



Australian Government

RESPONDING TO THE
AUSTRALIA 2020 SUMMIT

A U S T R A L I A



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FOREWORD BY THE PRIME MINISTER

In April 2008, I invited 1000 Australians to come to Canberra and be a part of the Australia 2020 Summit. Many others also joined in the conversation – through local Summits across Australia, a Youth Summit, over 500 School Summits, a Jewish Symposium and 8800 submissions.



The task was to shape a vision for the nation's future and explore new ideas and ways to meet the major challenges that lie ahead. Government does not have a monopoly on ideas – we need the contribution of all Australians to build a strong and successful future for our country. The 2020 Summit was an opportunity to have a conversation with a wide range of Australians, and to listen with an open mind to the creativity and diversity of their ideas.

With over 900 ideas generated, Australians showed that they are passionate about our nation's future. The energy, enthusiasm and level of engagement amongst Summit participants was truly remarkable and a source of inspiration and encouragement to the Government.

The Final Report of ideas from the Summit was provided to me on 31 May 2008 and I made a commitment to respond. This document meets that commitment.

None of us who gathered at Parliament House for the Summit could have foreseen the severity of the global economic downturn that was even then beginning to develop.

As a result of the crisis, the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930s, the world of today looks very different from that of April 2008.

But while the government has altered its priorities, it has not lost sight of its long-term vision to build a more secure, stronger and fairer Australia leading up to 2020.

In that regard, the best ideas that were developed at the Summit continue to have a strong impact on the Government's thinking and strategy.

The Summit has influenced us in many ways, some that we are yet to fully appreciate. In some cases it has led directly to new actions – in others it has subtly changed priorities across different policy areas. Not only did the Summit support, influence or cause us to re-evaluate a range of our existing priorities and commitments, it also proposed a number of practical new ideas.

The Government has already acted on many of these ideas. We have commenced a major review of Australia's Future Tax System. We have implemented a broad program of reform of our collaboration with the states and territories, culminating in new National Agreements and National Partnerships in critical policy areas, including health and education, in November last year. We are continuing to work with the states and territories on other priorities, such as reducing the burden imposed on business by red tape. We have released our Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and a major new white paper on Homelessness. Many of these activities are directly related to the ideas put forward by the 2020 Summit.

In addition to these actions, we are making a commitment to nine practical new initiatives proposed by the Summit:

- A Deployable Civilian Capacity to respond to emergencies in our region
- First steps towards an Indigenous Cultural Education and Knowledge Centre by engaging with the Indigenous community and existing institutions on options for supporting and strengthening Indigenous culture
- Mentoring in the Workplace to facilitate the passing of knowledge between skilled mature age Australians and business and the community (Golden Gurus)

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- Research in Bionic Vision Science and Technology to support the development of the bionic eye in Australia
 - A Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Awards Scheme to support scholarships for students in Australia and Asia and deepen cultural understanding
 - A dedicated ABC Children's Channel
 - A Business and School Connections Roundtable – to enhance opportunities for business and schools to partner together to improve educational outcomes
 - A Skills for the Carbon Challenge initiative to equip workers and businesses with green skills
 - A Vocational Education Broadband Network to build a single post-secondary high speed broadband network.

These initiatives reflect the range, strength and quality of ideas emerging from the Summit. Many more ideas are set out in this document and we have tried to understand, respect and respond to each one. We are well on the way to implementing many ideas. Other ideas will be studied in ongoing policy processes.

Although important, it should be remembered that the Summit was not only about what various governments can, and should, do. The greatest expertise often exists elsewhere. The challenges of the future will require action from the business and community sectors, philanthropic organisations, educational institutions and individuals in their own homes. For that reason, some ideas raised at the Summit have been deliberately left for others to consider. Where appropriate, the Government will work closely with these groups to help build Australia's future.

Beyond the ideas generated from the Summit, the Summit itself has been an extraordinary learning experience in the value of engaging with the Australian community. We remain strongly committed to this new way of governing. We are undertaking Community Cabinets across Australia and developing a wider range of community engagement strategies to ensure we remain in contact with the community and continue to be open to new ideas and different points of view.

The Government will also develop practical initiatives in e-governance to increase the community's ability to interact with the parliament and the policy development processes of government, and to make extensive information about policy issues available online. As a first step, my department is seeking expert advice on the development of a whole of government approach.

The Summit has highlighted the importance of being prepared for the challenges we face in the future. It reflects my strong belief that we must continue to talk about the future and be unafraid to engage in a robust conversation about the direction our country should take over the coming decades.

I thank all the volunteers, participants and contributors to the Australia 2020 Summit for their willingness to engage in such a conversation. I am sure that they felt – as I did – that it was a privilege to be part of a national discussion about the most important issues of our time.

The Summit was just the beginning. Now the hard work begins. Along the way, we will face difficult choices and tough decisions, especially during the global recession. But we will also face exciting new opportunities and prospects. I believe that we can only benefit from these opportunities and build the future we want if we do it together – and I am very determined to continue to involve Australians in discussions, debates and decisions about the sort of nation we want to be as we make the journey towards 2020.



Kevin Rudd
Prime Minister of Australia

THE AUSTRALIA 2020 SUMMIT

The Prime Minister of Australia, the Honourable Kevin Rudd, convened the Australia 2020 Summit at Parliament House on the 19th and 20th of April 2008 to help shape a long term strategy for the nation's future.

The Australia 2020 Summit brought together some of the best and brightest brains from across the country to tackle the challenges confronting Australia – challenges that will require responses that extend beyond the short term, three year electoral cycle. The Summit reflected the Rudd Government's belief that Australians, irrespective of their political views, can come together to build a modern nation capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

Over 1000 leading Australians came to Parliament House to debate and develop long term options across 10 critical areas:

1. The Productivity Agenda – education, skills, training, science and innovation
2. The Future of the Australian Economy
3. Population, sustainability, climate change and water and the future of our cities
4. Future directions for rural industries and rural communities
5. A long term national health strategy – including the challenges of preventative health, workforce planning and the ageing population
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 Summit was co-convened by the Prime Minister and Professor Glyn Davis, Vice Chancellor of the University of Melbourne.

Participants were selected by a 10 member non-government Steering Committee. The Steering Committee selected up to 100 participants in each of the Summit areas to attend in a voluntary capacity. Participants were drawn from business, academia, community groups, industrial organisations and the media and included a number of eminent Australians. Summit participants were invited as individuals rather than as representatives of particular organisations. Each of the 10 Summit areas was co-chaired by a Federal Government Minister and a member of the Steering Committee.

The Summit had the following objectives:

- To harness the best ideas across the nation
- To apply those ideas to the 10 core challenges that the Government has identified for Australia to secure our long term future through to 2020
- To provide a forum for free and open public debate in which there are no predetermined right or wrong answers
- For each of the Summit's 10 areas to produce options for consideration by the Government following the Summit
- For the Government to produce a public response to these options with a view to shaping the nation's long term direction from 2009 and beyond.

RESPONDING TO THE IDEAS

The Summit generated over 900 ideas, covering a wide range of issues across the 10 streams. The Summit continued a broader national conversation about Australia's future that occurred in the lead up to the Summit. This conversation included contributions from the Youth Summit held on 12–13 April 2008, more than 500 school summits across Australia, local summits, an African Summit in Melbourne and a Jewish Symposium in Sydney. Some 8800 public submissions were also collected. Summaries of submissions were made available to summit participants. All of these ideas informed the discussion at the main Summit, and in many cases are reflected directly in the ideas in the final report and this response.

The Prime Minister stated at the opening of the Summit:

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.

Ideas in this response to the Summit are considered in one of four ways:

1. Key ideas being taken forward by the Government
2. Ideas the Government will consider further
3. Ideas others may progress
4. Ideas with no further action at this time.

1. Key ideas being taken forward by the Government

The Government has already embraced a large number of good ideas from the Summit.

- Some of these are innovative practical ideas that demonstrate the creativity of the Summit, such as the Mentoring in the Workplace: Golden Gurus and the Deployable Civilian Capacity announced as part of this response
- Some of these are ideas that the Government acted upon immediately, such as the Review of the Australian Tax System launched in May 2008
- Some of these are ideas that supported, endorsed or built upon key commitments already being progressed by the Government, such as the Healthy Kids Check, which commenced in July 2008 and the Education Revolution being progressed with the states and territories.

In each case, the Government has carefully considered and reviewed the idea proposed by the Summit and has committed to taking it forward.

2. Ideas the Government will consider further

The Government is still considering a number of ideas:

- Some of these relate to areas where the Government is still developing policies, such as the Government response to the Review of the National Innovation System and the Indigenous Cultural Education and Knowledge Centre scoping study
- Some of these refer to areas where action is progressing but could be taken further. The Government will revisit the Summit ideas as part of the next steps it takes in these areas
- Some of these are good or ambitious ideas that need more development or may be best considered in the future.

The Government will continue to consider these ideas as it responds to the wide range of important issues facing Australia and determines its priorities for the future.

3. Ideas others may progress

A range of ideas relate to areas where the Commonwealth Government is not the natural leader or has limited capacity to act.

- Some of these ideas are commercial or business initiatives, more effectively led by the private sector
- Some ideas lie in areas where the community sector has significant expertise, such as youth development camps
- Some of these ideas relate to areas that are the clear and appropriate responsibility of the states and territories.

Many of these ideas are already being progressed and discussed within the relevant sectors. Where appropriate, the Government may be open to engaging with or supporting these initiatives in some way if they are taken forward or progressed by others.

4. Ideas with no further action at this time

In a small number of cases, the Government does not believe further action is warranted at this point.

- Some of these are where existing programs or institutions are already addressing the key objectives of the idea
- Some of these ideas may not have wider community support
- Some of these ideas would involve significant practical or legal challenges to implement
- Some of these ideas simply do not stack up in terms of their benefit to Australia.

Regardless of whether or not a particular idea is being taken forward at this time, all of the ideas have contributed to the Government's thinking about the future and are a vital repository of ideas to be drawn upon for years to come about how we can build a more secure, stronger and fairer Australia that is prepared for the challenges of the future.

STRUCTURE OF THE RESPONSE

This document responds to ideas from each of the Summit's 10 work streams.

While there were over 900 individual ideas or comments, many ideas supported a common initiative or outcome. For this reason, the Government has grouped ideas as they relate to specific outcomes or responses. For example, where a number of ideas propose or are being addressed by a National Preventative Health strategy, they are grouped together and the Government has responded to them collectively. This ensures that the document focuses on the key outcomes sought by the Summit's participants.

In addition, many ideas from the Summit were not exclusive to a single work stream, with common ideas and themes emerging across the 10 work streams. For example, seven of the streams provided ideas on improving education, demonstrating the strong priority given by participants to the revitalisation of education in Australia across a range of contexts. Similarly, seven streams made recommendations for further support for indigenous Australians. Some of these key themes are shown in the figure below.

The Government felt that it was important to respond collectively to ideas raised across several discussion streams, drawing together the similarities and key threads, and indicating where ideas had wide support. Where an idea supports a group of related ideas in another work stream, these ideas are listed together or referred to and the supporting work streams are acknowledged. This means that in some instances ideas will be listed in more than one stream as they are closely related to the discussion of both streams. This leads to some duplication within the document, but shows where ideas were shared and broadly supported.

Key themes discussed across multiple Australia 2020 work streams

	1 productivity	2 economy	3 sustainability	4 rural	5 health	6 communities	7 Indigenous	8 creative	9 governance	10 security
International development and trade	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓
Education and workplace productivity	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Infrastructure, Deregulation and tax reform	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓		
Innovation and creativity	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		
Social inclusion and a fair Australia	✓	✓		✓		✓				
Closing the Gap on Indigenous Disadvantage	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Human Rights and Access to Justice	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓
Health and Ageing	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Climate change related challenges	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Community & Local Government Engagement	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓	
A Modern Federation and constitutional reform		✓		✓			✓		✓	

THE PRODUCTIVITY AGENDA

EDUCATION, SKILLS, TRAINING,
SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

THE PRODUCTIVITY AGENDA:

Education, Skills, Training, Science and Innovation

Australia's future depends upon how well we can harness the talent, skill, creativity and effort of our people. The productivity and workforce participation of the Australian population and the effective management and retention of human capital are critical to Australia's success and prosperity. The Government recognises that addressing issues of education, productivity and innovation will require investment in all levels of education, increased participation in the workforce and the implementation of best practices to stimulate and harness innovation. The productivity agenda remains critically important during the current global economic crisis. We must look for reforms now that will drive our next wave of economic growth.

Continued growth in productivity depends on investment in human capital, particularly in the area of skills development. In the current economic climate, governments and businesses need to remain committed to building skills, both to protect individual life-chances and to strengthen national resilience.

There will be some groups and places that are particularly vulnerable – such as workers made redundant, those who are already unemployed, particular regions and local communities, and young Australians. Harnessing the innovative potential of partnerships between community organisations, social entrepreneurs, local governments and employers can help to create jobs and opportunities for these groups. The discussions in the Productivity Stream at the 2020 Summit focused on two main themes: education and innovation. The Productivity Stream paid close attention to human capital, which Summit participants considered should be developed by targeting skills, early childhood development and by providing Australians with a world-class education system. The Productivity Stream also agreed that all Australians should be encouraged to realise their potential and that Australia should maximise wealth, excellence and equity by increasing productivity – with the goal of placing Australia at the leading edge of the developed world.

The Productivity Stream developed a broad range of ambitions, themes and ideas that have influenced and guided the Government's policy in this area, including:

- **Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan** – The Government's response to the global economic crisis has included significant investments in the future productive capacity of Australia through the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan announced in February 2009. The \$14.7 billion Building the Education Revolution component of the Plan will commence in 2008–09 and will provide new facilities and refurbishments in schools to meet the needs of 21st century students and teachers. The Government has also committed to provide tax breaks for small and general businesses buying eligible assets and provide a training and learning bonus to students and people outside the workforce who are returning to study.
- **National Curriculum** – The 2020 Summit supported the Government's approach to a National Curriculum and discussed a range of priorities. On 2 October 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) established an interim National Curriculum Board to draft the curriculum in key learning areas. Following consultation with the states and territories, Commonwealth legislation was introduced to establish a new national education authority with responsibility for curriculum, assessment and reporting at the national level. The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) will be operational in 2009 and will build on the significant work that has already been undertaken by the interim National Curriculum Board in developing a national curriculum.
- **Pathway into Teaching for top graduates (New pathway into teaching)** – Australian Governments are funding a new pathway to attract Australia's best graduates into teaching and placing them where they can make a difference. High performing graduates from a range of disciplines will be selected to undertake an intensive teacher training course, receive mentoring from experienced teachers and undertake further study as they complete their teaching qualification.

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- **Mentoring in the workplace: Golden Gurus** – Engaging skilled mature age Australians or ‘Golden Gurus’ to provide mentoring support to small businesses and the community was considered one of the top five ideas at the 2020 Summit. The Government agrees that as the population ages, mentoring will be a valuable way of passing on the skills and experience from retirees to the next generations. The Government is committed to developing a national Golden Gurus mentoring scheme to provide various opportunities for retired mentors to support a range of small business and community needs. This scheme is being developed during 2009.
 - **Business – School Connections** – The Government is committed to fostering greater linkages between business and educational institutions, which will supplement existing programs operated by the commonwealth, states and territories, and community organisations. The Government will be sponsoring a Business-School Connections Roundtable comprising representatives of business organisations, educational providers and the community sector. The Roundtable will oversee the development of a strategy to ensure all secondary schools benefit from a business connection as well as sharing experience on what is already working well for schools.
 - **National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development** – Through this agreement, the Government will provide approximately \$6.7 billion from 2009 to 2012–13. The states will deliver up to 1.15 million Vocational Education and Training (VET) course completions nationally over this funding period. The agreement sets out agreed COAG targets to halve the proportion of 20 to 64 year olds without qualifications at Certificate III level by 2020, and to double the number of higher qualification completions by 2020.
 - **Review of Australian Higher Education and the Review of the National Innovation System** – The final report of the Bradley Review of Australian Higher Education was released on 17 December 2008. The review considered a range of issues associated with higher education. The Government has released an initial response, with more detail to be announced at the time of the Budget in May 2009. A Review of the National Innovation System was completed in August 2008. The panel’s recommendations ranged across a number of key themes including innovation in business, strengthening people and skills and excellence in national research. The Government will respond to the review in the near future.
 - **Vocational Education Broadband Network** – The Government will create a single post-secondary high speed broadband network, connecting the Australian training system to a similar network to that currently serving universities. This will increase flexibility in the place and pace of learning, and offer speedy access to resources no matter where they are located.

The following tables provide the Government’s response to the ideas raised by the Productivity Stream at the 2020 Summit.

Key ideas being taken forward by the Government

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Early Childhood Reform</p> <p>Also raised by: Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support children’s development through increased investment in early intervention and childhood education. • Ensure universal free access to early childhood education. • Increase training and support for those who care for and educate children, including the ability to deal with child protection and abuse. • Make early childhood care and education centres integrated and more community-based to identify the most disadvantaged, but at the same time relevant for the community, all children and all parents. • Facilitate more extensive use of school infrastructure to provide care for pre-school children. • Develop stronger links between early childcare centres. Recognise that bilingual education is very important in Indigenous communities. • 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. • 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. 	<p>In July 2008 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to the development of a broad national strategy for early childhood development during 2009. As a first step towards a national strategy, in November 2008 COAG agreed a National Partnership on Early Childhood Education which will provide \$970 million over five years. This includes \$955 million to achieve access to 15 hours a week early childhood education for all children in the year before school by 2013, to be delivered by four-year trained teachers and at a cost that is not a barrier to participation. An additional \$15 million will be provided for data development and evaluation.</p> <p>Through the National Partnership on Indigenous Early Childhood Development, joint funding of \$564.6 million over six years has been committed, including funding for 35 Children and Family Centres which will be established across Australia. The centres will deliver integrated services including early learning, child care and family support. The funding will also increase access to ante-natal care, teenage reproductive and sexual health services and child and maternal health services tailored to the needs of Indigenous Australians.</p> <p>The Australian Government is also investing \$114.5 million over the next four years to establish, as a first step, early learning and care centres, including six autism-specific centres. Where states and territories are interested in partnering with the Australian Government to create integrated service models, the Government will pursue opportunities to deliver a broader range of services within these centres. The Government will also work in partnership with other private providers to establish these centres.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Children and Family Centres</p> <p>Also raised by: Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents' and Children's Centres – integrated, regionally based, health and wellness centres for children. Joining up initiatives in early life (testing, intervention) – integrated primary care centres for children. Childhood development should be supported through a place-based culture that offers integrated services and community support. Children one-stop centres. 	<p>In October 2008, COAG agreed the first National Partnership covering Indigenous Early Childhood Development. As part of the initiative, 35 Children and Family Centres will be established across Australia to deliver integrated services that offer early learning, child care and family support programs.</p> <p>At its July 2008 meeting, COAG agreed to the development of a broad national strategy for early childhood development. The strategy will set the direction for collaborative early childhood reform across the Commonwealth and states and territories. The strategy will be considered by COAG in 2009 and will include consideration of integrated service delivery approaches.</p> <p>The Australian Government is also investing \$114.5 million over the next four years to establish, as a first phase, early learning and care centres, including six autism-specific centres. Where states and territories are interested in partnering with the Australian Government to create integrated service models, the Government will pursue opportunities to deliver a broader range of services within these centres. The Government will also work in partnership with other private providers to establish these centres.</p>
<p>Early Childhood Development Assessment – Healthy Kids Check</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every child should be given an early development assessment, which could be funded through Medicare and delivered by early childhood centres. Conduct comprehensive physical assessments of all remote, rural and regional children aged four years to ensure early detection of potential behavioural and learning difficulties before the children start school. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government introduced the Healthy Kids Check (\$25.6 million over four years) on 1 July 2008 to ensure that every four year old has a basic health check to ensure they are healthy, fit and ready to learn when they start school. The Healthy Kids Check recognises many of the ideas raised at the Summit, and will promote early detection of lifestyle risk factors and delayed development, and provide guidance for healthy lifestyles and early intervention strategies.</p>
<p>Early Childhood – Impact Statement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require that there be a 'children's development impact statement' for every policy and initiative. 	<p>Agree. This has already been addressed by the Government. All submissions that go before Cabinet now require a Family Impact Statement addressing three priority areas, including how proposals affect children's health, development and general wellbeing.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
National Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create one national curriculum and rationalise curriculum development bodies with freed up funds going to children in schools. 	<p>Agree in-part. The Government is collaborating with the states and territories and is jointly developing an implementation plan to establish a high quality national curriculum. An interim National Curriculum Board was established and expert panels have commenced drafting a national curriculum in the four key learning areas (English, mathematics, science and history).</p> <p>Legislation to establish the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) was passed by Parliament on 27 November 2008. ACARA will be operational in 2009 and will build on the significant work that has already been undertaken by the interim National Curriculum Board.</p> <p>National curriculum in key learning areas will be implemented from 2011 in all Australian schools.</p>
National Numeracy Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a national numeracy standard, similar to a literacy standard. 	<p>Agree. National benchmarks are important for improving numeracy and literacy. Following the successful introduction of national literacy and numeracy testing in 2008, national minimum standards have been set for reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.</p> <p>The Government is working to deliver a National Action Plan on Literacy and Numeracy and has committed to provide \$577.4 million over four years to support schools to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes, starting with those schools and students most in need of help.</p> <p>On 29 November 2008, COAG agreed to the Smarter Schools – Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Developing Science and Maths Capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require more teachers to be science and mathematics literate, to enable them to excite kids with the subjects' potential. • 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. • Ensure that education resources take account of long-term industry needs, especially through occupations and professions that can spawn further growth and productivity, for example science and mathematics graduates. 	<p>Agree. The Government has extended its \$625.8 million package of incentives to lift the number of maths and science students and graduates. Graduates who take up primary school teaching positions with specialist expertise in maths will be eligible for a refund of approximately half their HECS-HELP repayments for up to five years. The Government is also providing around \$63.6 million over four years to reduce compulsory HELP repayments for eligible maths and science graduates who work in related occupations, including teaching these subjects in secondary schools.</p> <p>Additionally, from 1 January 2009, student contributions for new students in maths and science have been reduced. The Council of Australian Governments is also supporting further development of teacher training for existing teachers.</p> <p>The Government's Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan includes \$1 billion to build up to 500 science laboratories or language learning centres in secondary schools.</p>



