after Ww2 and many of the people travelled the world building dams in developing countries and were well sort after because of their excellent training and worth ethic.

As a registered nurse training in the 50-60's I met many of these retired and many injured people .

Australia has an opportunity to take our part in the massive growth of developing countries and increase our trade in more than a few niche market products.

There are many shovels ready projects in the Bradfield Scheme, the Reid Scheme, Inland Rail project,

With the Iron Boomerang Project in north Inland Australia will use our iron ore, coking coal to produce first grade steel that China will be happy to buy for their fulfilment of the massive steel increase use in developing countries. 160 countries are working with China for major infrastructure and manufacturing, new town and cities are being built. New ports, rail corridors, power stations.

Australia can play a big part with manufacturing this first stage of steel and aluminium as we have the raw materials where a third of what we export as raw materials is our precious soil.

Many of our brilliant inventors and designers cannot get the support in Australia and inevitably sell these technologies to overseas at great loss to Australia.

Now we have an Australian manufacturer of PPE and now the initial coved response to coved is over, Australian Health is buying PPE from China instead of the great Australian manufacturer.

Do you think this is fair???

Australia had great steel manufacturing in steel and instead of upgrading to modern technology we closed our industry down, the same with Aluminium

What is stopping this great insurgence into manufacturing, ??

No money is the usual reply

We fund like we used to fud and that is with National banking

We are borrowing money from overseas every day to just service debt which can never be repaid.

We need to make money in our economy and that will only happen by investing in Research and Development through a Commonwealth National Development Bank.

We then can attract investment into our supply chains. We must train our young population and boost the quality of our education

Our power must be made more reliable, cheaper, renewable nuclear new technology small reactors must be built.

We must green our deserts, make our abundant water accessible for manufacturing and food production and not waste it to run out to sea unused.

We then need to build our connectivity by fast trains

Saving time, fuel and increasing productivity which will see a rise in economic growth, increase in our natural population, increase in quality of life and standard of living which will then give rise to a happier more productive population and a reduction in poverty and homelessness.

I am a 82 year old woman living independently, driving and in touch with a large extended family.

Still active in politics, church, travel and everyday life.

I worked as an RN from 1959 to 2014 with no gap still working in clinical practice .

I have been all through the changes in how our health system has worked and the present system is a disgrace Privatized, wasteful for-profit organizations ripping off the Australian people.

Fund our manufacturing, with research and development with a National Development Bank and this will rejuvenate Australia and get us on track to take our place as a modern productive independent country able to trade with many countries and improve our governance, rid our country of corruption and make us again a proud country.

Thank you, I wish you well in this task of this Senate Inquiry.

Margaret Thornton

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9/9/21