

Interim Government Response

**House of Representatives Science & Innovation
Standing Committee**

**Report of the Inquiry into Pathways to Technological
Innovation**

November 2006

House of Representatives Science & Innovation Standing Committee Inquiry into Pathways to Technological Innovation

Interim Government Response

All eighteen recommendations are currently under active consideration by an interdepartmental committee (IDC) established to assist in the formulation of the Government's final response. The IDC comprises representatives from the following portfolios:

- Education, Science and Training (Chair)
- Attorney-General's
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Communication, Information Technology and the Arts
- Finance and Administration
- Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Health and Ageing
- Industry, Tourism and Resources
- Treasury.

It is anticipated that the Government's final response will be tabled during the autumn Parliamentary sitting in 2007.

Pending the final response, comments can be made in relation to the following two recommendations.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the Department of Education, Science and Training expand its annual *Australian Science and Innovation System: A Statistical Snapshot* to include the following data:

- the number of students with combined science, engineering, technology/business/commerce degree qualifications;
- state and territory breakdowns of science, engineering, technology graduates;
- breakdown by subject and qualification of the number of foreign citizens with science, engineering, technology qualifications graduating from Australian universities; and
- science, engineering, technology graduate workforce participation rates.

Interim Response:

Data relevant to this recommendation will be included in the next edition of *Australian Science and Innovation System: A Statistical Snapshot* (due in 2007).

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government request the Business Industry Higher Education Collaboration Council to examine and develop the business case for third stream funding to universities.

Interim Response:

The Minister for Education, Science & Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, has asked the Council to examine the case for new policy and additional funding to support knowledge transfer (i.e. 'third stream' activities) in Australian higher education institutions.