Photo courtesy of AusPic

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Low Socio-Economic School Communities</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide one-on-one support and special education for students who fall behind. • Overcome the public–private divide by funding students according to need and encouraging more private investment in public and private schools through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Student-centred funding – Funding according to need, where disadvantaged students attract more funding and support to ensure that they become a productive participant in Australian society – Further cross-sector collaboration – 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. • Provide education assistance for young people at risk or from disadvantaged backgrounds. • Provide case conferencing with school teachers and health professionals to meet the needs of children with conditions that impair their learning (rural). • Develop a school ‘twinning’ program—for example, pairing schools from different regions. 	<p>The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has agreed to a number of National Partnerships in relation to low socio-economic status school communities. The Australian Government will provide \$1.5 billion over seven years to address the needs of disadvantaged schools, to be matched by states and territories. The Government will work with the states and territories on a range of reforms that will support the educational and wellbeing needs of students and schools in low socio-economic status communities.</p> <p>COAG has also agreed to a National Partnership on Literacy and Numeracy that will aim to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students, especially those who are falling behind. The Commonwealth will invest \$540 million in this National Partnership, which will be complemented by state and territory investment. Research and data collection will be supported by funding of \$40 million. This includes an additional \$13 million for the collection and reporting of data through the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority for which funding of \$17.2 million was announced in the last Budget.</p> <p>The Dare to Lead Project, funded by the Government, drives change in schools through a coalition of school leaders who influence improvements in Indigenous education. The project’s Partnerships Building Success direction for 2009–2012 has been supported by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and through the inclusion of colloquial reviews in sister school arrangements expect to increase the achievements in Indigenous student outcomes.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Education Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better evidence: education policies should be guided by the principle of ‘what works?’, and underpinned by rigorous and scientific evaluations. • 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. • Using research results from six countries about how schools dramatically improved in disadvantaged settings, examine and apply the critical success factors. • Establish an independent national agency to collect and publish trends in education and the workforce across the sectors. • By 2020 we should be regarded as one of the world-leading countries in education. 	<p>Agree in-principle. There is already considerable work underway with regards to evidence-based education policy through the Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations, the Australian Research Council and the Australian Council for Educational Research. The National Centre for Vocational Education Research also administers the National Research and Evaluation Strategy to ensure that future decisions and policies on Vocational Education and Training are well founded. States and territories and independent school bodies also routinely trial new ideas and evaluate their impact.</p> <p>The new Australian Curriculum Assessment Reporting Authority will provide the public with information on each school in Australia including data on each school’s performance, and national literacy and numeracy testing results.</p> <p>The Australian Bureau of Statistics collects and publishes statistics on education, as well as developing data standards to promote quality and comparability of data.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP)</p> <p>Also raised by: Communities Security</p>	<p>Incorporate Asia literacy into Australian society to increase the knowledge of Asian and regional languages and societies to enhance Australia’s global engagement and intelligence. This could be done by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boosting the teaching of Asian languages in primary and secondary schools • Mainstreaming language education • Recruiting foreign language teachers from local communities and overseas • Reinvigorating professional teacher training, including for native speakers and our ethnic communities • Developing a comprehensive national Asia literacy strategy at all levels of the education system by 2020. This should be backed by funding at least equivalent to the former National Asian Languages and Studies Strategy for Australian Schools • Ensuring by 2020 that Australia will no longer be the worst-ranked OECD country for second-language skills and that it is positioned to benefit from the economic reality of an increasingly Asia-centric world • Ensuring by 2020 every child in Australia can speak a language other than English and will learn about the contribution of other cultures to Australia • Ensuring that Australians directly experience Asia. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government has committed \$62.4 million to implement the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP) over 2008–09 to 2010–11, in recognition of the importance of Asian languages and studies in equipping young Australians with the skills to compete in the globalised economy of the future.</p> <p>The NALSSP commenced on 1 January 2009 and provides opportunities for school students to become familiar with the languages and cultures of four of Australia’s Asian neighbours, namely China, Indonesia, Japan and Korea.</p> <p>Through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) processes, all governments have committed to the NALSSP and an aspirational target that, by 2020, at least 12 per cent of all students exit Year 12 with a fluency in one of the target Asian languages. NALSSP focuses on increasing both student demand and teacher supply.</p> <p>In addition, the Government’s recent Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan includes \$1 billion to build up to 500 science laboratories or language learning centres in secondary schools.</p> <p>The second phase of the National Curriculum will also include language education.</p>
<p>Mentors for our Students</p> <p>Also raised by: Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create mentoring programs for young people to address gaps in education. Volunteer mentoring programs are beneficial to both young people and older people. • Extend the ‘Golden Guru’ mentoring concept beyond business by engaging experienced retired members of the community in schools. • Build a male mentoring program into schools to educate young men. 	<p>The Government has committed \$5 million over four years to establish a pilot volunteer mentoring program. This program will give recently retired professionals and tradespeople the chance to pass on their knowledge and skills to secondary students in Australian schools. Grants of up to \$50,000 each year will be available to 25 communities on a competitive basis to establish the pilot program through existing Local Community Partnerships. Funding will meet training and associated costs for mentors.</p> <p>The states and territories also have a range of programs in this area.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Additional Schooling Support for Indigenous Students</p> <p>Also raised by: Indigenous</p>	<p>A new education framework should be established. The following could be included in the framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of high quality education, including boarding schools and hostels • Access to away-from-home foster families to stay with at weekends for students away from home • Funding through ABSTUDY, private school scholarships, government funding and community schooling • Encourage high-performing young professionals to work as teachers alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators in remote schools • Expand ABSTUDY to all post-secondary Indigenous students to facilitate engagement with education and ultimately the workforce • Introduce 500 'Mabo Scholarships' for Indigenous students in research and higher level degrees similar to the Endeavour scholarships. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government is introducing a range of new support mechanisms for Indigenous education options. In 2008, the Government committed \$20 million over three years from 2009–10 as a contribution towards secondary scholarships for Indigenous students to attend boarding schools. The funds will be managed by the Australians Indigenous Education Foundation, with additional funds which more than match the Government contribution expected to be raised from corporate, philanthropic and private sources over the life of the initiative.</p> <p>The Government is also providing \$10 million to leverage private and state funding for six existing Clontarf Academies, six new academies from 2009–10, and a further three new academies from 2010–11. The additional funding represents the first stage of a long term commitment by the Government to helping the Clontarf Foundation to expand its network of academies throughout Australia. This initial \$10 million investment will enable Clontarf to expand its services in Western Australia, the Northern Territory and other interested states.</p> <p>In the 2008–09 Budget, the Government also committed \$28.9 million over four years to construct and operate three new boarding colleges for Indigenous secondary students in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>The National Education Agreement agreed by COAG in November 2008 includes a focus on outcomes for Indigenous students, with a particular focus on literacy and numeracy. Enhanced arrangements for teaching and school leadership are being considered through the Improving Teacher Quality and Low Socio-Economic Status National Partnership Agreements, including increased opportunities to gain qualifications that form part of pathways into teaching for Indigenous education workers.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Additional School Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build infrastructure that integrates a wider range of services and encourages shared community use. 	<p>Agree. The Government recognises the value of targeting school infrastructure to wider community use and services.</p> <p>The \$14.7 billion Building the Education Revolution component of the Government's Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan will commence in 2008–09 and will provide new facilities and refurbishments in schools to meet the needs of 21st century students and teachers.</p> <p>All of Australia's 9,540 schools will benefit from the immediate funding for major and minor infrastructure projects. It is a condition of funding for major infrastructure projects in primary schools (such as halls and libraries) that schools make these facilities available for community use at no or low cost.</p> <p>Another example of the Government's work in this area is the Local Schools Working Together Pilot Program, for which the Government will provide \$62.5 million over four years. The pilot will fund 25 projects across Australia to build facilities that will be shared between government and non-government schools. The projects will be located in high population growth areas where there is a lack of such facilities to support curriculum options and in circumstances where schools have the capacity to share facilities effectively.</p>
<p>Teaching Workforce – Improving Teacher Quality</p> <p>Also raised by: Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reward excellence in teaching. • Celebrate the vocation and contribution of teaching. • Create a national education and qualification accreditation system and increase education funding. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government is committed to rewarding excellence in teaching and attracting high quality teachers. The Government has allocated \$550 million to the Smarter Schools – Improving Teacher Quality National Partnership and will work together with the states and territories to deliver reforms to attract, train, place, develop and retrain quality teachers and school leaders. Reform will focus on a number of areas, including new professional standards, recognition and reward for quality teaching – including for top graduates and mid-career changers, and national accreditation of pre-service teacher education courses.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Teaching Workforce – New Pathway into Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a national program to attract talented graduates and career switchers into teaching, and reward teachers for working in national priority areas, including disadvantaged communities, remote areas and in shortage subjects. 	<p>Agree. Australian Governments are funding a new pathway to attract Australia’s best graduates into teaching and placing them where they can make a difference. High performing graduates from a range of disciplines will be selected to undertake an intensive teacher training course, receive mentoring from experienced teachers and undertake further study as they complete their teaching qualification.</p>
Teaching Workforce – Teachers in Remote Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have high-quality teachers go to remote schools for a term to mentor groups of less-experienced teachers. 	<p>Agree. The Smarter Schools Improving Teacher Quality National Partnership agreed to by COAG provides two initiatives that address this issue specifically: improved reward structures for teachers and leaders who work in disadvantaged Indigenous, rural/remote and hard to staff schools; and improved inschool support for teachers and leaders, particularly in disadvantaged Indigenous, rural/remote and hard-to-staff schools.</p> <p>In addition, there are a number of state rotation schemes currently in place that move teachers in and out of remote areas, and non-government organisations supporting teachers in remote schools.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Business – School Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create partnerships between Australia’s top companies and schools, VET institutions and higher education providers. • Encourage connectivity between schools, universities and business. Research should be connected to schools and business. • Build formal partnerships between industry, business and schools. For example, mentoring for success by top 100 companies. • Adults should talk to children about success. The top 100 companies should connect with schools through mentor and work experience arrangements. 	<p>Agree. The Government is committed to fostering linkages between business and educational providers. The Government will be sponsoring a Business-School Connections Roundtable that will comprise representatives of business organisations, educational providers and the community sector. The Roundtable will oversee the development of a strategy to ensure all secondary schools benefit from a business connection as well as sharing experience on what is already working well for schools.</p> <p>Some aspects of this idea will also be addressed through the existing School-Business Linkages Program. The Government provided \$6.4 million over four years to strengthen partnerships between schools and businesses and improve vocational education and training in schools. The program will also develop a Job Ready Certificate for students and help to provide students with relevant work placements and industry experience.</p> <p>The involvement of business is also a key feature of the new pathway into teaching for top graduates being established under the Quality Teaching National Partnership. Business partners will be involved with graduates throughout the two-year program, helping to build local business-school connections.</p> <p>There are also a range of relevant state programs.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Review of Australian Higher Education – Bradley Review</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the rigidity in funding arrangements. Fund change management and leadership programs in remote, rural and regional Australia and develop a national strategy for rural education including a ‘tertiary access allowance’ and higher education loan waivers. Provide clear educational pathways and partnerships for young people to gain access to quality higher education. 	<p>The Review of Australian Higher Education (Bradley Review) which was released in December 2008, examined the future direction of the higher education sector, its fitness for purpose in meeting the needs of the Australian community and economy, and the options for ongoing reform.</p> <p>The Government has provided an initial response to the report detailing a number of reforms in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future structural reforms for the higher education sector, which focus on a student-centred, demand driven system. Reforms to Vocational Education and Training (VET), which focus on developing a national tertiary education system with clear pathways for students Enhanced equity in tertiary education, with a focus on improving the accessibility of tertiary education for all Australians <p>More detail will be announced at the time of the Budget in May 2009.</p>
<p>Centres of Excellence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Centres of Excellence based on PhD-level studies. 	<p>Agree. A number of Centres of Excellence are already in existence. The Australian Research Council provides funding for these centres.</p>
<p>Review of Australian Apprenticeship incentives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restructure incentive arrangements for apprenticeship training as the lever to overcome skills and labour market shortages. 	<p>In addition to current incentives, in February 2009 the Government announced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$145 million to assist apprentices and trainees who have lost their job to complete their training with another employer or a group training organisation \$9.7million to assist apprentices and trainees to continue their training through a registered training organisation. <p>From 1 July 2009, the Australian Apprenticeships Access Program will provide an additional 3,650 pre-vocational training and support places to young people aged 19–24 years. The \$30.2 million expansion of this program will support at-risk jobseekers to pursue apprenticeships or training.</p> <p>This funding will assist in overcoming long term skill shortages.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>National Reform of VET</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend HELP to all students in post-secondary education. • Introduce a new form of government funding targeted at the local level and contingent on collaborative relationships. • Make employers take responsibility for skill development and in turn have the ability to access a flexible, demand driven training system. • Ensure the workplace and education outlets connect with the community. 	<p>Agree in-principle. In November 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) committed to a new National Agreement on Skills and Workforce Development. Under this agreement, the Commonwealth will provide approximately \$6.7 billion in funding and the states and territories will deliver up to 1.15 million Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses. The agreement includes targets to halve the proportion of 20 to 64 year olds without qualifications at certificate III level by 2020, and to double the number of higher qualification completions by 2020.</p> <p>COAG also agreed to a National Partnership to target areas of skill shortage and emerging skill needs. Through this partnership, the states have agreed to deliver 506,750 qualifications commencements for job seekers and existing workers over four years. The Commonwealth will fund all places for job seekers and 50 per cent of places for existing workers.</p> <p>States and territories engaging in significant reform of VET may be eligible for Commonwealth support to ensure that cost is not a barrier to students accessing training.</p> <p>An ambitious and significant package of reforms has been announced by the Victorian Government which aims to dramatically increase the number of people able to access training and upgrade their skills. In light of these reforms, the Commonwealth will support Victoria in the introduction of an Income Contingent Loan (ICL) scheme, commencing in July 2009, for government-subsidised diploma and advanced diploma students. This measure represents the expansion of HELP into the VET sector. It is expected that more states will follow.</p> <p>In addition, the Government has recently announced a number of VET reforms as part of the initial response to the Review of Australian Higher Education. These reforms will focus on developing a national tertiary education system with clear pathways for students.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
VET and Skills Shortage Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver merit based scholarships to vocational education and training and higher education institutions in skills shortage areas. 	<p>Agree in-principle. Higher education scholarships in skills shortage areas, whilst not necessarily merit based, are being implemented through the National Priority Scholarships – one of the new scholarship categories created under the \$238.6 million Scholarships for a Competitive Future Program to assist students from low socio-economic backgrounds, particularly those from rural and regional areas and Indigenous students, with the costs associated with higher education.</p> <p>The Productivity Places Program also offers vocational education and training places to job seekers and existing workers in skill shortage areas. On 29 November 2008, COAG agreed to a National Partnership for the delivery of training under the Productivity Places Program. Through this agreement, the states have agreed to deliver an additional 506,750 qualifications commencements for job seekers and existing workers over four years.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Workforce Participation – National Employment Standards</p> <p>Also raised by: Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 of the labour market of today (eg. independent contractors). Rostered-day-off time should be banked for parents to take a day off when the family needs it. 	<p>The Parliament has passed legislation introduced by the Government to create a new workplace relations system. The Fair Work Act 2009 broadly deals with the proposed ideas. Legislation preventing the making of new Australian Workplace Agreements commenced in March 2008. The Fair Work Act provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A safety net of ten legislated National Employment Standards for all employees in the national system including the facilitation of flexible working arrangements by providing parents with right to request a change to working arrangements where they have a child under school age or child with a disability under the age of 18 A simple modern award system that provides flexibility and stability and industry specific terms and conditions. Modern awards also include a provision which enables the tailoring of working arrangements to meet the needs of employers and employees through individual flexibility agreements An enterprise-level collective bargaining system focused on promoting productivity Unfair dismissal laws, which balance the rights of employees to be protected from unfair dismissal with the need for employers, particularly small business, to fairly and efficiently manage their workforces A new institutional framework comprising, Fair Work Australia, (the new independent umpire to oversee the new workplace relations system) and the Fair Work Ombudsman to provide practical information and advice and ensure compliance with workplace laws.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>National Disability Strategy</p> <p>Also raised by: Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that people with disabilities have the same opportunities and supports as everyone else in the community. • Universal access principles for people with disabilities should pervade all social policy planning. 	<p>The Government is undertaking a range of activities in this area, including developing a National Disability Strategy with the states and territories.</p> <p>The Government agrees that people with disabilities must have access to the same rights as the broader community. In November 2008 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) committed to a new National Disability Agreement, under which the Commonwealth will provide \$5.3 billion to state and territory governments for specialist disability services. Under the agreement, all governments are committed to helping people with a disability achieve economic and social inclusion, have the opportunity to live as independently as possible, and to support their families and carers.</p> <p>On 18 July 2008, the Government ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force on 16 August 2008 and in December 2008, tabled a National Interest Analysis proposing that Australia accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention. The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties reported its views on 12 March 2009 and recommended that Australia accede to the Optional Protocol.</p> <p>The Government is also developing a National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy to help people with disability and mental illness to participate in the economy by finding and retaining jobs. The <i>Setting the Direction</i> paper for the strategy was released jointly by the Minister for Employment Participation and the Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children’s Services on 22 December 2008. It outlines the directions the Government is taking, and will take, to increase employment for people with disability.</p>
<p>Workforce Participation – National Skills and Workforce Development</p>	<p>By 2020 we should have a workforce where anyone in work can participate to a level they want:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All barriers are removed • The workplace and all education outlets connect with the community • We have a truly dynamic workforce, reflecting the requirements of the world • Creativity is supported. 	<p>Agree in-principle. On 29 November 2008, the Council of Australian Governments committed to a new National Agreement on Skills and Workforce Development which sets out the commitment between the Commonwealth and the states and territories to work towards increasing the skill levels of all Australians, including Indigenous Australians.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Workforce Participation – Workforce Development</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct more research into what skills are needed (workforce development for science and mathematics education). • 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. • Improved professional development opportunities. 	<p>Agree in-principle. Skills Australia will provide the Government with recommendations on current and future skills needs to inform the Government's decisions in relation to skills development.</p> <p>The Government recognises that equipping workers and businesses with green skills will be essential if Australia is to take the opportunities presented by a transition to a low carbon economy. The Skills for the Carbon Challenge program incorporates an audit identifying industry's green skill needs.</p> <p>In February 2009 the Government committed \$298.5 million investment in employment services to ensure that any Australian worker made redundant will receive assistance to help them get back into the workforce.</p>
<p>Business Skills Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help businesses plan for their skills needs by taking more responsibility for ensuring that their skills needs are met. 	<p>In November 2008 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) committed to a new National Agreement on Skills and Workforce Development. Under this agreement, the Australian Government will provide approximately \$6.7 billion in funding and the states and territories will deliver up to 1.15 million Vocational Education and Training courses.</p> <p>The Government also recognises that equipping workers and businesses with green skills will be essential if Australia is to take the opportunities presented by a transition to a low carbon economy. The Skills for the Carbon Challenge program will accelerate industry's and the tertiary education sector's response to climate change by investing in training infrastructure and providing incentives for industry to take up green skills.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Mentoring in the workplace – Golden Gurus</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural</p>	<p>Create a scheme in which opportunities are provided for retired people to act as mentors in the workplace, incorporating remote, rural and regional Australia.</p> <p>The ideas raised regarding mentoring in remote, rural and regional Australia included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding should be provided for business coaches <li>• People should be encouraged to create their own opportunities through a mentoring and coaching initiative <li>• Partnerships between different industry sectors should be established including provision of business mentoring schemes between urban and remote, rural and regional Australia <li>• Establish a mentoring exchange program between urban and remote, rural and regional Australia that targets students, trainees, young people, professionals and business people <li>• Creation of a ‘flying business-mentoring squad’ of successful business people who volunteer their time to provide business and management coaching on the ground to small to medium businesses in remote, rural and regional Australia. <p>The Golden Guru idea of retired people as mentors in the workplace could be implemented in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary scheme with no joining fee <li>• Trainers would be paid \$150 per day with costs borne by the employer <li>• Provide training and support in three streams – trades, professional, and middle management <li>• A database would be deployed to enable matching of the need of businesses with trainers <li>• Developing countries could access the program. 	<p>Agree in-principle. To help meet the challenges of our ageing population and pass on valuable experience from retirees to new generations, the Government is committed to developing a national Golden Gurus mentoring scheme. As discussed at the Summit the scheme will provide opportunities for retired mentors to support a range of small business and community needs. The scheme is being developed during 2009.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Pacific Development – Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural Security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish 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. Develop links with Australia’s overseas aid programs 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. A rights-based labour mobility initiative for South West Pacific, including East Timor. 	<p>Agree. The Government announced the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme on 17 August 2008. This three year scheme will examine the viability of a seasonal worker program, with a focus on the horticulture industry. The Government is conducting the pilot to examine whether a seasonal worker program could contribute to regional economic development objectives and also assist Australian employers.</p>
<p>Indigenous Economic Development Strategy</p> <p>Also raised by: Indigenous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a national awards scheme for organisations proactive in training and employing Indigenous people. Improve the skills of local people, particularly Aboriginal people, before importing labour. 	<p>Agree in-principle. Under the proposed reforms to the Indigenous Employment Program, a high profile program will be created that recognises and supports significant achievements in Indigenous employment.</p> <p>On 29 November 2008, COAG agreed to a five year National Partnership on Indigenous Economic Participation. The Commonwealth and state governments will invest \$228.8 million to assist up to 13,000 Indigenous Australians in obtaining employment.</p> <p>The Government is also developing a wider Indigenous Economic Development Strategy to provide a framework to guide Government investment and to work with Indigenous Australians and the corporate sector to increase Indigenous participation in employment and business. This strategy is expected to be finalised in late 2009.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Indigenous Stream.</i></p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>National Broadband Network (NBN)</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural Economy Creative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting Australia: Use new technologies to foster new working environments that dissipate the ‘tyranny of distance’ both within and beyond Australia. Build and enable the use by all Australians of a world class broadband system to foster full participation in the digital economy. Roll out a competitive national broadband network across Australia. Establish a national digital fund to continue to expand Australia’s broadband. Improve technology infrastructure and increased access to technology. Provide broadband access for remote, rural and regional Australia. 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. 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. 	<p>Agree. The Government has announced it will establish a new company that will invest up to \$43 billion over eight years to build and operate a National Broadband Network (NBN) delivering superfast broadband to Australian homes and workplaces.</p> <p>Every person and business in Australia, no matter where they are located, will have access to affordable, fast broadband at their fingertips.</p> <p>The Government’s investment in the company will be funded through the Building Australia Fund and the issuance of Aussie Infrastructure Bonds (AIBs), which will provide an opportunity for households and institutions to invest in the NBN.</p> <p>The Schools Summits also recognised the importance of connecting regional areas to the internet, and the Australian Broadband Guarantee (ABG) program complements the rollout of the National Broadband Network in rural areas by providing safety net broadband services to all Australian households that are unable to access metro-comparable broadband services. An additional \$270.7 million over four years was allocated in the 2008–09 Budget to continue the ABG program.</p> <p>In addition the Government is preparing a ‘Digital Economy – Future Directions’ Paper in consultation with industry. The paper will provide a roadmap of how the Government and industry can collaborate to maximise the participation of Australians in the digital economy.</p> <p>Further, the Government’s Vocational Education Broadband Network will create a single post-secondary high speed broadband network, connecting the Australian training system to a similar network to that currently serving universities. This will increase flexibility in the place and pace of learning, and offer speedy access to resources no matter where they are located.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Continued ... National Broadband Network (NBN)</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural Economy Creative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rural, economy, creativity and productivity streams proposed that the Government should assess the case for vertical separation of the national broadband network owner from retail carriers and carriage service providers. 	<p>Agree in-part. The Government has established a company that will invest up to \$43 billion to build and operate a new super fast national broadband network.</p> <p>The network will be a wholesale-only, open access network that offers equivalent access terms and conditions for all access seekers. The Government will encourage private sector investment in the new network but measures will be put in place to ensure that the equivalence arrangements are not compromised.</p> <p>The Government has also announced that in the transition period to the full rollout of the new network, it will give consideration to stronger measures to ensure access seekers receive equivalent access terms on Telstra's existing fixed-line network.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fibre-to-the-home should be the key technology goal of government. 	<p>The Government has announced that it will establish a company that will invest up to \$43 billion to build and operate a new super fast national broadband network.</p> <p>The Government's objective is that the national broadband network achieve 90 per cent coverage to homes, schools and workplaces using optical fibre (fibre-to-the-premises or 'FTTP') and remaining coverage to be delivered through wireless and satellite technologies, within this funding envelope.</p>
<p>Review of Australia's Future Tax System</p> <p>Also raised by: Creativity Rural Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the tax system to encourage collaboration. 	<p>The Government agrees with the need to review taxation issues and is undertaking a comprehensive review of Australia's tax system to position Australia to deal with the demographic, social, economic and environmental challenges of the 21st century. The review's terms of reference have been heavily influenced by ideas from the 2020 Summit. The final report is due by the end of 2009.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Economy Stream.</i></p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Environment – Low-emissions Energy</p> <p>Also raised by: Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct further investment into research, development and deployment to enable a low-emissions energy revolution. • Create a national clean energy portfolio of several flagship projects – in ‘natural advantage’ categories such as agriculture, clean coal and renewable sources of energy. 	<p>Agree. Reflecting many of the ideas raised at the Summit, the Government has already announced a number of new initiatives to develop a low-emissions economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, which will commence in 2010, will create incentives for low-emissions technology • The Government has made a commitment to 20 per cent renewable energy by 2020 through the expanded national Renewable Energy Target • The National Low Emissions Coal Council and Carbon Storage Taskforce have commenced development of the \$500 million National Low Emissions Coal Initiative • Australia is leading a Global Carbon Capture and Storage Initiative, committing \$100 million per annum to accelerate the development and deployment of carbon capture and storage technology • The \$500 million Renewable Energy Fund is supporting the development, commercialisation and deployment of renewable energy in Australia • The \$150 million Energy Innovation Fund is supporting critical clean energy technology research in areas such as solar power • The \$3.9 billion Energy Efficient Homes Package will deliver up to \$1,600 in ceiling insulation to home owner-occupiers or a rebate on the costs of installing a solar hot water system. It will also provide help for renters, with a rebate of up to \$1,000 for landlords on the costs of insulating rental properties. This package will result in ceiling insulation for around 2.7 million homes. The Australian Government has also allocated \$240 million over four years to establish a Clean Business Australia partnership with Australian business and industry for tackling climate change.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>National Waste Policy</p> <p>Also raised by: Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a closed-loop economy to create a zero-waste society—a manufacturing system that deals with its own waste, minimising its ecological footprint. • 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). • Transform the ecological footprint of the built environment by taking the lead on national planning, building and product standards to minimise waste and energy consumption in our homes and in our neighbourhoods. 	<p>The Government is giving priority to the development of a National Waste policy, which is scheduled to be released in 2009.</p> <p>The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme will also cover landfill sites, creating new incentives for efficient waste management.</p>
<p>Rural Investment, Industry and Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. 	<p>Agree in-part. A number of existing programs support rural and regional communities and work towards the objectives of this idea. These include the Better Regions Program, the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program, Caring for our Country Program, Tourism Development Program, Mobile Connect Program and the Community Heritage Grants Program.</p> <p>The Government has also launched the Innovative Regions Centre (IRC) which will work with regions around Australia, to increase the innovative capacity of local firms and the regional economies.</p> <p>Tax issues will be addressed through the review of Australia’s Future Tax System.</p>

Ideas the Government will consider further

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Science, Maths, Business and Arts Connections Also raised by: Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Connect scientists, business and the arts with the education system. Expand the current limited program of artists in residence at schools which are now confined mainly to private schools. 	<p>This proposal is directly related to the Scientists in Schools (SiS) program. Around 800 scientist-teacher partnerships have been formed as at end November 2008.</p> <p>The arts component is being partially addressed by the existing Artists in Residence program.</p> <p>The benefits of further expansion of these programs will be considered in the future.</p> <p>There are also a range of state and territory, and philanthropic programs already in place which aim to address these ideas.</p>
Business – PhD Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>The final report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Innovation enquiry into Research Training and Research Workforce Issues in Australian Universities was released on 1 December 2008. The report included a number of recommendations in relation to attracting students to research training, funding and support for research students, and research careers.</p> <p>PhD arrangements already vary between institutions and have a focus on flexibility in some cases. For example, National ICT Australia (NICTA) funds around 300 PhD students in ICT, facilitating movement of PhD students in ICT between academia and business and back again. PhD students will also be able to use the Researchers in Business initiative, which will help place young researchers from universities or public research agencies into businesses.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Community Corps – Support for Volunteer Work</p> <p>Also raised by: Communities Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish 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. Allow community service to reduce a person's HECS/HELP debt. Allow tertiary graduates to have their higher education loan debts reduced by seeking voluntary or paid employment in remote, rural and regional areas. 	<p>The Australian volunteering spirit is one of our biggest strengths and we need to foster, promote and recognise it.</p> <p>The government is not currently proposing either a new form of national service or reductions in higher education debts and notes that both proposals would be likely to have significant resource implications for government. That said, it considers that these options do have merit and will take them into account when further developing proposals to boost the volunteer sector.</p> <p>Job Services Australia (which will replace Job Network from 1 July 2009) has a work experience stream and will encourage job seekers to participate in volunteer and other community work to build their work skills</p>
<p>Workforce Participation – Paid Maternity Leave</p> <p>Also raised by: Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce a national, paid maternity leave scheme to operate alongside expanded access to early childhood care as a whole package to promote workforce participation. Consider system-wide improvements to early childhood and schooling, including paid maternity leave. Provide paid leave for parents and carers. 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. Provide a minimum payment for one parent to stay at home, because two incomes are needed to buy a home. Provide 12 months paid parental leave for all parents. France does this for three years. Provide 24 weeks of paid, universal parental leave. Encourage workplace flexibility. Implement flexible working strategies for families and the community sector. Provide a tax incentive if parents choose to remain at home rather than work. 	<p>The Government asked the Productivity Commission to examine ways the Government can improve support to parents with newborn children, specifically in the area of paid maternity, paternity and parental leave. The final report was provided to the Government on 2 March 2009. The Government is considering its response.</p> <p>The National Employment Standards due to commence on 1 January 2010 will entitle full-time employees to 10 days of paid personal/carer's leave each year (pro-rated for part-time employees). These standards will not limit the amount of accrued paid carer's leave that an employee may take each year as is currently the case.</p> <p>The Government will also provide \$12 million over the next three years to encourage small businesses to pursue practices that help employees to balance their work and family obligations.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Flexible Project Based Working Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a no-cost option, change the structure of the workplace to support those struggling to participate, such as carers and Aboriginal people. This could involve a move from the 9 to 5 Monday to Friday hours 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. 	<p>Through its Social Inclusion Agenda, the Australian Government is working to find new ways to address disadvantage, remove barriers to participation, increase opportunities, build capacity and ensure that services are accessible and provide effective support for all.</p> <p>In addition, the Government has implemented a workplace relations system, underpinned by a strong safety net that allows employers and employees to negotiate working arrangements which best meets their individual needs.</p>
Learning for Life Account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a learning for life account for every Australian into which government and others can make payments. The funds could be spent on a variety of things such as education, training, parental leave, childcare and superannuation contributions. The accounts will have the capacity to go into deficit and will exist throughout the person's life. 	<p>The Government may consider a proposal in relation to Learning for Life Accounts at a later stage. However, any such proposal must be considered in the context of existing funding arrangements and be targeted at the provision of additional benefits.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Response to the Review of the National Innovation System</p> <p>Also raised by: Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a coherent National Innovation Agenda to drive Federal and State government policies on innovation and creativity. <p>Education and research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instigate a fundamental change in education to support innovation and entrepreneurship from the earliest years of schooling. <p>Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking Big: Accelerate Australian innovation by undertaking ambitious 'megaprojects' and establishing associated post-graduate schools in excellence. • Introduce 'guidance principles' for the Government's approach to encourage R&D and innovation rather than micro-management of processes and funding. • Aim to double investment in R&D by 2020. • 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. • Commit to a long term national R&D expenditure that is substantially above the OECD average as a fraction of GDP. • Encourage more private investment into key productivity-generating areas, especially through better design of markets. • Base government procurement on specification of expected performance. Such advanced contracts could be a useful means of driving innovation. • Use the tax system to encourage collaboration. 	<p>The Review of the National Innovation System was undertaken by an expert panel chaired by Dr Terry Cutler and was completed in August 2008. The report from this review – <i>Venturous Australia: Building Strength in Innovation</i> – was released on 9 September 2008.</p> <p>The Review considered many aspects of the National Innovation System, including education, funding for research and commercialisation and strengthening innovation culture.</p> <p>The Government will respond to the review in the near future.</p> <p><i>Related ideas on health innovation can be found in the Health Stream.</i></p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Continued ...</p> <p>Response to the Review of the National Innovation System</p> <p>Also raised by: Health</p>	<p>Innovation culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a national institute for innovation and creativity. • Reduce the fear of failure. There is sometimes a culture within industry and community which inhibits innovation. • 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. • 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. • Improve collaboration between public and private business, industry and research to foster innovation to OECD levels. • Remove barriers to the flow of knowledge generated within the research sector by fostering open approaches to access and dissemination. 	
<p>Innovation Summer School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an 'Innovation Summer School' for students during their holidays to inspire creativity. 	<p>There are a number of programs already in place that reflect the intention behind this idea, such as the Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering winter school for undergraduate students and the Questacon Smart Moves Invention Convention, which provides intensive training in entrepreneurship for a group of 30 young Australians each year.</p> <p>The Government may consider expanding on the current programs as a longer term initiative.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Australian Diaspora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilise the intellectual resources of the international diaspora network of Australian expatriates and former foreign students. • Mobilise the Australian diaspora. Look at whether government funding could be used to develop a system to encourage the diaspora to contribute more to Australian innovation. A broader view of the diaspora could include those who have studied here. • Develop a ‘pipeline’ for Australians abroad to transmit their knowledge and experiences back to Australia. Consider scholarships to encourage Australian researchers to return to Australia, even if only temporarily. • Use clusters (similar to California’s Silicon Valley) to encourage international connections for R&D and innovation personnel. • Create and organise an alumni network of both Australians living overseas and former foreign students. 	<p>There are a wide range of existing non-government networks already contributing to these ideas, through universities, expat associations and online networking groups. In response to ideas articulated at the 2020 Summit, the Government may consider further work in this area.</p>
Reform of the National Access Regime Also raised by: Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The infrastructure imperative is to create a regulatory and institutional framework to allow timely and efficient investment, especially in key export areas. A specific priority is a simpler, national regime for third party access to give up-front regulatory certainty and to promote competitive pricing and adequate returns. 	<p>The Government is developing a package of reforms for the National Access Regime (Part IIIA <i>Trade Practices Act</i>) to enhance the regime. The reforms are being overseen by the COAG Business Regulation and Competition Working Group as part of its Competition Reform Agenda under the National Partnership Agreement to deliver a Seamless National Economy agreed by COAG on 29 November 2008.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>National Energy Efficiency Strategy</p> <p>Also raised by: Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transform the ecological footprint of the built environment by taking the lead on national planning, building and product standards to minimise waste and energy consumption in our homes and in our neighbourhoods. 	<p>The Government is committed to a sustainable future for our cities and towns and a number of processes are currently underway that deal with improving energy efficiency. For example, the Government is prioritising sustainable urban design issues through the creation of the Major Cities Unit within the Infrastructure portfolio. COAG has also agreed to develop a National Strategy for Energy Efficiency to accelerate energy efficiency efforts across all governments and to help households and businesses to prepare for the introduction of the national Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS).</p> <p>In addition, the \$3.9 billion Energy Efficient Homes Program will deliver free ceiling insulation and installation for Australian home owner occupiers and provide support for installing insulation in private rental properties. This package will result in ceiling insulation for around 2.7 million homes.</p>

Ideas others may progress

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Workforce Participation – Flexibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workforce participation is interactive, and people can work from home or wherever they choose and move in and out of the workforce. 	<p>The Australian Government is implementing a workplace relations system, underpinned by a strong safety net, which allows employers and employees to negotiate working arrangements which best meets their individual needs.</p> <p>The level of flexibility in working arrangements for each individual workplace would be better addressed by employers.</p>
Windows on Workplaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Employers are required by law to ensure workplaces are safe and healthy. The business sector already has strong incentives to have a productive workplace and market their workplaces accurately to potential employees, either directly or via commercial employment service providers. Commercial employment service providers could facilitate this kind of information.</p>
Business Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, support worker transitions into and out of the workforce, and consider the needs of the community. 	<p>This is a matter that would be better progressed by individual businesses and communities. Many large businesses already undertake a range of these activities. The Government may consider further promotion of community links with business, along with related work on philanthropy and community development.</p>

Ideas with no further action at this time

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Education – Private Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	The Government is implementing the commitment it made during the 2007 election to continue the existing funding arrangements for all schools for 2009–2012. The Government has given an undertaking to review these arrangements with an open and transparent process which is anticipated to conclude in 2011. Limiting private investment may not be desirable.
Education – Productivity Levy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Disagree. The Government does not consider that a productivity levy would improve existing arrangements.
Definition of Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a comprehensive definition of ‘productivity’. 	The concept of productivity varies by sector and context. A comprehensive definition of productivity does not appear necessary in the context of the ongoing work the Government is doing to evaluate and address productivity within the nation.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Life-long Learning and Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Learning centres: Service centres supporting working age Australians with their family and career needs. • 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. • 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. • 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. 	<p>While these ideas could cover a range of approaches to providing important community services, the Government will not be establishing life-learning centres at this stage. A comprehensive range of these services are already available through state and territory services and through Centrelink.</p>
Internationally Mobile Labour Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable the free movement of labour from the Asia-Pacific Region into Australia, underpinned by Australian workplace standards. 	<p>Not supported at this time.</p>
Work in the Bush	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide incentives for people to work in rural and regional Australia by supporting people to re-locate from areas of few jobs to areas where there are labour shortages. 	<p>Assistance with relocation costs to move to take up employment opportunities is available to eligible job seekers under the current Job Network Job Seeker Account and, from 1 July 2009, through the Job Services Australia Employment Pathways Fund. The Indigenous Employment Program can also consider funding proposals for projects that include job seeker relocation to access work including rural work.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
R&D – Commercialisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage scientists to stop doing R&D and spend a year implementing the ideas they have developed. 	<p>The Review of the National Innovation System considered support for commercialisation through a range of mechanisms. The Government is currently considering its response to the review. Scientists are often, but not always best placed to lead commercialisation and the most effective options should be considered in each case.</p>
R&D – Type 1 Diabetes Cure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>The National Health and Medical Research Council is responsible for setting priorities for this kind of research. Existing funding schemes and criteria are also being considered in the Government's response to the Review of the National Innovation System.</p>
R&D Funding – Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Disagree. The Government will consider the most appropriate funding models in responding to the Review of the National Innovation System. The Government does not believe that current accountability requirements on public funds should be changed.</p>

THE FUTURE OF THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY

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Australia faces a range of long term economic challenges including an ageing population, an increasingly competitive international economy, and adjusting to a low carbon future.

The global economic crisis has increased the risks faced by the Australian economy and created a more volatile and uncertain economic environment. The Government is collaborating with other national governments in order to stabilise international markets. The Government is also committed to maintaining the strength of the Australian economy by taking measures to stimulate growth, investment and jobs. In February 2009 the Government announced a \$42 billion Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan to support jobs and invest in future long term economic growth. This built on the \$10.4 billion Economic Security Strategy announced in October 2008, and the \$4.7 billion Nation Building Package and \$15.2 billion COAG funding package announced in November 2008. These investments are crucial in supporting economic activity and jobs now, and as we head towards 2020.

The Government is also committed to tackling Australia's long term structural challenges through ongoing economic reform including the productivity agenda, with the goal of making Australia's economy more flexible, sustainable, dynamic and resilient.

Participants in the Economy Stream of the 2020 Summit agreed that Australia should aspire to be the world's best place to live and do business, and that achieving this goal will require urgent action to create of a truly national, efficient, sustainable and inclusive economy. They also recognised that the Australian Government plays a major role in ensuring national economic prosperity and that policies on taxation, regulation and investment should be carefully defined to meet economic goals.

The Economy Stream developed a broad range of aspirations, themes and ideas that have influenced and guided the Government's policies in this area, including:

- **Australia's Future Tax System** – On 13 May 2008, the Government announced a review of Australia's tax system in response to the significant number of issues raised at the 2020 Summit regarding tax reform. The review's terms of reference were heavily influenced by ideas from the Summit. An initial discussion paper was released by the Commonwealth Treasury in August 2008. The final report is due by the end of 2009.
- **Reducing the regulatory burden through COAG** – The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) established the Business Regulation and Competition Working Group (BRCWG). COAG has agreed on a reform agenda for reducing the costs of regulation and enhancing productivity and workforce mobility in areas of shared Commonwealth and state responsibility through the National Partnership Agreement to Deliver a Seamless Economy. The reforms focus on harmonising or providing consistency of regulatory regimes across state boundaries and initial outcomes were agreed in November 2008. The Commonwealth has committed to provide funding to the states and territories of \$550 million over five years to facilitate the implementation of these reforms and provide rewards for progress on agreed reforms.

The following tables provide the Government's response to the ideas raised by the Economy Stream at the 2020 Summit.

Key ideas being taken forward by the Government

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Review of Australia's Future Tax System</p> <p>Also raised by: Creativity Rural Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commonwealth Government should undertake a comprehensive review of state and federal taxes within a two year timeframe, including interim reporting. This review should consider measures to simplify taxes, reduce inefficient taxes, harmonise taxes, ensure a progressive system as intended, and address negative interaction with the welfare system. Provide business and tax incentives, such as reduced income tax rates for those living in remote, rural and regional Australia. Increase harmonisation across jurisdictions to reduce the costs of administration and decrease the number of taxes. <p>Removal of distortions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce wasteful taxes that create perverse incentives, such as the fringe benefits tax threshold that encourages people to increase their driving mileage. Eliminate transaction taxes such as stamp duty. Recognise that some taxes will be deliberately distortive, but ensure that any distortion is driven by deliberate socially beneficial policy. Move the tax base from income towards consumption. Ensure the tax system is progressive in practice. Provide incentives for participation, such as marginal tax rates on second family incomes. Redress negative interactions with the welfare system such as effective marginal tax rates on transition from welfare to work. Review tax offsets and tax deductibility and consider ways of encouraging older people's participation in the workforce. The taxation review should include consideration of the relationship with retirement incomes. 	<p>The Government agrees with the need to review these issues and is undertaking a comprehensive review of Australia's tax system to position Australia to deal with the demographic, social, economic and environmental challenges of the 21st century.</p> <p>The review's terms of reference have been heavily influenced by ideas from the 2020 Summit. They also require the review to reflect the Government's policy not to increase the rate or broaden the base of the GST, and to preserve tax-free superannuation payments for the over-60s. The first round of public submissions closed on 17 October 2008. The review panel released a consultation paper in December 2008, informed by these submissions. The final report is due by the end of 2009, with the report on retirement incomes due at the end of March 2009.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Continued ...</p> <p>Review of Australia's Future Tax System</p> <p>Also raised by: Creativity Rural Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that Australia is not permanently disadvantaged vis-à-vis the flatter, simpler tax systems in Asia. • Index the tax scales to reduce buoyancy in the tax system. • Eliminate distortions on taxation of investment. • Use the tax system to encourage collaboration. • Tax incentives should be provided for private investment in research and development. 	
<p>Regulation – COAG Business Regulation and Competition Working Group</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform regulation, licensing, standards and enforcement for transport (both road and rail) and agriculture. • Harmonisation of state and territory regulations, including the removal of impediments associated with access to drought assistance. • Cutting red tape in general and setting minimum red tape targets when introducing new polices for dealing with climate change. • Harmonisation of federal and state regulations to reduce duplication and the costs of doing business. • The speed of regulatory reform should be increased, including creation of seamless national markets in key areas. • Review regulatory regimes to encourage private investment. • Regulation to be seen in the context of allowing market solutions wherever possible to deal with social problems and externalities. • Establish uniform national laws for industry, trade, finance and property. • Uniform laws for human rights, resources and infrastructure, and workplace safety. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The 2020 Summit recognised the importance of regulatory reform and harmonisation of state and territory laws.</p> <p>Many of the ideas discussed at the Summit reflect the work program of the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) Business Regulation and Competition Working Group (BRCWG).</p> <p>In December 2007, COAG established the BRCWG to deliver more consistent regulation across jurisdictions, reduce restrictions on competition in priority areas of the economy, and improve processes for regulation making and review. The work program includes reducing inconsistent and unnecessary regulation in 27 separate areas and delivering competition reform in eight agreed priority areas.</p> <p>In November 2008, COAG agreed to the new National Partnership Agreement to Deliver a Seamless National Economy, under which the Commonwealth committed to provide funding to the states and territories of \$550 million over five years. The payments are in two components; \$100 million to facilitate the implementation of reforms, and \$450 million in reward payments. The reforms, include nationally uniform OH&S laws, a national system for registering business names, and a national electronic conveyancing system.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Infrastructure – National Institution</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future infrastructure investment decisions should be approached from a national perspective. In rail infrastructure, such an approach would help facilitate a catch-up in investment and improve both the modality of our current network and intermodal hubbing. • A single national government entity to facilitate financing, approval and development of infrastructure projects. • 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. 	<p>Agree in-part. Infrastructure Australia was established by the Government in April 2008. It will conduct regular audits to determine the adequacy, capacity and condition of nationally significant infrastructure, taking into account forecast growth and the adequacy of the infrastructure to meet that growth. It will also develop a national infrastructure priority list for COAG to consider.</p> <p>Infrastructure Australia released an interim report on both the National Infrastructure Audit and the Infrastructure Priority List at the end of 2008.</p>



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Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Infrastructure Australia – National Priorities and Investment</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A time-sensitive approach to more rapid development of infrastructure. <li>• Telescope the development approval process for infrastructure projects. <li>• Provide clear guidance to parties so they can act on the objective criteria that have been set for a project and make the necessary longer term investments. <li>• Increase accountability for regulators, with clear performance indicators to review performance. <li>• Liaise more directly with capital markets (that is, superannuation funds) and develop national standardised protocols for public-private partnerships. <li>• Government should confirm its priorities in energy, transport, water and communications. <li>• Create a master plan with a clear framework for assessing infrastructure priorities. The plan should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– focus on areas where Australia has a competitive advantage, such as agriculture, mining and education <li>– impose national standards encompassing economic, environmental and social criteria for the development of infrastructure, and <li>– provide a framework for a rigorous cost-benefit assessment of projects. <li>• Immediate and sustained investment in Australia's intramodal and intermodal transport systems, targeting rail as the short-term imperative. 	<p>Agree in-principle. Infrastructure Australia released an interim report on both the National Infrastructure Audit and the Infrastructure Priority List at the end of 2008. The final Priority List will enable the Government, advised by Infrastructure Australia, to make timely decisions on projects that will advance Australia's nation building agenda.</p> <p>In November 2008 COAG endorsed a National Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) package. The package offers major reform gains in terms of consistency and harmonisation of PPP policy and practices across jurisdictions. It aims to encourage the consideration of PPPs, ensure consistent application of best practice across Australia and encourage private sector investment in public infrastructure in Australia.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Infrastructure – National Broadband Network</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity Rural Creativity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting Australia: Use new technologies to foster new working environments that dissipate the ‘tyranny of distance’ both within and beyond Australia. • Build and enable the use by all Australians of a world class broadband system to foster full participation in the digital economy. • Roll out a competitive national broadband network across Australia. • Establish a national digital fund to continue to expand Australia’s broadband. • Improve technology infrastructure and increased access to technology. • Provide broadband access for remote, rural and regional Australia. 	<p>Agree. The Government has announced it will establish a new company that will invest up to \$43 billion over eight years to build and operate a National Broadband Network (NBN) delivering superfast broadband to Australian homes and workplaces.</p> <p>Every person and business in Australia, no matter where they are located, will have access to affordable, fast broadband at their fingertips.</p> <p>The Schools Summits also recognised the importance of connecting regional areas to the internet, and the Australian Broadband Guarantee (ABG) program complements the rollout of the National Broadband Network in rural areas by providing safety net broadband services to all Australian households that are unable to access metro-comparable broadband services. An additional \$270.7 million over four years was allocated in the 2008–09 Budget to continue the ABG program.</p> <p>In addition the Government is preparing a ‘Digital Economy – Future Directions’ Paper in consultation with industry. The paper will provide a roadmap of how the Government and industry can collaborate to maximise the participation of Australians in the digital economy.</p> <p>Further, the Government’s Vocational Education Broadband Network will create a single post-secondary high speed broadband network, connecting the Australian training system to a similar network to that currently serving universities. This will increase flexibility in the place and pace of learning, and offer speedy access to resources no matter where they are located.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Continued ...</p> <p>Infrastructure – National Broadband Network</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity Rural Creativity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rural, economy, creativity and productivity streams proposed that the Government should assess the case for vertical separation of the national broadband network owner from retail carriers and carriage service providers. Fibre-to-the-home should be the key technology goal of government. 	<p>Agree in-part. The Government has established a company that will invest up to \$43 billion to build and operate a new super fast national broadband network.</p> <p>The network will be a wholesale-only, open access network that offers equivalent access terms and conditions for all access seekers. The Government will encourage private sector investment in the new network but measures will be put in place to ensure that the equivalence arrangements are not compromised.</p> <p>The Government has also announced that in the transition period to the full rollout of the new network, it will give consideration to stronger measures to ensure access seekers receive equivalent access terms on Telstra’s existing fixed-line network.</p> <p>The Government has announced that it will establish a company that will invest up to \$43 billion to build and operate a new super fast national broadband network.</p> <p>The Government’s objective is that the national broadband network achieve 90 per cent coverage to homes, schools and workplaces using optical fibre (fibre-to-the-premises or ‘FTTP’) and remaining coverage to be delivered through wireless and satellite technologies, within this funding envelope.</p>



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Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Mortgage Regulation and Housing Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure there is a fully effective housing finance market. 	<p>The Government agrees that a properly functioning housing finance system is critical to support residential lending. Important recent initiatives to support a fully effective housing finance market include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A package of measures announced in February 2008 to make it easier for Australians to switch banks if they are not satisfied with their current provider • Agreement through COAG that the Commonwealth will assume responsibility for the national regulation of consumer credit, which will establish a consistent and robust consumer credit protection framework for borrowers • The introduction of First Home Savers Accounts • The Government has directed the Australian Office of Financial Management (AOFM) to purchase residential mortgage-backed securities to support strong and effective competition in Australian mortgage market • A guarantee has been made available on wholesale funding for banks, building societies and credit unions, to support them raising the funds necessary to provide home loans.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Removing Discrimination</p> <p>Also raised by: Security Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unleash Australian talent by removing direct and indirect discrimination, which means improving structural support, strengthening laws and creating public accountabilities beyond gender – that is, age, race and disability. Review domestic legislation for human rights impacts and compliance. 	<p>Agree in-principle. On 10 December 2008, the Commonwealth Attorney-General announced a national consultation process on human rights and responsibilities in Australia. The consultation will be conducted in the first half of 2009 by a committee comprised of Father Frank Brennan SJ AO (Chair), Ms Tammy Williams, Ms Mary Kostakidis and Mr Mick Palmer AO APM.</p> <p>The Government has recently taken some key steps to addressing issues of discrimination. For example, in July 2008, the Government ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in December 2008, tabled a National Interest Analysis proposing that Australia accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention. The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties reported its views on 12 March 2009 and recommended that Australia accede to the Optional Protocol.</p> <p>In December 2008, the Government tabled draft Disability Standards to improve access to premises for persons with disabilities, and introduced legislation to implement recommendations of the Productivity Commission from 2004 to improve the operation of the Disability Discrimination Act.</p> <p>The states and territories also have existing programs to address issues of discrimination.</p> <p>In December 2008, the Government acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.</p>
<p>Budgets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-establish annual budgets as the sole priority-setting mechanism for government policy. This would help avoid 'short-termism'. 	<p>The Budget is the principal economic statement of the Australian Government and will continue to be supported by a comprehensive process of deliberation on competing proposals for limited funding.</p> <p>The Government, however, reserves the flexibility to respond outside the Budget process on matters of significance, such as the delivery of the economic security packages in response to the global economic crisis.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Teaching Workforce – Improving Teacher Quality</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reward excellence in teaching. Celebrate the vocation and contribution of teaching. Create a national education and qualification accreditation system and increase education funding. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government is committed to rewarding excellence in teaching and attracting high quality teachers. The Government has allocated \$550 million to the Smarter Schools – Improving Teacher Quality National Partnership and will work together with the states and territories to deliver reforms to attract, train, place, develop and retrain quality teachers and school leaders. Reform will focus on a number of areas, including new professional standards, recognition and reward for quality teaching – including for top graduates and mid-career changers, and national accreditation of pre-service teacher education courses.</p>
<p>Financing Literacy Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a national financing literacy program to provide to customers knowledge and understanding about things such as investment in superannuation, retirement and other sectors. 	<p>The Government has consolidated the Government’s financial literacy response under the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). This will help ensure that Australia’s financial markets are fair, transparent and supported by more informed investors and consumers.</p> <p>ASIC will play a national leadership role in advancing financial literacy in Australia. The Government’s decision recognises the need for people of all ages to have access to a range of learning opportunities, as well as reliable and independent information and resources to help them make informed financial decisions.</p>



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Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Community Engagement</p> <p>Also raised by: Communities Governance Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce a Prime Minister's Grand Challenge Prize for solving big national challenges of a global nature – for example, climate change. <li>• Strengthen the public policy debate. <li>• Establish 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. 	<p>The Government agrees with the idea of enhancing community engagement. The Government's approach is to trial different and innovative mechanisms and draw on specific suggestions across several streams in that context.</p> <p>For example the Government is committed to developing practical initiatives in e-governance that increase communities' ability to interact with the Parliament and the policy development processes of government. The Government is committed to making extensive information about policy issues available on-line to the community. The Government will develop better ways to increase interactive consultative processes using new technologies to communicate and hear from people. Some aspects of this work will be guided by the statutory Information Commissioner position, which the Government will be establishing as part of its Open Government reform agenda. As a first step, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has sought expert advice on the enhancement of information and access to Commonwealth information and policy and a whole-of-government approach to the development of an e-governance strategy.</p> <p>The Government is also considering holding a set of forums that will bring together experts, business and community representatives and others with a strong interest in a number of topics to promote a collaborative approach to challenging issues and better inform government decision making.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Governance Stream.</i></p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Reform of the Federation</p> <p>Also raised by: Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The creation of an independent body to carry out a ‘clean sheet of paper’ review of the roles and responsibilities of federal, state and local governments in areas of major economic activity. This body could be a new Federation Commission or an expanded version of the Productivity Commission and would absorb the activities currently conducted by the COAG Reform Council. <p>The new independent body should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate studies into areas of federal and state activity perceived to be operating at sub-optimal level and make recommendations for improvement 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 Make reports public early in the process to ensure progress and transparency 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 Within two years carry out a detailed audit of existing national governance arrangements 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. 	<p>On 29 November 2008, COAG reaffirmed its commitment to cooperative working arrangements through an intergovernmental agreement that provides an overarching framework for the Commonwealth Government’s financial relationships with the states and territories. The intergovernmental agreement is aimed at improving the quality and effectiveness of government services by reducing Commonwealth prescriptions on service delivery by the states and territories, giving them increased flexibility in the way they deliver services to the Australian people. The agreement provides a clearer specification of the roles and responsibilities of each level of government and an improved focus on accountability for better outcomes and better service delivery.</p> <p>Under the new framework, six National Agreements set out the roles and responsibilities of each level of government and what they intend to achieve from their joint involvement in major areas of policy, including health, education, early childhood and housing. The new arrangements also include National Partnership payments to fund specific projects and to facilitate and/or reward states that deliver on nationally-significant reforms. Further work on roles and responsibilities will be taken forward in 2009.</p> <p>To enhance accountability, COAG has agreed to an expanded role for an independent body, the COAG Reform Council (CRC). The CRC will report to the Prime Minister (as Chair of COAG) on the performance of all jurisdictions in relation to each National Agreement, and independently assess whether performance benchmarks have been achieved before an incentive payment to reward nationally-significant reforms under a National Partnership is made. The CRC will also produce an analytical view of performance information for each Specific Purpose Payment.</p> <p>The CRC also has a role in monitoring the aggregate pace of activity in progressing COAG’s agreed reform agenda.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Climate Change – Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme</p> <p>Also raised by: Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce an Emissions Trading Scheme and transition to clean energy technologies. • 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. • Establish a National Climate Strategy for transforming Australia to a green economy with technologies that could be exported globally. • Establish 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. • ‘Climate-proof’ the economy, remove anomalies and inconsistencies in planning, zoning, building codes, inefficient and distorting taxes, subsidies and regulations. 	<p>Agree. The Government is committed to a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) commencing in 2010.</p> <p>The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme White Paper was released on 15 December 2008 and outlines the design of the national emissions trading scheme, including a mid-term target range of a 5 to 15 per cent reduction in emissions from 2000 levels by 2020. The 5 per cent reduction represents an unconditional commitment by Australia to reduce emissions even if no international agreement to do so is reached. This sets Australia on a path to achieve its long term goal of a 60 per cent reduction from 2000 levels by 2050.</p> <p>The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme White Paper proposes that a scheme regulator be created with powers to monitor compliance, educate liable entities, investigate suspected non-compliance and initiate enforcement action if necessary. The scheme is specifically designed to link with international developments in this area.</p>



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Ideas the Government will consider further

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Reform of the National Access Regime</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The infrastructure imperative is to create a regulatory and institutional framework to allow timely and efficient investment, especially in key export areas. A specific priority is a simpler, national regime for third party access to give up-front regulatory certainty and to promote competitive pricing and adequate returns. 	<p>The Government is developing a package of reforms for the National Access Regime (Part IIIA <i>Trade Practices Act</i>) to enhance the regime. The reforms are being overseen by the COAG Business Regulation and Competition Working Group as part of its Competition Reform Agenda under the National Partnership Agreement to deliver a Seamless National Economy agreed by COAG on 29 November 2008.</p>
<p>National Development Index</p> <p>Also raised by: Communities</p>	<p>There were a range of ideas to create a national development index or national balanced score card that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focuses on the economy, people, the environment, culture, innovation and governance Measures progress against social inclusion based on economic, social and environmental measures. Federal budget papers should report annually on progress Contains social inclusion indicators – with social, economic and environmental measures and the publication of 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 Has three streams – economic, social and environmental development – as measures of progress rather than GDP. It may include sub-indices Develops social inclusion performance indicators to measure progress, particularly child social inclusion indicators such as literacy and numeracy benchmarks. 	<p>The Government is considering expanding the use of national indicators of development and ensuring consistency between the performance measures and indicators that are used across various levels of government.</p> <p>The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) already publishes a range of relevant reports, including Measures of Australia's Progress. Further work could be done to enhance areas of these reports and engage the community in discussion about what is important to Australia's progress and development.</p> <p>The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion will include reporting on a suite of indicators to show the nature and extent of social inclusion in Australia as well as how to best measure progress in achieving social inclusion goals.</p> <p>The Government is also looking into the establishment of a set of national environmental accounts. This will need to consider existing accounting mechanisms including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Greenhouse Gas inventory The new National Water Account maintained by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Water, energy and emissions, and other environmental accounts developed and published by the ABS.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Public Sector Reform</p> <p>Also raised by: Governance</p>	<p>Attracting and retaining quality staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a core of strong policy professionals with ease of movement between academia and the public service. • Commission an Inquiry on flexibility, remuneration and incentives within the APS to facilitate transition of top Australians between public and private sectors. • Expedite issues of remuneration (with better, more competitive pay), flexibility, and mobility. • Pay competitive, market-related remuneration to staff in order to attract and retain people and create a positive culture between business and government. • Create career paths from the private sector to the public sector and back, between government departments and the community. • Ensure diversity at all levels. • Strengthen the quality of the public service. • Promote the noble purpose of the sector in order to attract and retain the best people. <p>Innovative and open policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek out opportunities to change the way the public service operates and engages by becoming a thought leader in innovation. • Expect innovation in delivery approaches to all initiatives. • Manage risk instead of avoiding it in relation to innovation by people in the public sector. • Instil greater independence to encourage the provision of frank and fearless advice. • Develop a citizen or community focused public service and system. • Eliminate jargon in governance and bureaucracy. • Reserve and strengthen the whole-of-government approach in policy development, as opposed to silos between departments. • 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. 	<p>The Government recognises that new approaches to workforce planning are fundamental to ensuring that the Australian Public Service (APS) is responsive, agile and well positioned to support government in the 21st century. With this in mind, the APS is taking steps to identify current and future capability requirements and implement strategies to make sure that they are met.</p> <p>A number of reforms aimed at improving the professionalism of the APS are already in place, including, for example, the introduction of merit based selection for government appointments to APS agencies and the commencement in April 2009 of the Ethics Advisory Service in the Australian Public Service Commission.</p> <p>Strategies are also being explored to build a professional and better skilled public service, attract and retain employees with specialist skills through cadetships and work experience programs for tertiary students, enhance strategic policy capability and encourage more evidence based policy making and increase mobility between the APS, universities and the private and not for profit sectors. These reforms will help ensure that the APS has the capability to meet the challenges of the future.</p> <p>In developing and implementing these reforms, the Government will draw on the input of the 2020 Summit.</p> <p>The Cabinet Implementation Unit in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has a specific mandate to promote effective policy and program implementation and build skills and capacity across the APS in this area.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Continued ...</p> <p>Public Sector Reform</p> <p>Also raised by: Governance</p>	<p>Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on more effective implementation. • Make strengthening implementation a priority, with line managers accountable. • Create a mind-set that implementation is highly valued. • Carry out regular reviews of clear deliverables and outcomes in years following implementation. • Create a specialised implementation capability that helps line managers develop plans and carry out reviews. 	
<p>Constitutional Reform – General</p> <p>Also raised by: Indigenous Governance</p>	<p>Republic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Australian Republic (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.) Establish a constitutional commission or convention. <p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Constitution – retaining good bits of the existing Constitution, embodying a republic model, protecting rights, and permitting extensive community consultation. • A national competition to draft a new preamble to the Constitution. • If the Constitution and Senate powers remain the same, there should be a requirement that if the Senate blocks supply it should face the people. • Statehood for the Northern Territory and Treaty. • 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. • Improve process to make law making more efficient and effective by creating fixed parliamentary terms. <p>Indigenous Recognition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians and reconciliation compact/settlement through which the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is defined. • The Constitution be amended to remove any language that is racially discriminatory. 	<p>The Government recognises the priority placed on constitutional reform by the community. The Government is committed to ongoing reform of our Constitution where appropriate and will draw on the input of the 2020 Summit in thinking about future possible proposals for constitutional change.</p> <p>Indigenous recognition is a key issue for consideration and the Government is committed to consulting the community on a range of proposed constitutional reforms. The Government is considering a timetable for this consultation.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Foresight Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of a 'Foresight Centre' to look at trends and continuity over the long term to help engage future thinking. 	<p>The Government is committed to ensuring policy development is informed by long-term strategic foresight, and is considering how best to achieve this by building on existing processes such as the Review of Australia's Future Tax System. This review, due to report in 2009, will look at the current tax system and make recommendations to position Australia to deal with the demographic, social, economic and environmental challenges of the 21st century.</p>
Education Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicly funding the education system so that it is in the top quartile of the OECD (excluding HECS). 	<p>Increasing investment in education is a core priority of the Government, along with increased accountability and performance measurement, to improve the quality of Australia's education system. A range of initiatives are underway to achieve this goal, including the Education Revolution, reforms to higher education arising from the Bradley Review and the COAG Productivity Agenda.</p>
Response to the Review of the National Innovation System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and strengthen institutions such as the Productivity Commission, university research departments and independent institutions that produce credible research results. 	<p>The Review of the National Innovation System was undertaken by an expert panel chaired by Dr Terry Cutler and was completed in August 2008. The report from this review – <i>Venturous Australia: Building Strength in Innovation</i> – was released on 9 September 2008.</p> <p>The Review considered many aspects of the National Innovation System, including strengthening research institutions and funding for research and commercialisation.</p> <p>The Government will respond to the review in the near future.</p>

Ideas with no further action at this time

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Regulation Reform – New Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 	<p>Not supported at this time. At the Commonwealth level, there is already an extensive process underway to drive regulatory improvement through the Office of Best Practice Regulation in the Department of Finance and Deregulation. Some states also have similar processes underway.</p> <p>The Commonwealth and the state and territory governments are also working to reduce regulatory burdens through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). The Business Regulation and Competition Working Group is specifically working to reduce the regulatory burden on business.</p>
Sector Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out whole-sector (such as education) reviews every 10 to 15 years. 	<p>The Government already undertakes broad reviews of major policy sectors – usually more frequently than every 10 to 15 years. This time period is too long for appropriate reform in a rapidly changing economic environment.</p>
National Education System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a single national education system that promotes diversity, flexibility and mobility. 	<p>Not supported at this time. The Government believes a single unitary system from early childhood to higher education would not deliver the desired flexibility required for superior educational outcomes. However a range of initiatives are underway to capture the benefits of further national alignment of education, including the National Curriculum and National Education Agreement agreed by COAG in November 2008.</p>
Reform and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abolish ministerial councils and steer related matters through the Council of Australian Governments and the proposed new commission. 	<p>The Government considers that the role of ministerial councils should be kept under review but notes that abolishing ministerial councils would increase the substantial workload of COAG, as ministerial councils often undertake work of a technical or specialised nature that is specifically commissioned by COAG.</p>

POPULATION,
SUSTAINABILITY,
CLIMATE CHANGE,
WATER AND
THE FUTURE OF OUR CITIES

POPULATION, SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, WATER AND THE FUTURE OF OUR CITIES

Climate change and sustainability issues are some of the greatest economic, social, and environmental challenges of our time. As the driest inhabited continent on earth, Australia experiences severe drought and water shortages and is vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Australia also has a carbon intensive economy and reducing carbon emissions will be challenging. The Government believes that meeting this challenge is critical and is committed to the reduction of greenhouse pollution in Australia, as well as actively preparing for an altered climate in the near future.

Participants in the Sustainability Stream at the 2020 Summit agreed that Australia should aspire to be a leader in taking effective action on climate change and water management, with environmental issues integrated into household, business and government decision making. Other key ideas included a robust national emissions trading scheme, a focus on a healthy Australian ecology, incorporation of environmental considerations into economic assessments and the development of sustainable cities.

The Sustainability Stream developed a broad range of ambitions, themes and ideas that have influenced and guided the Government's policy in this area, including:

- **Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme** – The Government is committed to a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme commencing in 2010. The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme White Paper was released on 15 December 2008 and outlines the design of the national emissions trading scheme, including a mid-term target range of a 5 to 15 per cent reduction in emissions below 2000 levels by 2020. This sets Australia on a path to achieve its long term goal of a 60 per cent reduction in emissions from 2000 levels by 2050.
- **Intergovernmental Agreement on the Murray-Darling Basin Reform** – The Government is working hard to secure water supplies and restore the Murray-Darling Basin to a sustainable footing. On 3 July 2008, the Australian, New South Wales, Victorian, Queensland, South Australian and the Australian Capital Territory governments signed an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) on Murray-Darling Basin Reform. Under the IGA, governments committed to a new culture and practice of Basin-wide management and planning, through new structures and partnerships. On 4 December 2008, the Federal Parliament passed the Water Amendment Bill 2008, giving effect to crucial reforms on the management of the Murray-Darling Basin. As part of the Government's Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan, the Government has agreed to accelerate water purchases for the environment and targeted infrastructure investments.
- **Skills for the Carbon Challenge** – The Government recognises that equipping workers and businesses with skills for sustainability will be essential if Australia is to take the opportunities presented by a transition to a low carbon economy. The new Skills for the Carbon Challenge program will accelerate the response of both industry and the tertiary education sector to climate change by auditing current skills gaps, investing in training infrastructure and providing incentives for industry to take up skills for sustainability.

The following tables provide the Government's response to the ideas raised by the Sustainability Stream at the 2020 Summit.

Key ideas being taken forward by the Government

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Climate Change – Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Also raised by: Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce an Emissions Trading Scheme and transition to clean energy technologies. • 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. • Establish a National Climate Strategy for transforming Australia to a green economy with technologies that could be exported globally. • Establish 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. • ‘Climate-proof’ the economy, remove anomalies and inconsistencies in planning, zoning, building codes, inefficient and distorting taxes, subsidies and regulations. 	<p>The Government is committed to a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) commencing in 2010.</p> <p>The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme White Paper was released on 15 December 2008 and outlines the design of the national emissions trading scheme, including a mid-term target range of a 5 to 15 per cent reduction in emissions from 2000 levels by 2020. The 5 per cent reduction represents an unconditional commitment by Australia to reduce emissions even if no international agreement to do so is reached. This sets Australia on a path to achieve its long term goal of a 60 per cent reduction from 2000 levels by 2050.</p> <p>The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme White Paper proposes that a scheme regulator be created with powers to monitor compliance, educate liable entities, investigate suspected non-compliance and initiate enforcement action if necessary. The scheme is specifically designed to link with international developments in this area.</p>
Climate Change – Personal Carbon Footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before 2020 all Australians should have the tools to enable them to measure and manage their personal carbon footprints. This could include access to smart meters for energy and water consumption. • Introduce 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. • Track sustainability performances with something visible that will help people change their behaviour. 	<p>Agree in-part. In the CPRS White Paper, the Government committed to supporting households by delivering energy efficiency measures and providing consumer information so that households can save on their energy bills. In the 2008–09 Budget the Government also committed \$14 million to implementing a 10-star energy labelling system for appliances and introducing minimum greenhouse and energy standards for appliances.</p> <p>Furthermore, in June 2008, the Government committed to a staged approach for the national roll-out of smart meters. The Government is currently working with the energy industry and the states and territories to develop and implement national standards for these meters to ensure that compatible technologies are used across Australia.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Climate Change – Low-emissions Energy</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct further investment into research, development and deployment to enable a low-emissions energy revolution. • Create a national clean energy portfolio of several flagship projects – in ‘natural advantage’ categories such as agriculture, clean coal and renewable sources of energy. 	<p>Agree. Reflecting many of the ideas raised at the Summit, the Government has already announced a number of new initiatives to develop a low-emissions economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, which will commence in 2010, will create incentives for low-emissions technology • The Government has made a commitment to 20 per cent renewable energy by 2020 through the expanded national Renewable Energy Target • The National Low Emissions Coal Council and Carbon Storage Taskforce have commenced development of the \$500 million National Low Emissions Coal Initiative • Australia is leading a Global Carbon Capture and Storage Initiative, committing \$100 million per annum to accelerate the development and deployment of carbon capture and storage technology • The \$500 million Renewable Energy Fund is supporting the development, commercialisation and deployment of renewable energy in Australia • The \$150 million Energy Innovation Fund is supporting critical clean energy technology research in areas such as solar power • The \$3.9 billion Energy Efficient Homes Package will deliver up to \$1,600 in ceiling insulation to home owner-occupiers or a rebate on the costs of installing a solar hot water system. It will also provide help for renters, with a rebate of up to \$1,000 for landlords on the costs of insulating rental properties. This package will result in ceiling insulation for around 2.7 million homes • The Australian Government has also allocated \$240 million over four years to establish a Clean Business Australia partnership with Australian business and industry for tackling climate change.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Climate Change – Linking with Regional Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link with regional partners to address climate issues. 	<p>Agree. Australia is already working with partners, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, on practical actions that contribute to the global effort to respond to climate change. Since 2002, seven bilateral partnerships have been established with China, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, USA, UK and the European Union, under which more than 70 projects have been undertaken. Examples of international programs include the International Forests Carbon Initiative (IFCI), International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative and Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP).</p>
Climate Change – National Climate Adaptation Strategy Also raised by: Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‘Climate-proof’ 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. Establish a website that progressively charts climate change impacts across Australia. Establish an independent Australian Climate Information Authority to disseminate evidence-based information rather than advocacy. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government recognises the importance of preparing Australia for the impacts of unavoidable climate change and will continue to improve the nation’s capacity to adapt to climate change through the COAG Working Group on Climate Change and Water.</p> <p>The \$130 million Australia’s Farming Future initiative will assist primary producers to adapt to climate change.</p> <p>Both COAG and the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council have identified biodiversity as a priority for climate change adaptation. The Government is taking action to address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity through activities such as the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility.</p> <p>The Government has increased funding for Australia’s National Reserve System, a nation-wide network of reserves established to protect Australia’s environment. This network is part of the Government’s Caring for our Country initiative which focuses on achieving a healthy, protected and well-managed environment.</p> <p>Agree in-principle. Existing data published by the CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology and of the Australian Climate Change Science Program maps the impacts of climate change across Australia. In addition the Department of Climate Change website provides information on the impacts of climate change across Australia. Work continues on assessing the impacts of climate change across Australia, including through the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Skills for the Carbon Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a world-class climate change education program that includes developing applied science capacity, green economy skills and training, a clean energy corps, and ‘eco-education’ embedded in school curricula. • Facilitate investment in technology, infrastructure and industry skills to achieve greater diversity in supply. • Foster multi-disciplinary cross-industry training and skills development in the water industry – including hydrology, climatology, ecology and economics. 	<p>Agree. The Government recognises that equipping workers and businesses with skills for sustainability will be essential if Australia is to take the opportunities presented by a transition to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>The new Skills for the Carbon Challenge program will accelerate the response of both industry and the tertiary education sector to climate change by auditing current skills gaps, investing in training infrastructure and providing incentives for industry to take up skills for sustainability. This program reflects many of the ideas discussed at the Summit.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Water Management and Reform</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand use of a wider range of market mechanisms to acquire over-allocated water. Determine the process for the community to define the objectives and trade-offs to achieve sustainability. Identify key environmental assets and defining objectives and measurable criteria for system health and water quality. Improve scenario planning to take account of future system changes. Undertake research into the most efficient way of moving water around Australia. Undertake institutional and market reform based on water systems, not state boundaries, with participatory governance that engages the local community. Streamline the regulation of water markets. Improved water security for existing users. Facilitate investment in technology, infrastructure and industry skills to achieve greater diversity in supply. Support institutional and market reform – including proper pricing for water and competitive access for the private sector in delivery and distribution. Implement a demand management strategy, including standards for water infrastructure, fixtures and appliances. Increase the level of water sourced from climate-resilient supply options over time. Foster multi-disciplinary cross-industry training and skills development in the water industry – including hydrology, climatology, ecology and economics. Provide additional water infrastructure (including new dams) across Australia through a national program funded jointly by government and the private sector. Deliver innovative, efficient and cost-effective water savings and modernisation programs in established agricultural areas. 	<p>Through its \$12.9 billion Water for the Future initiative, the Government is funding infrastructure projects to secure water supplies through recycling, desalination, urban stormwater harvesting and improving the efficient use of water. The initiative includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The \$5.8 billion Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program to improve irrigation efficiency The \$1 billion National Urban Water and Desalination Plan to support desalination, water recycling and stormwater reuse. <p>In rural areas, the Government is working with the states and territories to improve key irrigation infrastructure to minimise system losses and enhance the efficient use of water.</p> <p>In addition, the Government has funded the \$82 million Groundwater Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$50 million – Groundwater Assessment Initiative \$2 million – Knowledge and Capacity Building \$30 million – Centre for Groundwater Research and Training. <p>In July 2008, the Australian, New South Wales, Victorian, Queensland, South Australian and the Australian Capital Territory Governments signed the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) on Murray-Darling Basin Reform. Under the IGA, governments committed to a new culture and practice of Basin-wide management and planning, and to a new approach to partnerships with the community.</p> <p>In November 2008, COAG agreed to a number of initiatives to improve the operation of water markets and trading through faster processing of temporary water trades, and to coordinate water information and research through the development of national water modelling strategy and a national water research strategy.</p> <p>On 4 December 2008, the Federal Parliament passed the Water Amendment Bill 2008, giving effect to crucial reforms on the management of the Murray-Darling Basin.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Urban Sustainability – National Energy Efficiency Strategy</p> <p>Also raised by: Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce an energy efficiency strategy for every sector (leveraging our natural advantages – at low cost). • Climate-proof low-income households – for example using compact fluorescent light globes, low-flow shower roses, and home energy audits. • 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. • 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. 	<p>In October 2008, COAG agreed to develop a National Strategy for Energy Efficiency to help households and businesses prepare for the introduction of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. The strategy includes options for the development of national legislation for appliance energy performance standards to reduce transaction costs for business. The Government is considering further action in this area.</p> <p>The Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme White Paper sets out a new package of financial assistance for Australian households worth around \$6 billion a year to be funded from the sale of carbon pollution permits.</p> <p>In addition, the \$3.9 billion Energy Efficient Homes Package will provide up to \$1,600 for installing ceiling insulation for Australian home owner occupiers and \$1,000 for installing insulation in private rental properties. This package will result in ceiling insulation for around 2.7 million homes.</p>
<p>National Waste Policy</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a closed-loop economy to create a zero-waste society – a manufacturing system that deals with its own waste, minimising its ecological footprint. • 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). • Transform the ecological footprint of the built environment by taking the lead on national planning, building and product standards to minimise waste and energy consumption in our homes and in our neighbourhoods. 	<p>The Government is giving priority to the development of a National Waste policy, which is scheduled to be released in 2009.</p> <p>The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme will also cover landfill sites, creating new incentives for efficient waste management.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Sustainable Cities Also raised by: Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead a nationally consistent approach to urban and regional planning which drives water efficiency and reductions in emissions; i.e. a National Sustainable Cities Program. 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. • Development of an urban design strategy for all towns and cities, including physical infrastructure, that would encourage social connectedness. • Rethink urban design to encourage social connectedness. • National Sustainable Cities Program – water efficiency. • Undertake a national agenda to plan for cities and population through establishment of a planning commission type organisation that sets goals and targets for cities. • Improve public transport for people to access opportunities for work, recreation and community involvement. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government is providing urban planning policy leadership through the creation of the Major Cities Unit within the Infrastructure portfolio, announced on 30 April 2008. This Unit's task is to identify opportunities where federal leadership can make a difference to the prosperity and sustainability of our cities and the wellbeing of their residents.</p> <p>The Water for the Future initiative and COAG's further work on urban water, water efficiency and sustainable buildings are also addressing this issue. In November 2008, COAG agreed to the adoption of the enhanced national urban water reform framework to improve the security of urban water supplies.</p> <p>Australia's Future Tax System Review will also consider the issues of fuel, roads and transport, including the efficiency of existing taxes. It will explore possible opportunities to move to more targeted taxes and user charges that promote the efficient use of transport networks.</p>
Consumer Information – Environmental Hubs for Consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create environmental hubs where consumers can go for information and answers. 	<p>Agree. The Government's new \$3 million One Stop Green Shop initiative will provide the Australian community with a single 'window' to all government environmental programs for sustainability at home.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Metrics – Sustainable Company Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage regular company reporting against sustainability indicators. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The <i>National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007</i> established a regulatory framework for Australian corporations to report greenhouse gas emissions, reductions, removals and offsets, and energy consumption and production from 1 July 2008.</p> <p>In addition, almost 4,000 facilities from a range of industries report annually to the National Pollutant Inventory.</p> <p>The Energy Efficiency Opportunities program requires mandatory energy efficiency reports for Australia's largest energy users.</p> <p>In February 2009, COAG agreed to consider at its next meeting improving the energy efficiency of residential and commercial buildings, through new building requirements, improving national consistency and the phase-in of mandatory disclosure of the energy efficiency of commercial buildings and tenancies.</p> <p>Triple Bottom Line (TBL) reporting is also becoming an accepted approach for organisations to demonstrate they have strategies for sustainable growth.</p>
Metrics – National Water Account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect data necessary for developing a biennial Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change-style report on the status of water systems. Publicise information on water status in annual environmental accounts. 	<p>Agree. The \$450 million Improving Water Information program, announced in April 2008 and administered by the Bureau of Meteorology, will produce the annual National Water Account, supported by a national water monitoring and data collection network.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Metrics – National Environmental Accounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a set of national environmental accounts, including carbon and water accounts, to inform government, business and community decision-making. Explicitly link the environment to productivity and innovation to underpin our future competitiveness. • Internalise the values from society and environment into a comprehensive reformed national accounts system. • 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. • Apply the principle that independent measurement of key factors is crucial, but that waiting for measurement is not an excuse to do nothing. • Undertake the valuation of environmental and social measures at the same level as economic measures, ensuring differentiation between ‘dollarisation’ and valuing. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government has committed to a new National Water Account maintained by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) and a new National Carbon Accounting System toolbox to support the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.</p> <p>The Government is also looking into the establishment of a broader set of national environmental accounts. This will need to consider existing accounting mechanisms including: the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System, the National Carbon Accounting System, the new National Water Account, and water and other environmental accounts developed and published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.</p>
Biodiversity – Caring for our Country Program Also raised by: Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a long term stewardship incentive scheme for private landowners for the provision of ecosystem services. • Actively rebuild resilience in nature and societies to avoid further loss and potential catastrophic breakdown of ecosystems. • Recognise and reward environmental stewardship and biodiversity banking – perhaps set targets such as 20 per cent in protected areas by 2020. 	<p>Agree in-principle but without a commitment to the targets proposed. The Caring for our Country program commenced on 1 July 2008 and seeks to achieve an environment that is healthy, well-managed and resilient, and that provides essential ecosystem services in a changing environment. The program will be delivered in partnership with private landowners, regional natural resource management groups, local, state and territory governments, Indigenous groups, industry bodies, land managers, farmers and landcare groups.</p>

Ideas the Government will consider further

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Water – Office of Northern Australia, Northern Australia Land and Water Taskforce</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural</p>	<p>Manage tropical water system conservation and sustainable use by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a management plan for Northern Australia within three years to prevent rather than repair environmental damage • Develop shared governance of tropical catchments (perhaps through a COAG agreement) • Partner with Indigenous and local communities – including through developing markets for ecosystems services and stewardship payments to Indigenous communities • Limit water system development to achieve healthy rivers whilst achieving the best economic outcomes – for example, water use for mining instead of agriculture • Leverage the available data to enable better policy making • Improve water-use efficiency and greater use of high rainfall areas in the north of Australia • Provide 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. 	<p>The Northern Australia Taskforce was given new terms of reference in January 2008 to consider broader economic development opportunities for northern Australia. The taskforce delivered a mid-term report in February 2009, with the final report due in late 2009.</p> <p>The Government has also established the Office of Northern Australia to facilitate the provision of high level policy advice on sustainable development issues affecting northern Australia.</p> <p>In addition, the Northern Australia Water Futures Assessment aims at providing a knowledge base to inform decisions about the development of northern Australia’s water resources to ensure that any development proceeds in an ecologically, culturally and economically sustainable manner.</p> <p>The Government will make available up to \$195 million over 2008–09 and 2009–10 to support economic development in the East Kimberley region through investments in social and common use infrastructure (e.g. health, education, housing, roads, ports and power) as part of its \$4.7 billion nation building investment initiative.</p>
<p>Water – Review of the 2007–08 Water Purchase Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the use of a wider range of market mechanisms to acquire water entitlements from over-allocated systems. 	<p>The Government is developing an expanded range of purchase mechanisms based on outcomes of the review of the 2007–08 Purchase Program.</p> <p>The Government will also commission the Productivity Commission to conduct a study into alternative market based mechanisms that the Government could use to diversify its water purchase program.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Urban Sustainability – National Building and Sustainability System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a national building and sustainability system which creates an emissions reduction program for all new and existing buildings. 	<p>COAG is developing a National Strategy for Energy Efficiency, to be finalised by June 2009, which will further progress building standards. COAG and industry have already introduced a number of initiatives that ensure measurable, verifiable greenhouse gas emissions abatement within the building sectors. For example, new residential buildings must already meet energy efficiency standards. For commercial buildings, minimum energy efficiency standards were introduced in 2006 within the Building Code of Australia. The \$90 million Green Building Fund will also support energy efficiency refurbishments.</p>
Urban Sustainability – Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage greater use of 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. • Redirect federal funding from roads to public transport-passenger and freight. 	<p>The Government supports the promotion of public transport. Infrastructure Australia will conduct regular audits to determine the adequacy, capacity and condition of nationally significant infrastructure, taking into account forecast growth and the adequacy of the infrastructure to meet that growth. It will also develop a national infrastructure priority list for COAG to consider.</p>
Sustainability Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Sustainability Commission as an independent 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. • Develop a national sustainability reform agenda resulting in a framework policy (National Sustainability and Climate Change Policy) and establish a commission (Sustainability Commission) with ‘teeth’, similar to Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. 	<p>The Government is currently considering options for a Sustainability Council/ Commission for aspects of environmental sustainability that are influenced by Commonwealth legislation, policy or programs.</p>
Urban Sustainability – Sustainable Cities Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate an Australian Sustainability Challenge – a competition between local communities, with the group making the largest shift towards sustainability winning a large government grant. 	<p>This is an innovative approach that the Government may consider in the future. However, there are a number of significant logistical problems that would need to be resolved prior to taking such an idea forward.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Community Engagement and Education in Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a national school-level strategy that includes a broad public awareness program on how to be sustainable. • Introduce sustainability education in primary and secondary schools. • Introduce a world-class climate change education program that includes developing applied science capacity, green economy skills and training, a clean energy corps, and 'eco-education' embedded in school curricula. • Support 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. • Educate decision makers in sustainability, so that decisions such as widespread land clearance in Western Australia do not happen again. Prevent 'crimes against sustainability'. 	<p>The Department of Climate Change has developed a broad public communication strategy to support the implementation of the Government's climate change policy. This includes a national advertising campaign (television, radio, print, and online) and a national public roadshow for the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. The Government has also developed a range of new public information tools, such as the One Stop Green Shop.</p> <p>The Government is providing funding to schools through the National Solar Schools Program, helping schools to tackle climate change and water conservation.</p> <p>The Government will consider further education and communication as part of its ongoing policies and actions on climate change.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Indigenous Cultural Education and Knowledge Centre</p> <p>Also raised by: Indigenous Creative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A National Indigenous Knowledge Centre should be established and maintained by Indigenous people. This centre could examine multidisciplinary research and program delivery pertaining to climate change, sustainability and water. 	<p>Indigenous culture is a critical part of Australia's identity and strengthening it is a core element of sustaining a strong and healthy Indigenous community. It was a prominent theme at the Summit and was raised across multiple streams. The Government agrees that the celebration of Indigenous culture in this way will complement and contribute to its core development policies for Indigenous Australia.</p> <p>An Indigenous Knowledge Centre would build on the current role played by the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Become a national gathering place for the celebration and discussion of Indigenous culture, in a physical or 'virtual' sense Become a reference point for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture Engage in research to harness traditional knowledge to support sustainable management of country Support the education and understanding of Indigenous culture and affairs across Australia and preserve Indigenous heritage. <p>As the first step in the establishment of a centre, the community will be consulted on its form.</p> <p>We are therefore initiating a comprehensive feasibility study to engage the Indigenous and wider communities and existing institutions to develop options for the most effective way to strengthen and support Indigenous culture.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Indigenous Stream.</i></p>
<p>Migration Framework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia should have a population policy, and immigration program that works truly in the national interest and that is a model for the world. 	<p>The Government is currently examining the implications of an expanding population, including potential fiscal costs and economic effects, along with a long term migration framework. The next release of the Government's Intergenerational Report will outline the economic and fiscal implications of Australia's projected demographic changes over the next forty years.</p>

Ideas others may progress

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Biodiversity – Coastal Zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concentrate development away from coastal zones to contain our footprint. 	Local planning is a state and local government responsibility.

Ideas with no further action at this time

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
National Sustainability, Population and Climate Change Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt a National Sustainability, Population and Climate Change Agenda and develop robust institutions to support it. Australia should have a whole-of-government approach to climate change and sustainability policy, encompassing government expenditure, taxation, regulation and investment. Provide for a full range of mechanisms to redress market failures, including ensuring that price reflects true social cost, not just private cost. 	Sustainability and climate change are key agendas that are actively being progressed by the Government. Each of these processes already considers a wide range of inter-related issues. An additional high level agenda could complicate ongoing work.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS
FOR RURAL INDUSTRIES
AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR RURAL INDUSTRIES AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

Rural industries and rural communities play a vital role in Australia's economy and the fabric of Australian life and culture. However the sustainability of rural communities and industry over the coming decades will require investment in skills and infrastructure, an innovative culture, increased competitiveness in global markets, the creation of new export markets and the development of vibrant and connected remote, rural and regional communities. A targeted approach is also needed to sustain the long term viability of our rural industries in the face of climate change.

At the 2020 Summit, the Rural Stream considered a range of issues faced by rural communities and industries, many of which have synergies with ideas raised in other streams. Central themes included sustainability and the challenges that rural industries will face around climate change, education, creating a clear vision for the future of rural Australia, connecting individuals and communities, infrastructure and regional development, and the nationwide harmonisation of regulation and enforcement.

The Rural Stream developed a broad range of ambitions, themes and ideas that have influenced and guided the Government's policy in this area, including:

- **Infrastructure Australia** – Infrastructure Australia will conduct regular audits to determine the adequacy, capacity and condition of nationally significant infrastructure, taking into account forecast growth and the adequacy of the infrastructure to meet that growth. Infrastructure Australia released an interim report on the National Infrastructure Audit and the Infrastructure Priority List at the end of 2008.
- **National Broadband Network** – The Government has announced it will establish a new company that will invest up to \$43 billion over eight years to build and operate a National Broadband Network delivering superfast broadband to Australian homes and workplaces. The Australian Broadband Guarantee (ABG) program complements the rollout of the NBN in rural areas by providing safety net broadband services to all Australian households that are unable to access metro-comparable broadband services. An additional \$270.7 million over four years was allocated in the 2008–09 Budget to continue the ABG program.
- **Regional Development** – Funding of \$800 million is being provided to local councils and shires under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program to build local and community infrastructure. This will be delivered in two parts: \$550 million for Strategic Projects and \$250 million allocated direct to councils and shires. This program builds on a range of other community building infrastructure programs where the Government is making infrastructure investments using local knowledge and advice.

The following tables provide the Government's response to the ideas raised by the Rural Stream at the 2020 Summit.

Key ideas being taken forward by the Government

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Infrastructure – National Institution</p> <p>Also raised by: Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future infrastructure investment decisions should be approached from a national perspective. In rail infrastructure, such an approach would help facilitate a catch-up in investment and improve both the modality of our current network and intermodal hubbing. • A single national government entity to facilitate financing, approval and development of infrastructure projects. • 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. 	<p>Agree in-part. Infrastructure Australia was established by the Government in April 2008. It will conduct regular audits to determine the adequacy, capacity and condition of nationally significant infrastructure, taking into account forecast growth and the adequacy of the infrastructure to meet that growth. It will also develop a national infrastructure priority list for COAG to consider.</p> <p>Infrastructure Australia released an interim report on both the National Infrastructure Audit and the Infrastructure Priority List at the end of 2008.</p>
<p>Infrastructure – National Broadband Network</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity Economy Creative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting Australia: Use new technologies to foster new working environments that dissipate the ‘tyranny of distance’ both within and beyond Australia. • Build and enable the use by all Australians of a world class broadband system to foster full participation in the digital economy. • Roll out a competitive national broadband network across Australia. • Establish a national digital fund to continue to expand Australia’s broadband. • Improve technology infrastructure and increased access to technology. • Provide broadband access for remote, rural and regional Australia 	<p>Agree. The Government has announced it will establish a new company that will invest up to \$43 billion over eight years to build and operate a National Broadband Network (NBN) delivering superfast broadband to Australian homes and workplaces.</p> <p>Every person and business in Australia, no matter where they are located, will have access to affordable, fast broadband at their fingertips.</p> <p>The Schools Summits also recognised the importance of connecting regional areas to the internet, and the Australian Broadband Guarantee (ABG) program complements the rollout of the National Broadband Network in rural areas by providing safety net broadband services to all Australian households that are unable to access metro-comparable broadband services. An additional \$270.7 million over four years was allocated in the 2008–09 Budget to continue the ABG program.</p> <p>In addition the Government is preparing a ‘Digital Economy – Future Directions’ Paper in consultation with industry. The paper will provide a roadmap of how the Government and industry can collaborate to maximise the participation of Australians in the digital economy.</p> <p>Further, the Government’s Vocational Education Broadband Network will create a single post-secondary high speed broadband network, connecting the Australian training system to a similar network to that currently serving universities. This will increase flexibility in the place and pace of learning, and offer speedy access to resources no matter where they are located.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Continued ... Infrastructure – National Broadband Network</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity Economy Creative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rural, economy, creativity and productivity streams proposed that the Government should assess the case for vertical separation of the national broadband network owner from retail carriers and carriage service providers. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fibre-to-the-home should be the key technology goal of government. 	<p>Agree in-part. The Government has established a company that will invest up to \$43 billion to build and operate a new super fast national broadband network.</p> <p>The network will be a wholesale-only, open access network that offers equivalent access terms and conditions for all access seekers. The Government will encourage private sector investment in the new network but measures will be put in place to ensure that the equivalence arrangements are not compromised.</p> <p>The Government has also announced that in the transition period to the full rollout of the new network, it will give consideration to stronger measures to ensure access seekers receive equivalent access terms on Telstra’s existing fixed-line network.</p> <hr/> <p>The Government has announced that it will establish a company that will invest up to \$43 billion to build and operate a new super fast national broadband network.</p> <p>The Government’s objective is that the national broadband network achieve 90 per cent coverage to homes, schools and workplaces using optical fibre (fibre-to-the-premises or ‘FTTP’) and remaining coverage to be delivered through wireless and satellite technologies, within this funding envelope</p>
<p>Early Childhood Development Assessment (Healthy Kids Check)</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every child should be given an early development assessment, which could be funded through Medicare and delivered by early childhood centres. Conduct comprehensive physical assessments of all remote, rural and regional children aged four years to ensure early detection of potential behavioural and learning difficulties before the children start school. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government introduced the Healthy Kids Check (\$25.6 million over four years) on 1 July 2008 to ensure that every four year old has a basic health check to ensure they are healthy, fit and ready to learn when they start school. The Healthy Kids Check recognises many of the ideas raised at the Summit, and will promote early detection of lifestyle risk factors and delayed development, and provide guidance for healthy lifestyles and early intervention strategies.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Low Socio-economic School Communities</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide one-on-one support and special education for students who fall behind. • Overcome the public–private divide by funding students according to need and encouraging more private investment in public and private schools through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Student-centred funding – Funding according to need, where disadvantaged students attract more funding and support to ensure that they become a productive participant in Australian society – Further cross-sector collaboration – 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. • Provide education assistance for young people at risk or from disadvantaged backgrounds. • Provide case conferencing with school teachers and health professionals to meet the needs of children with conditions that impair their learning (rural). • Develop a school ‘twinning’ program—for example, pairing schools from different regions. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has agreed to a number of National Partnerships in relation to low socio-economic status school communities. The Australian Government will provide \$1.5 billion to address the needs of disadvantaged schools. The Government will work with the states and territories on a range of reforms that will support the educational and wellbeing needs of students and schools in low socio-economic status communities.</p> <p>COAG has also agreed to a National Partnership on literacy and numeracy that will aim to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students, especially those who are falling behind. Research and data collection will be supported by funding of \$40 million. This includes an additional \$13 million for the collection and reporting of data through the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority for which funding of \$17.2 million was announced in the last Budget.</p> <p>The Dare to Lead Project, funded by the Government, drives change in schools through a coalition of school leaders who influence improvements in Indigenous education. The project’s Partnerships Building Success direction for 2009–2012 has been supported by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and through the inclusion of colloquial reviews in sister school arrangements expect to increase the achievements in Indigenous student outcomes.</p>
<p>Education – Trade Training in Schools program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in human capital by strengthening regional high schools and post-secondary education facilities to limit the flow of rural children moving to the city for education. 	<p>Through the Trade Training Centres in Schools program, the Government will allocate from Phase One 32 per cent of a total \$90.3 million of funding to benefit schools in rural or regional areas. This Program provides for facilities to enhance vocational education opportunities for students in Years 9 to 12 through the upgrading of trade workshops, computer laboratories and other vocational training centres.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Education – Promoting Rural Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of remote, rural and regional Australia and its sectors within schools. Incorporate rural studies into a national rural education program that includes life-long learning, and the establishment of centres of excellence in agricultural studies in rural and regional locations. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government has provided \$175,000 for the Primary Industries Education Foundation, a partnership between government, industry and the education sector that will develop, coordinate and promote farm education in schools.</p>
Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Also raised by: Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support kitchen gardens in schools to enable school children to see how food is grown and experience truly fresh food. 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. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden National Program was launched by the Minister for Health and Ageing on 21 August 2008. The National Program will see up to 190 primary schools across Australia receive grants to build kitchens and gardens. Within four years, around 20,000 Australian primary school children in Years 3 to 6 will experience growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing fresh food each week, laying the foundations for a life time of healthy food choices.</p>
Education – Digital Education Revolution Also raised by: Productivity Economy Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. Use technology to improve the delivery of education inside and outside the classroom. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government is committing new funding of \$2 billion over five years to support the Digital Education Revolution. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants through the National Secondary School Computer Fund for new or upgraded information and communications technology (ICT) for secondary students in Years 9 to 12 A contribution of up to \$100 million through the Fibre Connections to Schools initiative, to support the development of fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) broadband connections to Australian schools Collaboration with the states and territories and Deans of Education to ensure new and continuing teachers have access to training in the use of ICT \$32.6 million over two years to supply students and teachers with online curriculum tools and resources.
Vocational Education Broadband Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>In addition to the wider Digital Education Revolution, the Government has also committed to a new Vocational Education Broadband Network which will create a single post-secondary high speed broadband network, connecting the Australian training system to a similar network to that currently serving universities.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Higher Education – HECS/HELP Incentives for Skills Shortage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tertiary graduates having their higher education loan debts reduced by seeking voluntary or paid employment in remote, rural and regional areas. • Incentives for education and training such as reduced higher education loan debts. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government is reducing HECS/HELP repayments by about half for early childhood graduates who work in regional and remote areas, Indigenous communities and areas of high disadvantage.</p>
Review of Australian Higher Education – Bradley Review Also raised by: Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the rigidity in funding arrangements. • Fund change management and leadership programs in remote, rural and regional Australia and develop a national strategy for rural education including a 'tertiary access allowance' and higher education loan waivers. • Provide clear educational pathways and partnerships for young people to gain access to quality higher education. 	<p>The Review of Australian Higher Education (Bradley Review) which was released in December 2008, examined the future direction of the higher education sector, its fitness for purpose in meeting the needs of the Australian community and economy, and the options for ongoing reform.</p> <p>The Government has provided an initial response to the report detailing a number of reforms in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future structural reforms for the higher education sector, which focus on a student-centred, demand driven system. • Reforms to Vocational Education and Training (VET), which focus on developing a national tertiary education system with clear pathways for students • Enhanced equity in tertiary education, with a focus on improving the accessibility of tertiary education for all Australians <p>More detail will be announced at the time of the Budget in May 2009.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Skills Development</p> <p>Also raised by: Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide free access to vocational education and training programs for every unemployed person. • Expand scholarship schemes to cover further education and other accredited training for remote, rural and regional students, trainees and apprentices. • 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. 	<p>Agree in-principle. As part of its Skilling Australia for the Future initiative, the Government is funding an additional 711,000 training places over five years, including 85,000 apprenticeship places and 309,000 training places for jobseekers who need training to assist them in participating in the labour force. The most recent expansion, announced 24 February 2009, provides 10,000 additional places to assist newly retrenched workers to access training.</p> <p>The Government's Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan includes a \$511 million Training and Learning Bonus. The Bonus has two components. First, it provides a one-off bonus of \$950 to students and to certain other income support recipients to assist with education costs for the 2009 academic year. Second, it provides a temporary additional incentive for eligible social security recipients to return to education and training. This incentive is in the form of a \$950 temporary supplement to the Education Entry Payment, which provides financial assistance to commence approved training and education courses.</p> <p>In addition from 1 July 2009, an additional 3,650 pre-vocational training and support places will be provided to young people aged 19–24 years through the Australian Apprenticeships Access Program. The \$30.2 million expansion of the program will support at-risk jobseekers to pursue apprenticeships or training.</p>
<p>Workforce Participation – Workforce Development</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct more research into what skills are needed (workforce development for science and mathematics education). • 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. • Improved professional development opportunities. 	<p>Agree in-principle. Skills Australia will provide the Government with recommendations on current and future skills needs to inform the Government's decisions in relation to skills development.</p> <p>The Government recognises that equipping workers and businesses with green skills will be essential if Australia is to take the opportunities presented by a transition to a low carbon economy. The Skills for the Carbon Challenge program incorporates an audit identifying industry's green skill needs.</p> <p>In February 2009 the Government committed \$298.5 million investment in employment services to ensure that any Australian worker made redundant will receive assistance to help them get back into the workforce.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Mentoring in the workplace – Golden Gurus</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<p>Create a scheme in which opportunities are provided for retired people to act as mentors in the workplace, incorporating remote, rural and regional Australia.</p> <p>The ideas raised regarding mentoring in remote, rural and regional Australia included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding should be provided for business coaches • People should be encouraged to create their own opportunities through a mentoring and coaching initiative • Partnerships between different industry sectors should be established including provision of business mentoring schemes between urban and remote, rural and regional Australia • Establish a mentoring exchange program between urban and remote, rural and regional Australia that targets students, trainees, young people, professionals and business people • Creation of a ‘flying business-mentoring squad’ of successful business people who volunteer their time to provide business and management coaching on the ground to small to medium businesses in remote, rural and regional Australia. 	<p>Agree in-principle. To help meet the challenges of our ageing population and pass on valuable experience from retirees to new generations, the Government is committed to developing a national Golden Gurus mentoring scheme. As discussed at the Summit the scheme will provide opportunities for retired mentors to support a range of small business and community needs. The scheme will be developed during 2009.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Productivity Stream.</i></p>
<p>Pacific Development – Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme</p> <p>Also raised by: Security Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish 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. • Develop links with Australia’s overseas aid programs 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. • A rights-based labour mobility initiative for South West Pacific, including East Timor. 	<p>Agree. The Government announced the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme on 17 August 2008. This three year scheme will examine the viability of a seasonal worker program, with a focus on the horticulture industry. The Government is conducting the pilot to examine whether a seasonal worker program could contribute to regional economic development objectives and also assist Australian employers.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Health Workforce – Inter-Governmental Agreement on National Registration and Accreditation</p> <p>Also raised by: Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a system of common accreditation and registration for all health professionals. • Establishment of a national system for registration of medical professionals. 	<p>Agree. In March 2008, COAG agreed to create a single national registration and accreditation system to create a more flexible, responsive and sustainable health workforce. The system will be in place by July 2010, initially for ten health professions.</p>
<p>Health Workforce – Promoting Migration/Rural Awareness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce incentives targeted at recruiting and retaining health and education professionals in remote, rural and regional Australia. 	<p>Agree. The Government already has a number of incentives in place aimed at recruiting and retaining health professionals in remote, rural and regional Australia.</p> <p>One example is the Government's expansion of the John Flynn Placement Program, providing 150 additional places for medical students each year. In addition, \$2.5 million over three years is being provided for clinical placements for health students. The Government is also providing additional funding of \$12 million over four years to the Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program and \$7.9 million over four years to subsidise the cost of obstetricians working in rural and remote communities.</p> <p>The Government has established an Office of Rural Health within the Department of Health and Ageing to undertake a review of Commonwealth-funded rural health programs to ensure that workforce programs and incentives respond to current population figures and genuine need.</p> <p>The Council of Australian Governments' Health Workforce Package includes investment of \$175.6 million over four years in capital infrastructure to expand teaching and training, especially at major regional hospitals, to improve clinical training in rural Australia as students who train in rural areas are more likely to practice in rural Australia.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Community Engagement</p> <p>Also raised by: Economy Governance Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. New mechanisms for facilitating greater involvement of non-government organisations, as well as the arts and volunteer sectors, in the development of policies for remote, rural and regional Australia – particularly new climate change policies. Policy making at the local and regional level. 	<p>The Government agrees with the idea of enhancing community engagement. The Government's approach is to trial different and innovative mechanisms and draw on specific suggestions across several streams in that context.</p> <p>For example the Government is committed to developing practical initiatives in e-governance that increase the communities' ability to interact with the parliament and the policy development processes of government.</p> <p>The Government is also considering holding a set of forums that will bring together experts, business and community representatives and others to discuss high priority topics.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Governance Stream.</i></p>
<p>Regulation – COAG Business Regulation and Competition Working Group</p> <p>Also raised by: Economy Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uniform regulation, licensing, standards and enforcement for transport (both road and rail) and agriculture. Harmonisation of state and territory regulations, including the removal of impediments associated with access to drought assistance. Cutting red tape in general and setting minimum red tape targets when introducing new polices for dealing with climate change. Harmonisation of federal and state regulations to reduce duplication and the costs of doing business. The speed of regulatory reform should be increased, including creation of seamless national markets in key areas. Review regulatory regimes to encourage private investment. Regulation to be seen in the context of allowing market solutions wherever possible to deal with social problems and externalities. Establish uniform national laws for industry, trade, finance and property. Uniform laws for human rights, resources and infrastructure, and workplace safety. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The 2020 Summit recognised the importance of regulatory reform and harmonisation of state and territory laws.</p> <p>Many of the ideas discussed at the Summit reflect the work program of the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) Business Regulation and Competition Working Group (BRCWG).</p> <p>In December 2007, COAG established the BRCWG to deliver more consistent regulation across jurisdictions, reduce restrictions on competition in priority areas of the economy, and improve processes for regulation making and review. The work program includes reducing inconsistent and unnecessary regulation in 27 separate areas and delivering competition reform in eight agreed priority areas.</p> <p>In November 2008, COAG agreed to the new National Partnership Agreement to Deliver a Seamless National Economy, under which the Commonwealth committed to provide funding to the states and territories of \$550 million over five years. The payments are in two components; \$100 million to facilitate the implementation of reforms, and \$450 million in reward payments. The reforms, include nationally uniform OH&S laws, a national system for registering business names, and a national electronic conveyancing system.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Infrastructure – National Priorities and Investment</p> <p>Also raised by: Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A time-sensitive approach to more rapid development of infrastructure. • Telescope the development approval process for infrastructure projects. • Provide clear guidance to parties so they can act on the objective criteria that have been set for a project and make the necessary longer term investments. • Increase accountability for regulators, with clear performance indicators to review performance. • Liaise more directly with capital markets (that is, superannuation funds) and develop national standardised protocols for public-private partnerships. • Government should confirm its priorities in energy, transport, water and communications. • Create a master plan with a clear framework for assessing infrastructure priorities. The plan should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – focus on areas where Australia has a competitive advantage, such as agriculture, mining and education – impose national standards encompassing economic, environmental and social criteria for the development of infrastructure, and – provide a framework for a rigorous cost-benefit assessment of projects. • Immediate and sustained investment in Australia’s intramodal and intermodal transport systems, targeting rail as the short-term imperative. 	<p>Agree in-principle. Infrastructure Australia released an interim report on both the National Infrastructure Audit and the Infrastructure Priority List at the end of 2008. The final Priority List will enable the Government, advised by Infrastructure Australia, to make timely decisions on projects that will advance Australia’s nation building agenda.</p> <p>In November 2008 COAG endorsed a National Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) package. The package offers major reform gains in terms of consistency and harmonisation of PPP policy and practices across jurisdictions. It aims to encourage the consideration of PPPs, ensure consistent application of best practice across Australia and encourage private sector investment in public infrastructure in Australia.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Infrastructure – Highways (Auslink)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade and build new national highways that connect remote, rural and regional Australia. • An upgrade of the Pacific Highway to dual carriageway along its entire route. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government will invest more than \$27 billion to improve the nation's road and rail networks from now until 2014. In addition, the Government has already allocated \$12.6 billion to the Building Australia Fund to deliver further investments in nation-building infrastructure, including in regional Australia.</p> <p>The Government has committed to invest \$140 million in 2008–09 and a further \$60 million in 2009–10 to Black Spot funding. The Government has also provided \$150.0 million over two years to improve road safety by funding the construction of boom gates at rail crossings.</p> <p>The Government has also committed to invest \$2.45 billion between 2009 and 2014 to continue the duplication of the Pacific Highway. Priority projects include the Ballina Bypass, Bulahdelah Bypass and upgrade at Saxtons Hill, Banora Point.</p>
Regional Development – Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of tourism opportunities. • Provide greater opportunities for local and artisanal food and wine production to support local and national tourism industries. • In the face of current pressures such as lower rainfall and corporatisation of farms, special effort needs to be made in remote, rural and regional Australia to facilitate new entrants into tourism and tourism product development. • Development of a national policy and strategy to promote a profitable remote, rural and regional Australia. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government promotes tourism through Tourism Australia. There are also a range of existing state initiatives in this area.</p> <p>The Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism also runs the Australian Tourism Development Program (ATDP), a competitive merit-based grant program that supports the development of the Australian tourism industry. In 2008–09, the ATDP will provide \$4.5 million for 11 projects in regional and metropolitan Australia to develop quality tourism precincts, experiences, and strategies for growth.</p> <p>In addition, \$1.8 million is available to continue business mentoring support for Indigenous operators under the Business Ready Program for Indigenous Tourism (BRPIT) and to support the promotion of Indigenous tourism experiences to the international marketplace.</p> <p>The Government is also developing a National Long-Term Tourism Strategy for release later in 2009.</p>
Regional Development – Regional Arts Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote remote, rural and regional Australia's cultural virtues – including Indigenous culture and the arts. 	<p>Agree. The Government has made a commitment to working with Regional Arts Australia to examine ways to develop the arts in regional and remote areas, for example through the Regional Arts Fund.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Regional Development – Local Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of locally appropriate regional infrastructure that is informed by an enterprise service strategy. 	<p>This goal is being progressed through the new Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program, as well as existing local, state, territory and Commonwealth initiatives.</p> <p>The Government has committed \$800 million to local councils and shires under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program to build local and community infrastructure.</p> <p>This will be delivered in two parts: \$550 million for Strategic Projects and \$250 million allocated directly to councils and shires.</p> <p>This program builds on a range of other community building infrastructure programs where the Government is making infrastructure investments using local knowledge and advice.</p> <p>The Government has also launched the Innovative Regions Centre (IRC) program, which will work with regions around Australia to increase the innovative capacity of local firms and regional economies.</p> <p>The Government has also committed \$150 million in 2008–09 to repair regional roads across Australia. This program will fund state and territory governments to repair roads in all regions, with funding to be focused on areas that have the largest backlog of eligible projects.</p>
Sustainability – Food Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain consumer trust through the pursuit of sustainable production. 	<p>Agree in-principle. Sustainable production, particularly in a changing climate, is being promoted through a range of measures, including Australia's Farming Future and Caring for Our Country programs.</p>
Food Security – Policy Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a government unit to consider national and global food security by looking at the context, drivers and emerging trends and new policy options. Examine 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. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government has established a team dedicated to working on food security issues within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Water Management and Reform</p> <p>Also raised by: Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake research into the most efficient way of moving water around Australia. Streamline the regulation of water markets. Improve water security for existing users. Provide additional water infrastructure (including new dams) across Australia through a national program funded jointly by government and the private sector. Deliver innovative, efficient and cost-effective water savings and modernisation programs in established agricultural areas. 	<p>Through its \$12.9 billion Water for the Future initiative, the Government is funding infrastructure projects to secure water supplies through recycling, desalination, urban stormwater harvesting and improving the efficient use of water. The initiative includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The \$5.8 billion Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program to improve irrigation efficiency The \$1 billion National Urban Water and Desalination Plan to support desalination, water recycling and stormwater reuse. <p>In rural areas, the Government is working with the states and territories to improve key irrigation infrastructure to minimise system losses and enhance the efficient use of water.</p> <p>In addition, the Government has funded the \$82 million Groundwater Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$50 million – Groundwater assessment initiative \$2 million – Knowledge and Capacity Building \$30 million – Centre for Groundwater Research and Training. <p>In July 2008, the Australian, New South Wales, Victorian, Queensland, South Australian and the Australian Capital Territory Governments signed the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) on Murray-Darling Basin Reform. Under the IGA, governments committed to a new culture and practice of Basin-wide management and planning, and to a new approach to partnerships with the community.</p> <p>In November 2008, COAG agreed to a number of initiatives to improve the operation of water markets and trading through faster processing of temporary water trades, and to coordinate water information and research through the development of national water modelling strategy and a national water research strategy.</p> <p>On 4 December 2008, the Federal Parliament passed the Water Amendment Bill 2008, giving effect to crucial reforms on the management of the Murray–Darling Basin.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Sustainability Stream.</i></p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Biodiversity – Caring for our Country Program</p> <p>Also raised by: Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a long term stewardship incentive scheme for private landowners for the provision of ecosystem services. • Actively rebuild resilience in nature and societies to avoid further loss and potential catastrophic breakdown of ecosystems. • Recognise and reward environmental stewardship and biodiversity banking – perhaps set targets such as 20 per cent in protected areas by 2020. 	<p>Agree in-principle but without a commitment to the targets proposed. The Caring for our Country program commenced on 1 July 2008 and seeks to achieve an environment that is healthy, well-managed and resilient, and that provides essential ecosystem services in a changing environment. The program is being delivered in partnership with private landowners, regional natural resource management groups, local, state and territory governments, Indigenous groups, industry bodies, land managers, farmers and landcare groups.</p>
<p>Preventative Health – Healthy Food and Living</p> <p>Also raised by: Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making healthy food choices easy (e.g. delivering ‘fast fruit’ to primary schools, fresh food to Indigenous communities, banning junk food advertising to children, regulating allowable content of unhealthy ingredients). • Healthy food leads to healthy nations. Model of food labelling (traffic light), label all food ingredients including trans-fats. • Use positive social marketing to encourage healthy living by making poor health habits expensive and healthy living habits less expensive. • Provide incentives to employers/schools to introduce healthy food exercise. • Develop a physical activity pathway for all Australians at all stages of life. • Introduce physical activity every day – 30 minutes throughout the workforce. • Design healthier buildings and neighbourhoods. • Develop health and lifestyle plans for every city. • Develop a wellness rating scheme for all suburbs, towns and cities. • Abolish duty-free alcohol and cigarettes into Australia. 	<p>The Government agrees that helping Australians to make healthier choices is an important goal. Not all of these ideas will be necessarily adopted in achieving that goal.</p> <p>In November 2008, COAG agreed to a Preventive Health National Partnership Agreement (to which the Australian Government contributes funding of \$872.1 million over 6 years) to support a range of nutrition, physical activity, obesity and smoking initiatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to services for children to increase physical activity and improve nutrition • Provision of support incentives for workplaces and local communities to provide physical activity and healthy living programs. • Rewarding States and Territories for achieving specified targets in the areas of healthy weight, healthy eating, physical activity and smoking. <p>The Preventative Health Taskforce will also be providing evidence-based advice to governments and health providers on health programs and strategies. The Taskforce will develop a National Preventative Health Strategy by June 2009, which is likely to address some or all of the issues raised by the 2020 Summit.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Reform of the Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Agree in-part. The Government is progressing this issue with states and territories through COAG. COAG has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaffirmed its commitment to cooperative working arrangements through an Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations (IGA) that provides an overarching framework for the Commonwealth's financial relationships with states and territories. The IGA aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of government services by reducing Commonwealth prescriptions on service delivery by the States, and providing them with increased flexibility in the way they deliver services to the Australian people. The IGA is supported by six new National Agreements in the areas of health, education, vocational education and training, disability services, housing and Indigenous reform. The framework provides a clearer specification of roles and responsibilities of each level of government and an improved focus on accountability for better outcomes and better service delivery Agreed to a new form of payment – National Partnership payments – to fund specific projects and to facilitate and/or reward States that deliver on nationally significant reforms. Agreed to an expanded role for an independent body, the COAG Reform Council (CRC) to monitor the progress of COAG's agreed reform agenda, to assess independently whether performance benchmarks have been achieved before an incentive payment to reward nationally significant reforms under a National Partnership is made and produce an analytical view of performance information for each Specific Purpose Payment.
Climate Change – Australia's Farming Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of farms with inputs different from those currently used so as to achieve new outputs—for example, carbon sequestration. Provide education on research and development results, including on-the-ground extension. 	<p>Agree in-principle. Farm Ready, announced in July 2008 as part of the Australia's Farming Future initiative, provides farmers with specialised training to help them to deal with the impacts of climate change. The Climate Change Research Program will also fund on-farm demonstrations of adaptation techniques.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Climate Change – Remote Renewable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a national renewable energy policy that is focused on providing investment opportunities and associated benefits for remote, rural and regional Australia. 	<p>Agree. In 2007 the Government committed to ensuring that 20 per cent of Australia’s electricity supply comes from renewable energy sources by 2020. The majority of this investment will be in regional areas.</p> <p>In addition, the Renewable Remote Power Generation Program provides financial support to increase the use of renewable generation in remote off-grid parts of Australia, including rebates of up to 50 per cent (up to \$200,000) for replacing diesel systems with renewable energy sources.</p>
Climate Change – Research Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation of the likely impacts of climate change on remote, rural and regional Australia as well as the likely adaptation requirements. Integrated research, development and extension for adaptation to climate change to streamline and integrate investments across institutions (such as at CSIRO and government departments). 	<p>The Climate Change Research Program is part of the Australia’s Farming Future initiative and will fund projects for new climate change adaptation technologies and techniques. The Government has committed to a funding increase to \$46.2 million over four years for the program, which includes funding for large scale collaborative projects involving a range of stakeholders, such as research providers, producers and state governments.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Climate Change – National Climate Adaptation Strategy</p> <p>Also raised by: Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Climate-proof’ 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. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a website that progressively charts climate change impacts across Australia. • Establish an independent Australian Climate Information Authority to disseminate evidence-based information rather than advocacy. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government recognises the importance of preparing Australia for the impacts of unavoidable climate change and will continue to improve the nation’s capacity to adapt to climate change through the COAG Working Group on Climate Change and Water.</p> <p>The \$130 million Australia’s Farming Future initiative will assist primary producers to adapt and respond to climate change.</p> <p>Both COAG and the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council have identified biodiversity as a priority for climate change adaptation. The Government is taking action to address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity through activities such as the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility.</p> <p>The Government has increased funding for Australia’s National Reserve System, a nation-wide network of reserves established to protect Australia’s environment. This network is part of the Government’s Caring for our Country initiative which focuses on achieving a healthy, protected and well-managed environment.</p> <hr/> <p>Agree in-principle. Existing data published by the CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology and of the Australian Climate Change Science Program maps the impacts of climate change across Australia. In addition the Department of Climate Change website provides information on the impacts of climate change across Australia. Work continues on assessing the impacts of climate change across Australia, including through the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility.</p>

Ideas the Government will consider further

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Community Events Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding support for community events. 	<p>A range of grant programs already provide funding for community events. Funding support will be considered under the Community Programs Review being carried out by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. States and territories, and local governments also already support community events through various programs.</p>
Community Corps – Support for Volunteer Work Also raised by: Productivity Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish 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. Allow community service to reduce a person's HECS/HELP debt. Allow tertiary graduates to have their higher education loan debts reduced by seeking voluntary or paid employment in remote, rural and regional areas. 	<p>The Australian volunteering spirit is one of our biggest strengths and we need to foster, promote and recognise it.</p> <p>The government is not currently proposing either a new form of national service or reductions in higher education debts and notes that both proposals would be likely to have significant resource implications for government. That said, it considers that these options do have merit and will take them into account when further developing proposals to boost the volunteer sector.</p> <p>Job Services Australia (which will replace Job Network from 1 July 2009) has a work experience stream and will encourage job seekers to participate in volunteer and other community work to build their work skills.</p>
Support for Philanthropy and Giving Also raised by: Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouragement of volunteering. 	<p>The Government is considering wider incentives and strategies for corporate philanthropy, and is considering the input provided by the Australia 2020 Summit in that context.</p> <p>The Government is also considering the development of a national volunteering strategy.</p> <p>Job Services Australia (which will replace Job Network from 1 July 2009) has a work experience stream and will encourage job seekers to participate in volunteer and other community work to build their work skills.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Communities Stream.</i></p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Regulation – PC Review of Regulatory Burdens on Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the regulation costs imposed on the food processing sector and remove regulatory food and fibre supply chain impediments and export services impediments. 	<p>The Productivity Commission completed its review of Regulatory Burdens on Business: Manufacturing and Distributive Trades in September 2008. The review identifies a range of improvements to regulations that primarily affect food manufacturing and distribution. The Government is considering its response to the review.</p>
Agriculture Industry – Farm Management Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government should investigate and develop a holistic sustainable farm operational plan strategy, including an integrated carbon strategy. 	<p>The development of new and enhanced farm management strategies are core outcomes from Australia’s Farming Future and Caring for our Country programs. In addition, the Government – along with the states and territories – is investigating a national approach to farm management strategies aimed at improving the sustainability of agriculture.</p>
Agriculture Industry – National Review of Drought Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove current impediments to adjustment – namely government subsidies that prevent the adjustment required to grow resilient businesses, both intellectual and economic. 	<p>The Government is committed to ensuring that Australia’s agricultural, fisheries, food and forestry industries remain competitive, profitable and sustainable. The Government has a range of policies to assist these sectors to adjust to a changing climate and drought.</p> <p>The Government is also conducting a comprehensive national review of drought policy.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Water – Office of Northern Australia, Northern Australia Land and Water Taskforce</p> <p>Also raised by: Sustainability</p>	<p>Manage tropical water system conservation and sustainable use by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a management plan for Northern Australia within three years to prevent rather than repair environmental damage • Develop shared governance of tropical catchments (perhaps through a COAG agreement) • Partner with Indigenous and local communities – including through developing markets for ecosystems services and stewardship payments to Indigenous communities • Limit water system development to achieve healthy rivers whilst achieving the best economic outcomes – for example, water use for mining instead of agriculture • Leverage the available data to enable better policy making • Improve water-use efficiency and greater use of high rainfall areas in the north of Australia • Provide 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. 	<p>The Northern Australia Taskforce was given new terms of reference in January 2008 to consider broader economic development opportunities for northern Australia. The taskforce delivered a mid-term report February 2009, with the final report due in late 2009.</p> <p>The Government has also established the Office of Northern Australia to facilitate the provision of high level policy advice on sustainable development issues affecting northern Australia.</p> <p>In addition, the Northern Australia Water Futures Assessment aims at providing a knowledge base to inform decisions about the development of northern Australia’s water resources to ensure that any development proceeds in an ecologically, culturally and economically sustainable manner.</p> <p>The Government will make available up to \$195 million over 2008–09 and 2009–10 to support economic development in the East Kimberley region through investments in social and common use infrastructure (e.g. health, education, housing, roads, ports and power) as part of its \$4.7 billion nation building investment initiative.</p>
<p>Biodiversity – Review of Australia’s Quarantine and Biosecurity Systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of the diversity of our plants and animals, including protection from exotic disease, through the implementation of safeguards including biosecurity measures. 	<p>The Government commissioned a comprehensive, independent review of Australia’s quarantine and biosecurity systems. The report of the independent Review of Australia’s Quarantine and Biosecurity Arrangements, One Biosecurity: A Working Partnership (Beale Review) chaired by Mr Roger Beale AO, was released on 18 December 2008. The Government has agreed in principle to all 84 recommendations proposed by the Beale Review to improve the biosecurity system. These changes are necessary to better protect the health of Australian people, the environment and agricultural industries. Implementation will depend on a number of considerations, including the outcome of negotiations with the states and territories, budget considerations, development of biosecurity legislation and discussions with stakeholders which will occur over 2009 and into 2010.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Biodiversity – Response to the Inquiry into the Future Development of the Australian Honey Bee Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the crucial role of honey bee pollination in food production and adequate support for the honey bee industry. 	<p>A House of Representatives report – ‘More Than Honey: the future of the Australian honey bee and pollination industries’, was released in June 2008. The report proposes 25 recommendations to address the challenges facing the honey bee and related industries in Australia. The Government’s response will be provided in due course.</p>
Food Security – CPRS Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid creating food shortages by providing more favourable incentives for agriculture to participate in carbon markets. 	<p>The Government has committed to a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) which will commence in 2010. The Government does not consider that it is practical to include agriculture emissions in the trading scheme at commencement. A final decision on coverage of agriculture emissions will be made in 2013 following consultation with the industry to identify practical methods for inclusion and to develop reliable and cost-effective methods of emissions reporting. The CPRS also provides scope for some activity to create offset credits, although the Government is not proposing to establish an offset scheme for agriculture prior to a final decision on inclusion of agriculture within the CPRS in 2013.</p>
Food Security – Office of Northern Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulfil the significant potential of north and north-west Australia, so that Australia can be ‘the food bowl of Asia’. Initiate further research into the potential of north and north-west Australia with particular reference to Agriculture. 	<p>The Government has established the Office of Northern Australia to provide high level policy advice on sustainable development issues affecting northern Australia. The Northern Australia Land and Water Taskforce is also examining the potential for new developments in northern Australia that rely on significant local or regional water resources.</p>
Taxation – Review of Australia’s Future Tax System Also raised by: Economy Productivity Creative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide business and tax incentives, such as reduced income tax rates for those living in remote, rural and regional Australia. 	<p>As discussed at the Summit, the Government agrees with the need to review taxation issues and is undertaking a comprehensive review of Australia’s tax system to position Australia to deal with the demographic, social, economic and environmental challenges of the 21st century. The review’s terms of reference have been heavily influenced by ideas from the 2020 Summit. The final report is due by the end of 2009.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Economy Stream.</i></p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Response to the Review of the National Innovation System</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term funding for research, including its extension that goes beyond the current short-term bidding cycles. 	<p>The Review of the National Innovation System was undertaken by an expert panel chaired by Dr Terry Cutler and was completed in August 2008. The report from this review, <i>Venturous Australia: Building Strength in Innovation</i> was released on 9 September 2008.</p> <p>The Review considered numerous aspects of the National Innovation System including; education, funding for research and commercialisation and strengthening innovation culture.</p> <p>The Government will respond to the review in the near future.</p>

Ideas others may progress

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Education – Urban-Rural Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupational training programs that support urban-rural migration and are backed by a diverse range of industries. 	State and local governments deliver a range of urban and rural study programs. The Productivity Places Program National Partnership also offers training places to job seekers and existing workers in areas of skills shortages.
Higher Education – Agriculture Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restructure 22 faculties of agriculture across the country into a smaller number of faculties with centres of excellence as the focus. 	This could be addressed by the states and territories (which fund such institutions and rural programs) or through individual universities.
Regional Development – Regional-Business Online Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	There is no evidence that direct Government provision would be necessary. A number of online business networks are already in place and this idea could be pursued further through the private sector.
Promoting Migration/Rural Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Showcasing of remote, rural and regional communities by way of promotional drives – could be called ‘the Bush Blitz’. Skilled people across all age groups who are passionate about working and living in sustainable and profitable parts of remote, rural or regional Australia. 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’. 	Marketing of rural areas would be best led by state and local governments or regional communities, which are best positioned to understand their communities’ needs.
Rural Workforce – Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	This concept would be best addressed by particular industries or regions that could target people to fill their skills gaps.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Health – Non-Hospital Health Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish 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. 	This would be best addressed by state, territory and local governments.
Food Security – Biotechnology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate further community debate on the use of biotechnology in the production of food. 	There is ongoing public discussion on the use of biotechnology in the production of food in a range of fora, including the media. Further debate is a matter for the community.

Ideas with no further action at this time

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Education – Rural Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of rural studies in a compulsory national education curriculum. 	Disagree. The national curriculum under development does not incorporate mandatory rural studies, but individual schools or state and territory school systems are free to incorporate rural studies into their curricula.
Education – Rural Education National Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government funding to establish a national body for remote, rural and regional education. 	States currently run rural schools programs and the need for a national body has not been established. The National Partnership on low socio-economic status school communities and improving teacher quality agreed by COAG will help to address the needs of rural and remote school students.
Economic Zones Also raised by: Indigenous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Disagree. The objectives this idea seeks to pursue are likely to be addressed through the review of Australia's Future Tax System. However, creation of 'economic zones' may prove unconstitutional as they may favour one region over another.
Regional Development – Multi-peril Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of infrastructure and investments from natural and human-induced disasters through government provision of multi-peril insurance. 	Disagree. There is currently no evidence of market failure with respect to multi-peril insurance. In addition government intervention could undermine market provision of insurance. The Government will continue to consider insurance issues in the context of growing climate change challenges.
Regional Development – Rural Social Inclusion Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a rural social inclusion board. 	The Government established the Australian Social Inclusion Board in May 2008. It will focus on the most disadvantaged geographic areas and communities, which is likely to include some rural areas.
Regional Development – Rural-Urban Parity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Following this, a 'charter of parity on essential services for remote, rural and regional Australia' could be enacted. 	A range of initiatives are already in place to promote regional development. A 'charter of parity' is unlikely to provide significant additional benefits.
Regional Development – Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of matching government incentives under 'mutual obligation partnerships' for activities that deliver broad community benefits for remote, rural and regional Australia. 	A number of existing programs, such as the Better Regions Program, the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program, Caring for our Country Program, Tourism Development Program, Mobile Connect Program and the Community Heritage Grants program currently provide funding to communities for specific purposes.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Rural Impact Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A requirement that a rural impact assessment be carried out for all new policy measures. 	All submissions that go before Cabinet already require a regulatory impact statement which considers the impacts on key stakeholder groups, including rural Australia.
Liability Insurance Also raised by: Creative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and arts groups, including those in rural areas, should no longer be required to obtain public liability insurance. Alternatively, the costs of public liability insurance should be minimised or should be the responsibility of the Government. Funding support for community events and subsidisation of the insurance costs of holding these events. 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’. 	<p>Not supported at this time. Civil liability issues are state and territory responsibilities.</p> <p>In recent years, there has been significant reform to state, territory and Commonwealth tort law. The cost of public liability insurance in Australia has also fallen significantly. In these circumstances, further evidence is required to justify Government intervention.</p>
Agriculture Industry – R&D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for the delivery of research extension services through application of a tiered levy on agricultural product customers such as supermarket retailers. It should be applied so that the levy cannot be passed on to consumers. 	Disagree. The costs of such a market intervention would be very high and it would be impossible for costs not to be passed to consumers. There are other mechanisms available for funding research.
Agriculture Industry – Productivity Drivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Productivity drivers vary between industries and the Government is already taking action in relation to some of these drivers (such as market access). The idea is also already being broadly addressed by the Government’s Productivity Agenda.
Agriculture Industry – Superannuation investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouragement of Australia’s growing superannuation and investment funds to invest in agriculture ideas. 	Disagree. It is inappropriate for government to intervene in the investment decisions of commercial enterprises.
Agriculture Industry – New Agriculture Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transform the federal agriculture portfolio into a ‘ministry for food, fibre, environmental services and shelter’ to better reflect the products remote, rural and regional Australia provides. 	Disagree. Altering the name of the existing Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry would not necessarily result in increased recognition of products from remote, rural and regional Australia. The issues associated with ‘food, fibre, environmental services and shelter’ are too broad for one department and are better addressed through current whole-of-government approaches.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Sustainability – Food Prices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support a willingness on the part of consumers to pay more for sustainably produced food. 	Disagree. Introduction of the CPRS is an important first step in ensuring the production of sustainable food pricing and the scheme will be accompanied by an education strategy. However, specific product pricing is a business decision in which the Government should not intervene.
Climate Change – Landscape and Carbon Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a new national body (a ‘Landscape and Carbon Commission’) to implement national policy, research and development, ecosystem programs and the governance of associated markets, and coordinate regional delivery of programs and extension. 	These objectives are already being pursued through a range of other institutions and policies, including the CPRS, Caring for our Country, the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests. It is not clear that a new national body will improve outcomes.
Water – North Australia Pipeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use geothermal energy to pump water from northern to southern Australia. 	Disagree. Technological limitations would not allow this idea to be economically implemented in the short-to-medium term.
Safe and Healthy Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce safe and healthy food. 	The Government is already committed to ensuring the production of safe and healthy food through the primary industries and health portfolios.
Modern Federation Also raised by: Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Not supported at this time. State governments play a central role in policy development and service delivery to citizens. Abolition of the state and territory governments has very limited popular support.

A LONG TERM
NATIONAL HEALTH
STRATEGY

A LONG TERM NATIONAL HEALTH STRATEGY

Australia is fortunate to have a health system which has delivered, in international terms, very good health outcomes due to Medicare, a strong public hospital system, and a high quality workforce. However, the challenges which our health system face are substantial. Health costs are rapidly increasing, due to expensive technologies, higher pharmaceutical costs and increasing community expectations. Australia's ageing population also poses great challenges to the health system, generating the need to provide increasing levels of aged care and support in a system already under pressure. Australia is also experiencing the increasing burden of preventable chronic disease such as diabetes. The Government has made health a major priority in its first term and is committed to delivering national policy solutions that are socially and economically sustainable. This agenda is being progressed through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) as part of a wide range of health reforms currently under consideration.

Participants in the Health Stream at the 2020 Summit agreed on the need to have a health system integrated at all levels, focused on both illness and wellness, drawing on the latest technological advances and research to deliver improved health outcomes for all Australians by 2020. These ideas covered a broad range of themes, including healthy lifestyles, health promotion and disease prevention, the health workforce and service provision, addressing health inequalities, and future challenges and opportunities in health and health research. The ideas from the Summit have made a significant contribution to the Government's health policy.

The Health Stream developed a broad range of ambitions, themes and ideas that have influenced and guided the Government's policy in this area, including:

- **National Plan to Boost Organ and Tissue Donation** – The Government's National Plan to Boost Organ Donation is a \$151.1 million national reform package to boost the number of life-saving organ transplants for Australians.
- **National Healthcare Agreement** – In November 2008, COAG agreed to an historic package of broad reforms of the health and hospital system. Under a new National Healthcare Agreement and associated national reform proposals, the Government will provide \$64.4 billion in funding over five years. This includes an increase to the Healthcare Specific Purpose Payment of \$4.8 billion over the forward estimates period, and a package of health reforms in priority areas totalling \$3.9 billion. One important reform is the Preventative Health National Partnership to improve the health of all Australians, which includes the establishment of a national preventative health agency. Other reforms include the Indigenous Health National Partnership, which expands primary health care and targeted prevention activities, and the Hospital and Health Workforce Reform National Partnership, providing the single largest investment in the health workforce ever made by Australian governments as well as improvements to hospital efficiency, sub-acute care and emergency department services.
- **Research in Bionic Vision Science and Technology** – The Government is committed to supporting research where Australia is on the leading edge of innovation as a crucial investment in our nation's future. One such area is research into the bionic eye, which is a critical advancement for millions of vision impaired Australians and promises the development of technologies to translate into other areas of need. Australia is already a world leader in bionics based on our expertise in the bionic ear. The Government is committed to conducting a competitive grants process to fund this important work.

The following tables provide the Government's response to the ideas raised by the Health Stream at the 2020 Summit.

Key ideas being taken forward by the Government

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Research in Bionic Vision Science and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote better commercialisation of intellectual property, by taking the lead in developing innovative health technologies, such as inventing a 'bionic eye' by 2020. 	<p>As discussed at the 2020 Summit, the Government is committed to supporting research where Australia is on the leading edge of innovation. One such area is research into the bionic eye, which is a critical advancement for millions of vision impaired Australians and promises the development of technologies to translate into other areas of need. Australia is already a world leader in bionics based on our expertise in the bionic ear. The Government is committed to conducting a competitive grants process to fund this important work.</p>
Preventative Health – Healthy Food and Living Also raised by: Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making healthy food choices easy (e.g. delivering 'fast fruit' to primary schools, fresh food to Indigenous communities, banning junk food advertising to children, regulating allowable content of unhealthy ingredients). Healthy food leads to healthy nations. Model of food labelling (traffic light), label all food ingredients including trans-fats. Use positive social marketing to encourage healthy living by making poor health habits expensive and healthy living habits less expensive. Provide incentives to employers/schools to introduce healthy food exercise. Develop a physical activity pathway for all Australians at all stages of life. Introduce physical activity every day – 30 minutes throughout the workforce. Design healthier buildings and neighbourhoods. Develop health and lifestyle plans for every city. Develop a wellness rating scheme for all suburbs, towns and cities. Abolish duty-free alcohol and cigarettes into Australia. 	<p>The Government agrees that helping Australians to make healthier choices is an important goal. Not all of these ideas will necessarily be adopted in achieving that goal.</p> <p>In November 2008, COAG agreed to a Preventative Health National Partnership (to which the Australian Government contributes funding of \$872.1 million over 6 years) to support a range of nutrition, physical activity, obesity and smoking initiatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to services for children to increase physical activity and improve nutrition Provision of support for workplaces and local communities to provide physical activity and healthy living programs. Rewarding States and Territories for achieving specified targets in the areas of healthy weight, healthy eating, physical activity and smoking. <p>The Preventative Health Taskforce will also be providing evidence-based advice to governments and health providers on health programs and strategies. The Taskforce will develop a National Preventative Health Strategy by June 2009, which is likely to address some or all of the issues raised by the 2020 Summit.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Preventative Health – National Agency and Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a National Preventative Health Agency, based on the VicHealth model, to commission research, design interventions based on evidence, develop and deliver preventative health policy, and implement marketing and public health campaigns. • Investigate successful preventative health interventions from overseas and consider incentives, including financial ones, to encourage lifestyle changes – for example, to give up smoking or drugs. • Commission the National Preventative Health Agency to develop research and evidence to help employers establish healthier work places. • Establish a new preventative health strategy across life, with a major focus on Indigenous Australians. • Establish a whole-of-life wellness model incorporating whole-of-life activity pathway. • Establish a health and education task force charged with identifying risk profiles (for example chronic illness, disabilities, Indigenous people, remote and the ageing population). • 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. • Establish health literacy programs. • Promote healthy lifestyles and education. • Remunerate health practitioners to provide lectures in schools or to community groups. • Establish performance indicators and mandatory curriculum for health and wellbeing in schools, including the ethics of health care. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government is committed to improving preventative health outcomes. In November 2008, the Commonwealth and the states agreed to a Preventative Health National Partnership to improve the health of all Australians, with the Australian Government providing funding of \$448.1 million over four years, and \$872.1 million over six years, starting from 2009–10. This funding supports elements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to services for children to increase physical activity and improve nutrition • Provision of support for workplaces and local communities to provide physical activity and other risk modification and healthy living programs • National marketing campaigns to increase public awareness of the risks associated with lifestyle behaviour and its links to chronic disease • Enabling infrastructure, including a national preventative health agency, surveillance program, workforce audit, eating disorders collaboration, partnerships with industry and a preventative health research fund. <p>The Preventative Health Taskforce, established by the Government in April 2008, will also be providing evidence-based advice to governments and health providers on health programs and strategies. The taskforce will develop a National Preventative Health Strategy by June 2009.</p> <p>The Government has introduced Healthy Kids Checks to give every four year old child in Australia a basic health check to see that they are healthy, fit and ready to learn when they start school.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
COAG Health and Ageing Working Group – Information and Reporting	<p>Use health system information to improve the quality of decision making and policy development, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combine data held by governments and specialist colleges with state hospital data to look at the effectiveness of treatment outcomes • Reduce the system input and output data to focus on consumer and community outcomes, to provide better targeted treatments • Establish a system of allowing reporting positive outcomes in the health system. <p>Health Performance Measurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a health audit to identify the programs that are working well and those that are not. • Introduce measurement of national level of key public health outcomes to determine what is being achieved in public health. • Measure performance indicators based on the patient's experience of the care received. • Develop national outcomes data to drive resource allocation. • Measure citizens' wellbeing as a health performance indicator and report these outcomes to hold Governments accountable for the wellbeing of their citizens. • Develop a clever health system; coordinate health and service organisations with a national framework of targets, measures audited with a regional focus. • Establish zero-tolerance stretch targets in health care. 	<p>Agree in-principle. Leveraging critical performance indicators is crucial to improving health care outcomes.</p> <p>In November 2008, the Commonwealth and the states and territories agreed to an outcomes based policy and reporting framework that will report against preventable disease and injuries; timely access to GPs, dental and other primary health care professionals; life expectancy, including the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians; waiting times for services; and net growth in the health workforce. The COAG Reform Council will report progress against these performance measures annually, commencing in 2009–10.</p> <p>In addition, the Commonwealth and the states and territories agreed to the introduction of Activity Based Funding to provide the basis for more efficient use of taxpayer funding of hospitals and for increased transparency in the use of those funds. It will also allow comparisons of efficiency across public hospitals.</p> <p>The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Australian Bureau of Statistics also regularly produce health statistics and report on outcomes in health.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
COAG Health and Ageing Working Group – E-Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce an individual e-health record, plus ‘Healthbook’ (like Facebook) for Australians to take ownership of their health and to electronically share health information. • Develop incentives to improve the uptake of e-health. • Introduce national online access to a system of health information for tertiary, secondary and primary health care providers and individuals. • Improve genomic diagnosis and treatment: for example, making gene space part of the ‘Healthbook’ concept. • Introduce a universal health card with universal information. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Summit recognised the importance of e-health, and in November 2008, COAG agreed to the continued funding of \$218 million (50:50 cost shared between the Commonwealth and the states) to the National E-Health Transition Authority. The authority is a not-for-profit company established by the Australian, state and territory governments to develop better ways of electronically collecting and securely exchanging health information. For example, it is working on standardising certain types of healthcare information to be recorded in e-health systems. The authority will continue to operate until June 2012.</p>
Medical Benefits Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Medical Benefits Schedule to examine the need for GP appointments for repeat prescriptions. 	<p>Agree in-part. In the 2008–09 Budget, the Government extended the period for which a repeat prescription can be written for patients with chronic conditions from six months to twelve months.</p>
Develop Hospital Based Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a hospital-based schedule similar to the Medical Benefits Schedule. 	<p>In November 2008, COAG agreed to introduce Activity Based Funding for hospitals. Activity Based Funding will enable governments and hospital managers to monitor and compare performance; drive technical efficiency in the delivery of hospital related services; and enhance public accountability by increasing the transparency of the relationship between funding and the services provided. The National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission will also report on future reform options.</p>
Health Institutes/ Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish 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. 	<p>The Government will provide \$5.1 million over three years to support the work of the National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers. The National Health and Medical Research Council also already supports health and medical research on key areas at a national level.</p>
National Indigenous Health Equalities Council and National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Health Equalities Commission, responsible for monitoring not delivering services, with a focus on disadvantaged and Indigenous communities. • Establish a National Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing. 	<p>Agree. The National Indigenous Health Equality Council was announced at a summit convened in March 2008. The Council was launched and members appointed in July 2008.</p> <p>The National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission is also in the process of making recommendations regarding long term macro reforms to improve Australia’s health system (including for Indigenous and rural communities). Their final report is expected in mid-2009.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Eradicate Trachoma in Indigenous Children Also raised by: Indigenous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eradicate trachoma amongst Indigenous children within five years through a comprehensive health strategy. This could include a national hand-washing campaign in Indigenous communities. 	<p>Trachoma is a preventable and treatable disease which still causes blindness in an unacceptable number of Indigenous Australians. The Government has committed \$58.3m to expand eye and ear health services for Indigenous Australians. This includes \$16m to address trachoma.</p>
Australian Medical Research Institutions Partnerships – Indigenous Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All major Australian research institutions to have responsibility for developing partnerships with Indigenous communities to build the Indigenous health and medical research skill base and focus research on addressing major Indigenous health problems. 	<p>Agree in-part. The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations funds the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health, which involves a number of major research institutes with expertise in Aboriginal health.</p> <p>To further build understanding on effective Indigenous initiatives, in 2008–09 the Government has provided funding for a Closing the Gap Clearing house and agreed joint funding arrangements with state and territory governments. The clearinghouse is a knowledge management service, run by research specialists, which provides a centralised repository of information, resources and networks that can be accessed by interested stakeholders.</p>
Oral/Dental Health Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral health promotion to have a national approach and well-known interventions such as fluoridated water to be put in place. Oral health to be on the preventative health agenda. 	<p>Agree. The Australian Government is promoting oral health in a number of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new Medicare Teen Dental Plan delivers the Government's election commitment to provide financial assistance to families to encourage teenagers to care for their teeth by having annual check-ups and to maintain good oral health habits once they leave home. The program commenced on 1 July 2008 The Government intends to close the chronic disease dental scheme in order to make funding available for the Australian Government Dental Health Program which will provide funding to the states and territories to address waiting lists for public dental services The existing National Oral Health Plan has been endorsed by state and territory health ministers and commits to extending the fluoridation of public water supplies to communities across Australia with populations of 1,000 or more.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
National Plan to Boost Organ and Tissue Donation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Australia's organ and transplantation rates. 	<p>Agree. The Summit noted the importance of improving transplant rates, and on 2 July 2008, the Government announced a \$151.1 million national reform package, including new funding of \$136.4 million over four years, to boost the number of life-saving organ transplants for Australians. This package provides a nationally coordinated and integrated approach which, as international comparisons have shown, is the best way to achieve a significant and lasting increase in the number of life-saving and transforming transplants.</p>
Inter-Governmental Agreement on National Registration and Accreditation Also raised by: Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a system of common accreditation and registration for all health professionals. • Establishment of a national system for registration of medical professionals. 	<p>Agree. In March 2008, COAG agreed to create a single national registration and accreditation system for health professions to create a more flexible, responsive and sustainable health workforce. The system will be in place by July 2010, initially for ten health professions.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Hospital and Health Workforce Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a self-sufficient and flexible health workforce for Australia with competence-based training for accreditation. • Develop a model to guide where additional undergraduate training places are needed to support the health workforce. • Consider doubling the number of medical students or upskilling the defence force to assist with workforce shortages. • Develop a model to deliver clinical training for the health workforce in communities. • 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. • Review whether savings would be generated by allowing non-GPs to treat and prescribe medicines within the extent of their competence. • Examine whether nurse practitioners could support health care provision in aged care. • Develop nationally accredited, multi-disciplinary, competency-based modular training for health professionals supported by an appropriate legislative framework. • Consider training older people so they can join the health workforce. • Consider offering mature workers a 50 per cent salaried position and allow them time for education, training and research. • Establish a second tier of providers (non-traditional) such as those who could take blood pressure readings. • Train health professionals in caring. • Improve support for health workers by providing administrative support that allows them to do their job and reduces red tape. • Cascade health professionals into organised teams as appropriate. 	<p>The Government is committed to delivering a more flexible and responsive healthcare workforce.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Australian Governments signed an Intergovernmental Agreement in March 2008 to develop and implement a new single national registration and accreditation system, initially for ten health professions. In November 2008, the Commonwealth and the states also committed to an unprecedented reform package of \$1.6 billion – the single largest investment in the health workforce ever made by Australian governments. The package comprises \$1.1 billion of Commonwealth funding and \$539 million in state funding, and includes almost \$500 million to support the expansion of undergraduate clinical training places, and directly subsidise clinical training for undergraduate medical, nursing and allied health students. The Government will establish a National Health Workforce Agency to drive a more strategic, long-term plan for the health workforce</p> <p>The National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC) will also make further recommendations regarding long term reform to the health and hospital workforce and is due to report to Government in June 2009.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Health Workforce – Aged Care workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a review of the training and funding of aged care workers. Train specialised health care teams to care for older people in the community. 	The Government is committed to delivering a more flexible and responsive healthcare workforce. The aged care workforce will be supported by the \$1.6 billion reform package for the health workforce agreed to by COAG in November 2008 – the single largest investment in the health workforce ever made by Australian governments. This is also supported by the Government's \$138.9 million plan to bring extra nurses and midwives into the Australian health workforce. The plan includes cash bonuses for people no longer working as nurses or midwives to return and work in a public or private hospital, or residential aged care home.
Office for Youth Also raised by: Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a child and young person's commission (or similar body) to allow education, social and health issues to be coordinated. Create a Commissioner for Children and Youth and establish a cohesive national youth policy that includes all departments and covers all areas, including health, education, participation and the rights of children. 	<p>The Office for Youth was established in September 2008 to lead the Australian Government's youth affairs reform agenda and to create and promote opportunities for the engagement and greater participation of young people in Australian society.</p> <p>In addition, the Government has launched the Australian Youth Forum, which aims to engage young people and the youth sector in ongoing public discussion and facilitate their input into policy and decision making about issues that affect their lives.</p>
Environmental Health – Water Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support research and technology for clean water in Australia and the region (in the face of climate change). 	Agree. CSIRO's Water for a Healthy Country Flagship already undertakes research on 'clean water' for Australia. The Flagship program aims to achieve a tenfold increase in the economic, social and environmental benefits from water by 2025.
Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Also raised by: Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support kitchen gardens in schools to enable school children to see how food is grown and experience truly fresh food 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. 	Agree in-principle. The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden National Program was launched by the Minister for Health and Ageing on 21 August 2008. The National Program will see up to 190 primary schools across Australia receive grants to build kitchens and gardens. Within four years, around 20,000 Australian primary school children in Years 3 to 6 will experience growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing fresh food each week, laying the foundations for a life time of healthy food choices.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
National Health and Medical Research Council priority-setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include key health issues on the research agenda, for example obesity and mental health. • Improve consultation between the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Consumers Health Forum to determine research that would be valuable for communities. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is already focusing on national health priorities, including obesity and mental health.</p> <p>The NHMRC undertakes extensive consultation in setting priorities that best meet Australia's needs. The NHMRC also has a representative on its board to consider the needs of consumers.</p>
Children and Family Centres Also raised by: Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents' and Children's Centres – integrated, regionally based, health and wellness centres for children. • Joining up initiatives in early life (testing, intervention) – integrated primary care centres for children. • Childhood development should be supported through a place-based culture that offers integrated services and community support. • Children one-stop centres. 	<p>In October 2008, COAG agreed to the first National Partnership covering Indigenous Early Childhood Development. As part of the initiative, 35 Children and Family Centres will be established across Australia to deliver integrated services that offer early learning, child care and family support programs.</p> <p>At its July 2008 meeting, COAG agreed to the development of a broad national strategy for early childhood development. The strategy will set the direction for collaborative early childhood reform across the Commonwealth and states and territories. The strategy will be considered by COAG in 2009 and will include consideration of integrated service delivery approaches.</p> <p>The Australian Government is also investing \$114.5 million over the next four years to establish, as a first phase, early learning and care centres, including six autism specific centres. Where states and territories are interested in partnering with the Australian Government to create integrated service models, the Government will pursue opportunities to deliver a broader range of services within these centres. The Government will also work in partnership with other private providers to establish these centres.</p>
Review of Medicare Benefits Schedule Primary Care Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand opportunities for providing 'health checks' within the Medical Benefits Schedule. • Use primary health care infrastructure for health screening; use GPs for a health check. 	<p>The Government has introduced Healthy Kids Checks to give every four year old child in Australia a basic health check to see that they are healthy, fit and ready to learn when they start school.</p> <p>The Government is also undertaking a review of the primary care items listed by the Medicare Benefits Schedule, which is expected to be completed by mid-2009. The review will consider health checks with a view to improving efficiency. There may also be related recommendations from the Preventative Health Taskforce in June 2009.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
National Binge Drinking Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a program to combat alcohol abuse. • Redefine the unacceptable: change community views on alcohol use, similar to the change that has occurred with tobacco use. • Bring the impact of alcohol abuse to the public's attention. 	<p>The Government has prioritised and targeted alcohol abuse among young Australians through the introduction of the National Binge Drinking Strategy, a \$53.5 million initiative. In addition, the Commonwealth is working with states and territories through COAG on other strategies to address broader alcohol abuse, including looking at responsible service of alcohol, secondary supply of alcohol to minors and closing hours. COAG is expected to consider further developments in 2009.</p>

Ideas the Government will consider further

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Long Term Funding Changes – National Health and Hospital Reform Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine whether health care funding should be allocated to areas and regions rather than fee for service (that is, a fund-holding model). • Move to a single funder of health in Australia, taking care to minimise the impact on rural and remote hospitals. • Examine different funding models for chronic disease management – for example, episodic care funding. • Incorporate financial incentives in the hospital system. 	<p>On 25 February 2008, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Health and Ageing announced the establishment of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC). The NHHRC was established to develop a long term health reform plan for a modern Australia, including considering a range of changes in funding arrangements. The NHHRC will report to Government in June 2009.</p>
Taxation – Review of Australia's Future Tax System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a 2.5 cent increase in tax on each cigarette. • Introduce a volumetric tax on alcohol. • Introduce a tax on high-energy, low-nutrient foods (a junk-food tax). 	<p>The Review of Australia's Future Tax System is considering a range of ideas that could promote public health. The recommendations of the review will be completed by December 2009.</p> <p>In April 2008, the Government also introduced measures to equalise taxes on spirits and spirit based products as part of its strategy to reduce binge drinking amongst young people.</p> <p>The Preventative Health Taskforce has also invited comment on possible changes to current taxation and excise arrangements in its discussion paper – Australia: the Healthiest Country by 2020 – and will finalise its advice on these matters in the National Preventative Health Strategy, due to be delivered in June 2009.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Mental Health Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an Institute for Better Mental Health. • Introduce mental health first aid, a common basic understanding in the population of how to deal with mental health issues. • Develop a youth-focused and driven mental health program, using schools, media and movies. • Develop a secondary school mental health literacy program. • Health literacy for all Australians, including first aid for all Australians and how to help friends who are self-harming. • Introduce 're-engagement' education scholarships for young people with mental illness. • Train Australians in first aid and mental health first aid. 	<p>The Government operates a number of ongoing programs through the National Mental Health Strategy, and is taking action to improve services for people with a mental illness, their families and carers. Actions include increasing clinical and health services available in the community, providing new non-clinical and respite services for people with mental illness and their families and carers, and providing an increase in the mental health workforce.</p> <p>The Government funds KidMatters and MindMatters, which are mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention initiatives for schools.</p> <p>Further, the National Advisory Council on Mental Health was established in 2008 to provide a formal mechanism for the Government to gain independent advice from a wide range of experts to inform national mental health reform.</p> <p>The Government recognises the need to continue reforms in this area, including further reforms aimed at youth mental health support and education. These options are more appropriately considered once progress through the current processes becomes clear.</p>
Preventative Health – Personal Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a health and wellness 'footprint'. 	<p>There may be merit in considering further specific metrics or models to promote better understanding and behaviour change in individuals. The Government may further investigate possible models and their effectiveness once the recommendations of the Preventative Health Taskforce have been considered.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Preventative Health – Australian Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce school-based sports skills-building activities (for example running, jumping and ball skills to prepare children for many sports later on). • Extend the Active after School program to a program that happens within school hours. 	<p>The Government has appointed an independent panel to review Australia's sporting system at the grassroots community and elite levels. The review includes examination of the role sport and physical activity can play in building a healthier Australia. A final report is expected in 2009.</p> <p>COAG also agreed on 29 November 2008 to a Preventative Health National Partnership to improve the health of all Australians, with the Commonwealth providing funding for \$448.1 million over four years and \$872.1 million over six years, starting from 2009–10. This funding will support, amongst other things, greater access to services for children to increase physical activity, and for local communities to provide physical activity programs.</p> <p>States and territories, and various private organisations also already support a range of sport-related preventative health programs.</p>
COAG Working Group on Influenza Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support communities to prepare and strengthen their abilities to deal with health emergencies. 	<p>The Government takes very seriously the potential threat from a range of health emergencies, including pandemic influenza. In early 2009, COAG will consider the current state of Australia's pandemic preparedness and any future areas of work or improvement that may be required.</p>
Healthy Food Labels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a new labelling model for all food ingredients. • Making healthy food choices easy – e.g. reforming food labelling with a 'traffic light' indicator. 	<p>In October 2008, Australian Food Regulation Ministers asked the Food Regulation Standing Committee to provide by May 2009 a draft ministerial policy guideline on whether a front-of-pack labelling scheme would be an effective health strategy to guide consumer choice towards healthier food options. In addition, COAG agreed to commission a wider independent, comprehensive review of food labelling law and policy.</p> <p>The Preventative Health Taskforce's discussion paper – Australia: the Healthiest Country by 2020 – invites comment on food labelling as a potential area for action. The discussion paper is the first step in developing the National Preventative Health Strategy, due to be delivered to the Government in June 2009.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
R&D – National Health Research Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore and enhance the capacity for clinical research in teaching hospitals and health systems. • Introduce a national approach to ‘first in human’ trials. • Strengthen the interface between research and clinical practice to deliver better health outcomes through better knowledge of diseases in a more timely way. • 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. • Develop an improved career structure for researchers. • Promote research education in schools to increase interest in working in research was seen as important to ensure a solid research base into the future. 	<p>The Government is committed to maximising positive outcomes from health research, with action and processes to promote this direction already occurring through the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The need for a strategy to strengthen medical research will be evaluated following the release of the Government’s response to the Review of the National Innovation System (Cutler Review).</p>
Evidence-based cost-effective services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a mechanism to examine the evidence for non-surgical treatments (other than medicines) with a view to funding cost-effective treatments. • Develop a mechanism to examine the evidence base of funded treatments, with a view to removing services that are no longer cost-effective. • Ensure evidence-based allocation of resources – to ensure that public funding would be added and removed on the basis of clearly demonstrated effectiveness. 	<p>The Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) advises the Government on evidence relating to the safety, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of new medical technologies and procedures.</p>
Supplementary Health Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). 	<p>The Government will consider the development of an insurance model to meet the costs of long term care for people with disabilities in conjunction with the development of the National Disability Strategy.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
National Primary Health Care Strategy	<p>Develop a National Primary Health Care strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and 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. • Change legislation to support a team-based approach to health care. • Fund doctors to enable education of prevention, first aid, wellness and chronic diseases. • Remove the barriers between Commonwealth, state and community care services and vest legal identities in group care teams. • 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. • Change funding models to remove current barriers and facilitate team-based care delivery. • Establish data sets on patient outcomes that enable decisions on the most effective means of treatment for the best patient outcome. 	<p>Development of a National Primary Health Strategy, which aims to deliver better front-line health to Australians, has already commenced through the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) and an External Reference Group (ERG) has been appointed.</p> <p>A discussion paper called Towards a National Primary Health Care Strategy was released in October 2008 for open consultation until 27 February 2009. A draft strategy for consideration by the Minister for Health and Ageing is expected by mid-2009. This work will be linked with other reform processes.</p> <p>In addition, the Government has committed \$275 million over five years from 2007–08 to establish GP Super Clinics in 31 localities across Australia.</p> <p>The National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC) will also address primary care issues, with a focus on connecting care for people over their lifetime, including discussion of team-based care.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Response to the Review of the National Innovation System</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<p>Health innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rationalise governance in research to provide the necessary infrastructures to conduct useful research around Australia. Promote better translation of Australia's health research into both commercial and health outcomes underpinned by increased investment in research and development. A substantial increase in private research and development. Build Australia's skills and capacity in scientific entrepreneurship and intellectual property management. Foster philanthropic partnerships. Leverage off foundations such as 'Gates Grand Challenges' in the philanthropic space. Integrate state and federal infrastructure funding—for example, indirect costs of research. Ensure infrastructure in Australia is 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. Put in place centralised and coordinated management of intellectual property across all areas. <p>Commercialisation of health research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the commercialisation of research in Australia to improve research career opportunities. Determine 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. Make government seed funding available to work up intellectual property to the commercial ready stage. 	<p>The Review of the National Innovation System was undertaken by an expert panel chaired by Dr Terry Cutler and was completed in August 2008. The report from this review – <i>Venturous Australia: Building Strength in Innovation</i> – was released on 9 September 2008.</p> <p>The Review considered many aspects of the National Innovation System, including education, funding for research and commercialisation and strengthening innovation culture.</p> <p>The Government will respond to the review in the near future.</p> <p><i>Related ideas on innovation can be found in the Productivity Stream.</i></p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Continued ...</p> <p>Response to the Review of the National Innovation System</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government encouragement for funding for 'business angels' to support the early development. • Government to recognise and invest in 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. • Government to balance investment in basic 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. • A staged and sustained increase in public, private and philanthropic investment in R&D, possibly including benchmarking with other major innovative commercially successful industries. Growth in R&D expenditure that is proportional to growth in health expenditure. • Recognition of the importance of global integration and interoperability. • Finance and mentor nascent health care and health technology companies. 	

Ideas others may progress

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Preventative Health/Health Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure 50 per cent of the population is trained in first aid by 2010 and 100 per cent by 2020. 	First Aid training is currently well supported by existing community groups and workplace training.
Gyms and Clubs for Older People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish gyms and social clubs for older people. 	There are a wide range of existing programs targeted at activities for older Australians, delivered through community groups, aged care services and privately owned service providers. These services are proliferating as demand increases with the ageing population.
Generic Health Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a generic health degree. 	This is a matter for individual universities to consider.
Hospital Infection Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better manage infection control in hospitals by removing all carpets and installing negative ionisers. 	This is a matter for individual hospital management and health care standards.
Medi-hotels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide medi-hotel accommodation instead of remaining in a hospital bed for the last one or two days of the average hospital stay. Ensure Medi-hotels are built into hospital precinct planning, thereby freeing up funding. 	A range of hospitals are already trialling these programs, such as the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne. Additional Government funding of \$500 million in 2008–09 will provide the equivalent of an extra 1,600 subacute care beds (an increase in capacity of five per cent per year over four years). Subacute care, such as rehabilitation, improves health outcomes and reduces hospital readmissions. This will enable many patients to move out of acute care or to leave hospital and help free up hospital beds.
Community Education on Health Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and deliver community education on the role of the medical workforce. 	This could be considered by the peak medical industry bodies.
Patient and Family Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia should bid to host the International Conference on Patient and Family Centred Care in 2011. 	While the Government is supportive of attracting high-profile health conferences to Australia, it is the responsibility of relevant industry bodies to bid for this specific event.

Ideas with no further action at this time

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
International Collaboration on Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An ASEAN-type collaborative health agency, including all regional neighbours, to address infectious disease, climate change-driven changes in disease patterns, and mental health. Develop regional partnerships to minimise the impacts of communicable diseases such as H5N1 (subtype of influenza A virus). 	<p>There is already substantial international and regional collaboration on these issues occurring through existing entities such as the World Health Organisation (including its Western Pacific and South East Asian Regional Offices) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Working Group.</p>
Retirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>The Government does not support the total abolition of retirement.</p> <p>The Government strongly supports the promotion of positive ageing, including maintaining good health and productivity. To support this aim, the Government recently appointed the first Ambassador for Ageing to promote positive ageing and engagement with the community.</p>
Cost of Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use medical technology to cut the cost of the provision of health care. 	<p>The principal role of the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) is to advise the Minister for Health and Ageing on evidence relating to the safety, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of new medical technologies and procedures. Technology is effective at improving patient outcomes, but in general also contributes to increasing costs.</p>
Taxation – Preventative Health Taxes Also raised by: Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax hypothecation of cigarettes, alcohol and junk-food products to fund a national preventative health agency. Establish a separate funding stream for prevention, funded by tax on alcohol, fat, and so on. Fund a national preventative health agency through taxes on cigarettes, alcohol and junk food. Volumetric tax on alcohol, with proceeds to go towards combating alcohol problems. Volumetric taxation of alcohol with revenue to be used for services. 	<p>Hypothecation of public health-related revenues to a specific agency is not under consideration as this would be unwieldy, inefficient and fail to allow for sufficient flexibility to adapt to changes in the future.</p> <p>The ongoing review of Australia's tax system will consider taxes on consumption (except the GST) and is expected to consider the public health effects of certain taxation options, including options for the taxation of alcohol. In April 2008, the Government introduced measures to equalise taxes on spirits and spirit based products as part of its strategy to reduce binge drinking amongst young people.</p> <p>The Preventative Health Taskforce has invited comment on possible changes to taxation and excise in its discussion paper – Australia: the Healthiest Country by 2020 – and will finalise its advice on these matters in the National Preventative Health Strategy, to be delivered in June 2009.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Funding Aged Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a hypothecated superannuation charge for aged care. • Introduce a Medicare levy for aged care and for severe conditions and illnesses. • Allow residents to contribute to high-care beds. 	Other work is underway to meet the needs of an ageing population. The Government is committed to a quality system that meets the needs of an ageing population. To achieve these aims the government is providing \$300 million in zero real interest loans to aged care providers to help them build or expand facilities in areas of need, and is fully funding an additional 2,000 transition care places over the next four years to 2011–12, at a total cost of \$293.2 million. This will double the number of places available for older Australians who no longer need to be in hospital but who require more time and support before returning home or to residential care.
Health and Medical R&D Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require 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. 	Disagree. A fixed percentage target will not necessarily bring about the R&D outcomes sought.
R&D – Commercialisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Future Fund to invest a figure of 0.5 per cent to get base research to commercialisation. 	Disagree. The Future Fund has been set up to fund the Commonwealth's superannuation liabilities, and is not an appropriate source of funding.
Health Workforce – International Doctors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a competency-based education and training system for overseas-trained doctors. 	There are already a number of processes developed to assess and recognise qualifications and skills acquired overseas by doctors.
Health Workforce – Minimum Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate minimum staff levels to be achieved by 2020. 	The Government is undertaking a wide range of initiatives on workforce development and recognises it as a critical health issue. However, mandating minimum ratios of staff to patients is generally not desirable as it removes the flexibility to respond to specific local needs.
Health Workforce – Role of Specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change what a specialist does so they only look at the most complex cases and provide advice to treat the less complex. 	Disagree. For most services provided by specialists a referral is needed from another practitioner, who has concluded that it is necessary for the patient to see a specialist. Also, under the <i>Health Insurance Act</i> , in general circumstances, a specialist needs to examine a patient for the service to attract a monetary benefit.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Health Workforce – Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>The Government is not currently considering a health specific volunteering initiative however it will consider ways to boost volunteering across all sectors.</p> <p>Job Services Australia (which will replace Job Network from 1 July 2009) has a work experience stream and will encourage job seekers to participate in volunteer and other community work to build their work skills.</p>
Integration of Health and Social Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate health and social services organisations: a national framework of targets, measures audited, with a regional focus. 	<p>It is not clear that health and social services metrics should be fully integrated. Further action in this area would be difficult until existing processes developing metrics are further advanced. A national framework for health performance measures is being considered by COAG and may include some social services, particularly as they relate to Indigenous services.</p>
Ecological Health Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institute an ecological health survey to forecast disease burden. 	<p>The objectives of this idea are being pursued through existing mechanisms, such as the forecasting work undertaken by Commonwealth, state and territory health departments. A range of academic work is also being undertaken in regards to the increasing disease burden under climate change – for example, at the ANU's Climate Change Institute.</p>
Health Impact Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a health impact statement for all new legislation and health impact studies across all portfolios. Develop 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 encourages more driving). 	<p>Regulatory Impact Statements are already taken into account in all major policy decisions in order to consider the impacts on stakeholders. These statements raise health issues as relevant.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Organ Donation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an opt-out system for organ donation, as in Spain. 	<p>The Government has committed to a \$151.1 million national reform package, including new funding of \$136.4 million over four years, to boost the number of life-saving organ transplants for Australians. On 3 July 2008, COAG agreed to this package, which provides a nationally coordinated and integrated approach that has been shown by international comparisons to be the best way to achieve a significant and lasting increase in the number of life-saving and transforming transplants. This package does not include changes to the legal system regarding consent.</p> <p>Under the reform package, new hospital systems and specialist staff will ensure every potential donor is identified and the family of every potential donor is asked about organ and tissue donation and given the opportunity to confirm their loved one's wishes. Ongoing community education and awareness efforts will encourage all Australian families to discuss their wishes about donation.</p>
Occupational Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring occupational health and safety and health into the same agenda. 	<p>The costs and administrative difficulties involved in bringing OH&S under the broader health umbrella would likely outweigh any potential benefits. State governments have primary responsibility for enacting and enforcing OH&S laws.</p>
Institute for the Future – Smart Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an Institute for the Future – smart communities for better health, forecasting emerging health challenges. 	<p>The National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC) is currently examining ways that Australia's health system can be reformed to address health challenges now and into the future.</p>
Pricing Food according to Carbon Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Price food according to its 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. 	<p>The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) to be introduced by 2010 will introduce carbon costs to many aspects of food production, including energy and waste. A final decision will be made in 2013 on coverage of agriculture from 2015, following consultation and work with the industry to identify practical methods for its inclusion. It is not clear at this stage what impacts – if any – the CPRS will have on food costs or healthy eating.</p>
Personal Carbon Trading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal carbon trading for better nutrition and exercise. 	<p>The CPRS will introduce carbon costs to many aspects of the economy. The Government is also developing better tools for consumers to understand their own personal carbon footprints, but it is not clear what impact this will have on nutrition and exercise. This idea may be better considered as part of the suggestion for personal metrics on preventative health.</p>

STRENGTHENING
COMMUNITIES,
SUPPORTING FAMILIES
AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES, SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Australians value fairness and equality of opportunity. However a significant number of Australians lack the opportunities that many take for granted. Many suffer from a range of problems such as unemployment, low incomes, poor housing, crime, poor health and family breakdown. In difficult economic times, governments need to be more vigilant than ever in supporting families and communities and promoting social inclusion.

The Government recognises that to be a socially inclusive nation, all Australians must have the opportunity to secure a job, access services, connect with family, friends and the community, deal with personal crises, be free from discrimination and have their voice heard. The Government is committed to achieving these aims through partnerships with state, territory and local governments and the not-for-profit and private sectors, and by delivering targeted and tailored interventions that address localised systemic disadvantage.

A number of key themes emerged from the Communities Stream discussions at the 2020 Summit. Participants at the Summit considered that social inclusion is a 'first order issue' that is vital to the health of Australian society and recommended that a national plan or framework be prepared to address social inclusion. There was also a focus on disadvantage, violence, targeted strategies for early intervention and prevention, reviewing and redeveloping the funding of the community sector and developing a national metrics framework to measure the nation's progress on important social and community matters.

The Communities Stream developed a broad range of ambitions, themes and ideas that have influenced and guided the Government's policy in this area, including:

- **Homelessness – *The Road Home*** – In December 2008, the Government released its White Paper on addressing homelessness, *The Road Home*, which outlines a plan for reducing homelessness in Australia by 2020, with specific goals to halve overall homelessness, and provide accommodation to all rough sleepers who seek it. It provides an additional \$1.2 billion over four years – a 55% increase in investment in homelessness and a substantial down payment on a twelve year reform agenda. The plan includes prevention and early intervention measures to stop people becoming homeless, as well as improving and expanding services – in conjunction with states and territories – to break the cycle of homelessness.
- **National Action Plan for Social Inclusion** – The Government is developing a National Action Plan for Social Inclusion. The plan is expected to be available for public release in late 2009 or early 2010. The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion will include an analysis of the nature and extent of social inclusion in Australia, a discussion of emerging issues, analysis of the costs and benefits associated with improving social inclusion, a description of current policy and a map for building social inclusion over the next decade.
- **Office for Youth and Australian Youth Forum** – In September 2008, the Government established the Office for Youth, within the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, to ensure better coordination of youth policy across government. The Government also launched a new youth initiative, the Australian Youth Forum, to engage young people and the youth sector in ongoing public discussion and to facilitate their input into policy and decision making about issues that affect their lives.

The following tables provide the Government's response to the ideas raised by the Communities Stream at the 2020 Summit.

Key ideas being taken forward by the Government

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Housing – Homelessness White Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a national housing fund or foundation 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. Develop a matrix of problems when working with the homeless to better fund services, leading to integrated solutions. 	<p>In December 2008, the Government released its White Paper on addressing homelessness. The White Paper outlines a plan for reducing homelessness in Australia by 2020, with specific goals to halve overall homelessness, and provide accommodation to all rough sleepers who seek it. It provides an additional \$1.2 billion over four years – a 55 per cent increase in investment in homelessness and a substantial down payment on a twelve year reform agenda. The plan includes prevention and early intervention measures to stop people becoming homeless, as well as improving and expanding services – in conjunction with states and territories – to break the cycle of homelessness.</p> <p>This plan is supported by the Homelessness National Partnership with states and territories.</p> <p>The Government’s Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan includes funding of \$6.4 billion to fund the construction of around 20,000 new public and community housing dwellings and repairs and maintenance, to around 2,500 existing public housing dwellings. The construction of new dwellings will be largely completed by December 2010.</p> <p>The Government also provided \$252 million to Defence Housing Australia (DHA) to construct 802 new dwellings in metropolitan and regional centres. The 802 new dwellings are additional to DHA’s existing three year capital expenditure program (2008–09 to 2010–11) of \$1.2 billion.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Tackling Disadvantage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop early intervention strategies at key transition points including adolescence and early childhood and increase the budget for this by 2020. • Develop early intervention, which is cost neutral in the long term. • Develop an early intervention scheme, not just focused on childcare but focused on engaging the community. • 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. • Empower single mothers. This will reduce pressure and child abuse. Develop mentoring programs – for example, grandparent programs. • Create a ‘day in the life of ... being disabled/disadvantaged/Indigenous’ to allow others to understand the reality of social exclusion. • Replace the language of disadvantage with positive words. 	<p>The Government has a strong commitment to tackling disadvantage. Groups that have been identified as early priorities for Government action include: homeless people; Indigenous people; people with a disability or mental illness; children at risk of long term disadvantage; jobless families; and people living in areas of concentrated disadvantage.</p> <p>The Government’s Social Inclusion Principles have been developed to guide social inclusion approaches to addressing disadvantage. They include long term aspirations – such as reducing disadvantage and increasing social, civic and economic participation – and approaches to help reach those goals, such as building on individual and community strengths and giving a high priority to early intervention and prevention. These Principles will underpin the Government’s approach and include a focus on key transition points through different life stages.</p> <p>The Government will be working closely with individuals, communities, state, territory and local government, business and third sector organisations to foster community engagement and participation and enhance service delivery to tackle disadvantage.</p> <p>The Australian Social Inclusion Board, established in May 2008, also provides advice to the Government on ways to achieve better outcomes for the most disadvantaged. To date the Board has undertaken work relating to children at greatest risk of long term disadvantage, jobless families, and locations of concentrated disadvantage.</p>
Measuring Social Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social inclusion in government agencies – to be included in reporting, with all organisations to be open, accountable and transparent. • Require the government to lodge an independently audited annual social responsibility report. • Hold the Government accountable against corporate social responsibility standards in the same way the private sector is – Government to do triple-bottom-line reporting. 	<p>The terms of reference for the Australian Social Inclusion Board include a requirement to prepare an Annual Report on progress in social inclusion. This will include considering how to best measure progress in social inclusion and describing Australia’s progress using a range of indicators.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
National Action Plan for Social Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Action Plan for Social Inclusion to increase social inclusion and combat poverty. It should be developed in consultation with the community and include evidence-based goals and measurable targets. The ambition and scope of the plan should reflect economic analysis of the return on investment produced by improving social inclusion. Issues of social inclusion should be considered in a wide range of policy areas. • 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 are affected by social inclusion and develop strategies for each. • Develop a national poverty strategy, including an Accommodation Guarantee, with clear targets and goals, to be overseen by an independent Poverty Commission. Government should model good practice in social inclusion and diversity. Apply a social inclusion test to all policy. • Recognise the long term economic value of social inclusion and costs of exclusion. Long term investment in eliminating discrimination and disadvantage offers economic benefits. • 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. • 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. 	<p>The Government is currently developing a National Action Plan for Social Inclusion. The plan is expected to be publicly released in late 2009 or early 2010.</p> <p>The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion will include an analysis of the nature and extent of social inclusion in Australia, a discussion of emerging issues, analysis of the costs and benefits associated with improving social inclusion, a description of current policy and a map for building social inclusion over the next decade.</p> <p>The Social Inclusion Unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, with advice from the Australian Social Inclusion Board, is building a body of evidence on successful government policy and programs for disadvantaged groups and communities, and models to engage these communities in the development of solutions. This evidence base will inform the development of the Plan.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Indigenous Australians – Closing the Gap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring all Indigenous Australians out of disadvantage from early childhood through to old age and address current service gaps for Indigenous Australians. 	<p>Agree. The Government is committed to addressing Indigenous disadvantage and is using the Closing the Gap strategy to achieve this.</p> <p>COAG has agreed to six ambitious targets to closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage recognising that this will require a long-term, generational commitment that sees major effort directed across a range of strategic platforms.</p> <p>As outlined in the Government's response to ideas from the Summit's Indigenous Stream, COAG has agreed to the following National Partnership agreements: Indigenous Early Childhood Development; Remote Service Delivery, Indigenous Health and Indigenous Economic Participation. The partnerships will deliver strategies and policies to meet COAG's targets and close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.</p>
Children and Young People – Office of Youth Also raised by: Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a child and young person's commission (or similar body) to allow education, social and health issues to be coordinated. Create a Commissioner for Children and Youth and establish a cohesive national youth policy that includes all departments and covers all areas, including health, education, participation and the rights of children. 	<p>The Office for Youth was established in September 2008 to lead the Australian Government's youth affairs reform agenda and to create and promote opportunities for the engagement and greater participation of young people in Australian society.</p> <p>In addition, the Government has launched the Australian Youth Forum, which aims to engage young people and the youth sector in ongoing public discussion and facilitate their input into policy and decision making about issues that affect their lives.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Early Childhood Reform</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support children’s development through increased investment in early intervention and childhood education. • Ensure universal free access to early childhood education. • Increase training and support for those who care for and educate children, including the ability to deal with child protection and abuse. • Make early childhood care and education centres integrated and more community-based to identify the most disadvantaged, but at the same time relevant for the community, all children and all parents. • Facilitate more extensive use of school infrastructure to provide care for pre-school children. • Develop stronger links between early childcare centres. Recognise that bilingual education is very important in Indigenous communities. • 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. • 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. 	<p>In July 2008 COAG agreed to develop a broad national strategy for early childhood developments during 2009. As a first step towards a national strategy, in November 2008 COAG agreed a National Partnership on Early Childhood Education which will provide \$970 million over five years. This includes \$955 million to achieve access to 15 hours a week early childhood education for all children in the year before school by 2013, to be delivered by four-year trained teachers and at a cost that is not a barrier to participation. An additional \$15 million will be provided for data development and evaluation.</p> <p>Through the National Partnership on Indigenous Early Childhood Development, joint funding of \$564.6 million over six years has been committed, including funding for 35 Children and Family Centres which will be established across Australia. The centres will deliver integrated services including early learning, child care and family support. The funding will also increase access to ante-natal care, teenage reproductive and sexual health services and child and maternal health services tailored to the needs of Indigenous Australians.</p> <p>The Australian Government is also investing \$114.5 million over the next four years to establish, as a first phase, early learning and care centres, including six-autism specific centres. Where states and territories are interested in partnering with the Australian Government to create integrated service models, the Government will pursue opportunities to deliver a broader range of services within these centres. The Government will also work in partnership with other private providers to establish these centres.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Low SES School Communities</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide one-on-one support and special education for students who fall behind. • Overcome the public–private divide by funding students according to need and encouraging more private investment in public and private schools through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Student-centred funding – Funding according to need, where disadvantaged students attract more funding and support to ensure that they become a productive participant in Australian society – Further cross-sector collaboration – 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. • Provide education assistance for young people at risk or from disadvantaged backgrounds. • Provide case conferencing with school teachers and health professionals to meet the needs of children with conditions that impair their learning (rural). • Develop a school ‘twinning’ program—for example, pairing schools from different regions. 	<p>The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has agreed to a number of National Partnerships in relation to low socio-economic status school communities. The Australian Government will provide \$1.5 billion over seven years to address the needs of disadvantaged schools, to be matched by states and territories. The Government will work with the states and territories on a range of reforms that will support the educational and wellbeing needs of students and schools in low socio-economic status communities.</p> <p>COAG has also agreed to a National Partnership on Literacy and Numeracy that will aim to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students, especially those who are falling behind. The Commonwealth will invest \$540 million in this National Partnership, which will be complemented by state and territory investment. Research and data collection will be supported by funding of \$40 million. This includes an additional \$13 million for the collection and reporting of data through the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority for which funding of \$17.2 million was announced in the last Budget.</p> <p>The Dare to Lead Project, funded by the Government, drives change in schools through a coalition of school leaders who influence improvements in Indigenous education. The project’s Partnerships Building Success direction for 2009–2012 has been supported by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and through the inclusion of colloquial reviews in sister school arrangements expect to increase the achievements in Indigenous student outcomes.</p>
<p>Asylum Seekers – Detention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rethink refugee and asylum seeker policy to recognise our shared humanity as well as Australia’s international obligations. 	<p>Agree. While maintaining strong border protection arrangements, the Government has abolished temporary protection visas, and has shut down off-shore processing centres in Nauru and Papua New Guinea. The Government has also committed to detention as a last resort; to detention for the shortest practicable period and to the rejection of indefinite or otherwise arbitrary detention.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Promoting Non-Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a coordinating body to address violence against women and children and a national plan of action to combat violence against women and children. • Designating male role models to address violence in families. • Developing an early intervention and prevention strategy against family violence. • Developing a whole of government approach 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. • 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. • Promotion of non-violence as a value, sponsored by the Prime Minister. • Eliminate violence by 2020 with a national strategy on sexual assault. 	<p>Agree. The Government is committed to addressing family violence. In May 2008, the Government established the National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children. On 19 March the council released their National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, Time for Action. The Government is considering the plan before releasing it publicly.</p> <p>The Government is also working with states and territories to develop a National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.</p>



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Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>National Disability Strategy</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that people with disabilities have the same opportunities and supports as everyone else in the community. <li>• Universal access principles for people with disabilities should pervade all social policy planning. 	<p>The Government is undertaking a range of activities in this area, including developing a National Disability Strategy with the states and territories.</p> <p>The Government agrees that people with disabilities must have access to the same rights as the broader community. In November 2008 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) committed to a new National Disability Agreement, under which the Commonwealth will provide \$5.3 billion to state and territory governments for specialist disability services. Under the agreement, all governments are committed to helping people with a disability achieve economic and social inclusion, have the opportunity to live as independently as possible, and to support their families and carers.</p> <p>On 18 July 2008, the Government ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force on 16 August 2008 and in December 2008, tabled a National Interest Analysis proposing that Australia accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention. The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties reported its views on 12 March 2009 and recommended that Australia accede to the Optional Protocol.</p> <p>The Government is also developing a National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy to help people with disability and mental illness to participate in the economy by finding and retaining jobs. The Setting the Direction paper for the strategy was released jointly by the Minister for Employment Participation and the Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services on 22 December 2008. It outlines the directions the Government is taking, and will take, to increase employment for people with disability</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Same-Sex Couples – Removing Legal Discrimination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give same-sex relationships equal legal recognition across Australia. 	<p>The Government is of the view that couples who have a mutual commitment to a shared life, but who are not married, should not be discriminated against.</p> <p>The Government is already addressing discrimination issues faced by same-sex couples with legislative reform to provide for equality of treatment under a wide range of Commonwealth laws.</p> <p>One further step towards eliminating discrimination against same-sex couples is for their relationships to be legally recognised. The most appropriate way to achieve this is by the development of nationally consistent, state-based relationship recognition that will include the opportunity for committed couples to have their relationships registered. As part of the Government's same-sex law reforms, registered relationships will also be recognised in many Commonwealth laws to provide a more consistent approach to the recognition of relationships.</p>
<p>Human Rights Reform Package</p> <p>Also raised by: Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed a non-discriminatory clause in the Constitution (not the preamble). 	<p>On 10 December 2008, the Commonwealth Attorney-General announced a national consultation process on human rights and responsibilities in Australia. The consultation will be conducted in the first half of 2009 by a committee comprised of Father Frank Brennan SJ AO (Chair), Ms Tammy Williams, Ms Mary Kostakidis and Mr Mick Palmer AO APM. The consultation delivers a key election commitment made by the Government and provides an opportunity for all Australians to share their views on how human rights and responsibilities can be better recognised and protected.</p> <p>The consultation will encourage broad community debate on a range of human rights issues, not only on whether a Charter or Bill of Rights is necessary. The consultation does not presuppose any outcome, although the Government has made it clear that any proposals must preserve the sovereignty of Parliament.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Governance Stream.</i></p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP)</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity Security</p>	<p>Incorporate Asia literacy into Australian society to increase the knowledge of Asian and regional languages and societies to enhance Australia's global engagement and intelligence. This could be done by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boosting the teaching of Asian languages in primary and secondary schools <li>• Mainstreaming language education <li>• Recruiting foreign language teachers from local communities and overseas <li>• Reinvigorating professional teacher training, including for native speakers and our ethnic communities <li>• Developing a comprehensive national Asia literacy strategy at all levels of the education system by 2020. This should be backed by funding at least equivalent to the former National Asian Languages and Studies Strategy for Australian Schools <li>• Ensuring by 2020 that Australia will no longer be the worst-ranked OECD country for second-language skills and that it is positioned to benefit from the economic reality of an increasingly Asia-centric world <li>• Ensuring by 2020 every child in Australia can speak a language other than English and will learn about the contribution of other cultures to Australia <li>• Ensuring that Australians directly experience Asia. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government has committed \$62.4 million to implement the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP) over 2008–09 to 2010–11, in recognition of the importance of Asian languages and studies in equipping young Australians with the skills to compete in the globalised economy of the future.</p> <p>The NALSSP commenced on 1 January 2009 and provides opportunities for school student to become familiar with the languages and cultures of four of Australia's Asian neighbours, namely China, Indonesia, Japan and Korea.</p> <p>Through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) processes, all governments have committed to the NALSSP and an aspirational target that, by 2020, at least 12 per cent of all students exit Year 12 with a fluency in one of the target Asian languages. NALSSP focuses on increasing both student demand and teacher supply.</p> <p>In addition, the Government's recent Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan includes \$1 billion to build up to 500 science laboratories or language learning centres in secondary schools.</p> <p>The second phase of the National Curriculum will also include language education.</p>
<p>Student Services Funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repeal voluntary student unionism and fund student organisations that build up skills and development for non-government organisations. 	<p>The Minister for Youth has proposed a new approach to voluntary student unionism which allows universities to charge students a compulsory fee of up to \$250 per year with students being given the option of deferring the fee to a HELP-style loan scheme.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Mentors for Our Students</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create mentoring programs for young people to address gaps in education. Volunteer mentoring programs are beneficial to both young people and older people. • Extend the 'Golden Guru' mentoring concept beyond business by engaging experienced retired members of the community in schools. • Build a male mentoring program into schools to educate young men. 	<p>The Government has committed \$5 million over four years to establish a pilot volunteer mentoring program. This program will give recently retired professionals and tradespeople the chance to pass on their knowledge and skills to secondary students in Australian schools. Grants of up to \$50,000 each year will be available to 25 communities on a competitive basis to establish the pilot program through existing Local Community Partnerships. Funding will meet training and associated costs for mentors.</p> <p>The states and territories also have a range of programs in this area.</p>
<p>Skills Development</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide free access to vocational education and training programs for every unemployed person. • Expand scholarship schemes to cover further education and other accredited training for remote, rural and regional students, trainees and apprentices. • 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. 	<p>Agree in-principle. As part of its Skilling Australia for the Future initiative, the Government is funding an additional 711,000 training places over five years, including 85,000 apprenticeship places and 309,000 training places for jobseekers who need training to assist them in participating in the labour force. The most recent expansion, announced 24 February 2009, provides 10,000 additional places to assist newly retrenched workers to access training.</p> <p>The Government's Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan included a \$511 million Training and Learning Bonus. The Bonus has two components. First, it provides a one-off bonus of \$950 to students and to certain other income support recipients to assist with education costs for the 2009 academic year. Second, it provides a temporary additional incentive for eligible social security recipients to return to education and training. This incentive is in the form of a \$950 temporary supplement to the Education Entry Payment, which provides financial assistance to commence approved training and education courses.</p> <p>In addition from 1 July 2009, an additional 3,650 pre-vocational training and support places will be provided to young people aged 19–24 years through the Australian Apprenticeships Access Program. The \$30.2 million expansion of the program will support at-risk jobseekers to pursue apprenticeships or training.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Workforce Participation – Employment Services Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop compact agreements, underpinned by goals and targets, between employers, government and community enterprises to support the unemployed into jobs and housing. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government will introduce simpler and more effective employment services arrangements from July 2009. The new services will provide opportunities for job seekers to train in areas of skill shortage. There will also be a greater emphasis on helping employers find work-ready job seekers.</p> <p>In addition, the Australian Employment Covenant (AEC) is an example of a commitment between employers and government to assist Indigenous Australians into jobs. The Prime Minister pledged the Government's support to the AEC, a private sector initiative announced by the CEO of Fortescue Metals Group, Mr Andrew Forrest.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Workforce Participation – National Employment Standards</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 of the labour market of today (e.g., independent contractors). Rostered-day-off time should be banked for parents to take a day off when the family needs it. 	<p>The Parliament has passed legislation introduced by the Government to create a new workplace relations system. The Fair Work Act 2009 broadly deals with the proposed ideas. Legislation preventing the making of new Australian Workplace Agreements commenced in March 2008. The Fair Work Act provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A safety net of ten legislated National Employment Standards for all employees in the national system including the facilitation of flexible working arrangements by providing parents with right to request a change to working arrangements where they have a child under school age or child with a disability under the age of 18 A simple modern award system that provides flexibility and stability and industry specific terms and conditions. Modern awards also include a provision which enables the tailoring of working arrangements to meet the needs of employers and employees through individual flexibility agreements An enterprise-level collective bargaining system focused on promoting productivity Unfair dismissal laws, which balance the rights of employees to be protected from unfair dismissal with the need for employers, particularly small business, to fairly and efficiently manage their workforces A new institutional framework comprising, Fair Work Australia, (the new independent umpire to oversee the new workplace relations system) and the Fair Work Ombudsman to provide practical information and advice and ensure compliance with workplace laws
<p>Workforce Participation – Older People</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage older people to rejoin the workforce, particularly to address skill shortages and gaps. 	<p>Agree. Australians who retire after a lifetime of work have earned the right to spend the remainder of their lives in leisure should they wish to do so. However, many retirees do not want to give up working completely.</p> <p>The Government has established a Participation Taskforce to look at ways to increase workforce participation and training opportunities for people over 55 years and for parents.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Migrants and Asylum Seekers – Resettlement Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resettlement strategies for refugees should be comprehensive, long term and integrated, should include delivery of services from local communities and should recognise our shared humanity and international obligations. 	<p>There are three Government resettlement strategies in place – the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy, a Complex Case Support program (commenced nationally in October 2008) and a Settlement Grants Program. The Government will ensure that these programs provide the best possible settlement experience for migrants, particularly refugee and humanitarian entrants.</p>
Sustainable Cities Also raised by: Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead a nationally consistent approach to urban and regional planning which drives water efficiency and reductions in emissions; i.e. a National Sustainable Cities Program .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. Development of an urban design strategy for all towns and cities, including physical infrastructure, that would encourage social connectedness. Rethink urban design to encourage social connectedness. National Sustainable Cities Program – water efficiency. Undertake a national agenda to plan for cities and population through establishment of a planning commission type organisation that sets goals and targets for cities. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government is providing urban planning policy leadership through the creation of the Major Cities Unit within the Infrastructure portfolio, announced on 30 April 2008. This Unit's task is to identify opportunities where federal leadership can make a difference to the prosperity and sustainability of our cities and the wellbeing of their residents.</p> <p>The Water for the Future initiative and COAG's further work on urban water, water efficiency and sustainable buildings are also addressing this issue. In November 2008, COAG agreed to the adoption of the enhanced national urban water reform framework to improve the security of urban water supplies.</p> <p>Australia's Future Tax System Review will also consider the issues of fuel, roads and transport, including the efficiency of existing taxes. It will explore possible opportunities to move to more targeted taxes and user charges that promote the efficient use of transport networks.</p>
Community Safety – CyberSmart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach 'cybersafety' to families, to ensure that children are safe when online. Have a CyberSmart program in schools. 	<p>Agree. The Government is committed to combating online threats and protecting children from inappropriate material, and is providing \$125.8 million over four years to establish the Cyber Safety Plan.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Community Engagement</p> <p>Also raised by: Governance Economy Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define social citizenship and promote it – active, responsible social citizens, including organisations, not just individuals. • Establish a Charter of Community Engagement (similar to a Charter of Human Rights). • 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. 	<p>The Government agrees with the idea of enhancing community engagement. The Government's approach is to trial different and innovative mechanisms and draw on specific suggestions across several streams in that context.</p> <p>For example the Government is committed to developing practical initiatives in e-governance that increase the communities' ability to interact with the parliament and the policy development processes of government.</p> <p>The Government is also considering holding a set of forums that will bring together experts, business and community representatives and others.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Governance Stream.</i></p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Values and Civic Education</p> <p>Also raised by: Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify curricula from kindergarten to postgraduate education to include civic and moral education and engagement, social values 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. • Develop greater inclusion strategies at school to reduce exclusion and racism. • Provide active citizenship training as a universal component of primary and secondary school curricula and available to the broader community. • Incorporate active citizenship education as part of the school curriculum. • Develop and implement a national civics curriculum. • Establish a forum or audit to identify good practices and programs on values in Australia and internationally, using these to develop national programs. • Hold a national ethics and values convention every ten years or so to converse about our national key values. 	<p>The Government agrees with the importance of informed community discussion and education regarding Australian values.</p> <p>Through the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians (released on 5 December 2008), the Government – along with state and territory governments – has agreed to work in collaboration with all school sectors to support all young Australians to become active and informed citizens.</p> <p>The development of a national history curriculum will also provide significant opportunities for Australian students to access civics and citizenship education. The national history curriculum is being progressed by the Interim National Curriculum Board. Once operational, the national history curriculum will be developed by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority.</p> <p>The annual National Values Education Forum allows governments and the education community to engage in discussion about and develop best practices for values education.</p> <p>The Australian Human Rights Commission plays an important role in educating and raising awareness about racism, racial vilification and harassment. The Commission delivers a range of educational programs that are specifically developed for young people.</p> <p>The Government indicated in its November 2008 response to an independent review of the Australian Citizenship Test that work is underway on a whole-of-government approach to the promotion of civics and citizenship in the general community.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Urban Sustainability – National Energy Efficiency Strategy</p> <p>Also raised by: Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce an energy efficiency strategy for every sector (leveraging our natural advantages – at low cost). <li>• Climate-proof low-income households – for example using compact fluorescent light globes, low-flow shower roses, and home energy audits. <li>• 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. <li>• 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. 	<p>In October 2008, COAG agreed to develop a National Strategy for Energy Efficiency to help households and businesses prepare for the introduction of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. The strategy includes options for the development of national legislation for appliance energy performance standards to reduce transaction costs for business. The Government is considering further action in this area.</p> <p>The Government’s Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme White Paper sets out a new package of financial assistance for Australian households worth around \$6 billion a year to be funded from the sale of carbon pollution permits</p> <p>In addition, the \$3.9 billion Energy Efficient Homes Package will provide up to \$1,600 for installing ceiling insulation for Australian home owner occupiers and \$1,000 for installing insulation in private rental properties. This package will result in ceiling insulation for around 2.7 million homes.</p>

Ideas the Government will consider further

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Social Inclusion – Communication Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • Engage with the media to profile socially inclusive values and diversity. 	<p>The Government has established the Australian Social Inclusion Board which is currently considering this issue in the context of promoting social inclusion throughout Australia. A broader communications strategy for social inclusion is currently under development.</p> <p>The Australian Communications and Media Authority oversees broadcasting codes of practice to ensure these reflect community standards and contain appropriate safeguards.</p>
National Diversity Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a National Diversity Plan that is supported by the National Development Index and is influenced by the results of the index. The plan should focus on workforce shortages and challenges. • Develop a National Diversity Plan, supported by a National Development Index. The Australian government would be held accountable to and report against this index. • 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. • Government should model good practice in social inclusion and diversity. Apply a social inclusion test to all policy. 	<p>The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion will address some of the objectives of a National Diversity Plan.</p> <p>The Government delivers a range of initiatives that focus specifically on languages and cultural education, including the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP). The Government will continue to consider the potential of further programs aimed at improving wider cultural understanding.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Community Corps – Support for Volunteer Work</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish 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. Allow community service to reduce a person's HECS/HELP debt. Allow tertiary graduates to have their higher education loan debts reduced by seeking voluntary or paid employment in remote, rural and regional areas. 	<p>The Australian volunteering spirit is one of our biggest strengths and we need to foster, promote and recognise it.</p> <p>The government is not currently proposing either a new form of national service or reductions in higher education debts and notes that both proposals would be likely to have significant resource implications for government. That said, it considers that these options do have merit and will take them into account when further developing proposals to boost the volunteer sector.</p> <p>Job Services Australia (which will replace Job Network from 1 July 2009) has a work experience stream and will encourage job seekers to participate in volunteer and other community work to build their work skills.</p>
<p>Children and Young People – Children at Risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop early intervention strategies at key transition points, including adolescence and early childhood. Focus on engaging the community in these strategies. Conduct an early intervention policy drive. Ensure that young people have appropriate representation so that they don't fall behind. 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. 	<p>Children at greatest risk of long-term disadvantage have been identified as an early priority group under the Government's social inclusion agenda. Measures to address and prevent the disadvantages experienced by these children are being developed through a number of strategies, including the Government's National Early Childhood Development Strategy, National Child Protection Framework for Protecting Australia's Children and its National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children.</p>
<p>Families – Health and Learning Passport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an 'education passport' or 'health and learning passport' for parents, outlining what children need from a developmental perspective at each milestone. This could be similar to the current Immunisation Passport but provide more detailed information covering broader issues facing parents with young children, including practical, tangible advice for parents. 	<p>The Government is investigating a range of support tools for parents, including a Health and Learning Passport to support parents in identifying early any issues with their child's development.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Indigenous Languages in School</p> <p>Also raised by: Indigenous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach Indigenous languages in schools, including in the early school years. 	<p>The Government provides funding to the government school sector through the National Education Agreement and the non-government school sector through the Schools Assistance Act 2008 to support languages education, including Indigenous language learning, at all levels of schooling from kindergarten to Year 12. The teaching of Indigenous languages in schools is included in some state and territory programs. Further review of the success of different local approaches to Indigenous language programs may be considered in the future.</p> <p>The Government also recognises the importance of fluency and proficiency in English for Indigenous children and is pursuing basic literacy objectives as a first step.</p>
<p>Parents Skills Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide training for parents. The current focus of programs is on birth, not on parenting. The training should be post-natal: ante-natal does not work. Also, develop a mentoring system, rather than just mothers' groups, especially since the extended family is generally not around. 	<p>All Australian governments provide a range of services to assist parents in bringing up children, from birth to early childhood to adolescence. The type of support available ranges from interactive web materials and DVDs to face-to-face services and education.</p> <p>Parenting support is central to early childhood development, one of the Government's priorities, and the issue will be considered in developing the National Strategy on Early Childhood Development for COAG consideration.</p> <p>Other initiatives include 35 Children and Family Centres to be established with states and territories across Australia to deliver integrated services that offer early learning, child care and family support programs in areas with a substantial Indigenous populations and high disadvantage. These form part of the Council of Australian Governments' Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership, agreed in October 2008.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Family – Family Law Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review family law legislation on 50–50 shared care because this is too philosophical. 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. Recognise all families and their diversity, not privilege one type over another, change the <i>Family Law Act</i>, and recognise the rights of children. Develop an alternative to the Family Court system for children’s issues. 	<p>The Australian Institute of Family Studies is conducting an extensive evaluation to assess the legal aspects of the recent family law reforms, the role of new services in achieving the objectives of the reforms, and the impact of the reforms on Australian families.</p> <p>The Inaugural Family Law System Conference was held on 19–20 February 2009. One of the conference’s agenda items was research into priorities for the family law system.</p> <p>Further, on 20 November 2008, the Attorney-General released a report and discussion paper for public consultation on improvements to the delivery of family law services by Australia’s federal courts.</p>
Families – Baby Bonus Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The baby bonus to be targeted to the outcome government is trying to address – for example, providing the bonus as assistance with education expenses. 	<p>The Baby Bonus will be considered in the context of the review of the taxation system, Australia’s Future Tax System.</p>
National Indigenous Cultural Education Scheme Also raised by: Indigenous Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a mentor system based on the role elders play in Indigenous communities. 	<p>The Government supports developing cultural understanding and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, as well as the important role that elders play in Indigenous education.</p> <p>In consultation with the Indigenous community, the Government will further consider how to best progress the role of Indigenous cultural education as a future phase of the Closing the Gap strategy – once the first phase of policy priorities in health, education and economic development has been completed.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Indigenous Stream.</i></p>
Older Australians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop age-friendly communities. Recognise that the ageing of the population by 2020 has been overlooked. 	<p>The Government recognises the challenges posed by Australia’s ageing population and examines the economic and social implications of an ageing population every five years in an Intergenerational Report.</p> <p>The <i>Age Discrimination Act 2004</i> also promotes age friendly communities by making it clear that discrimination on the basis of a person’s age is unlawful. The Australian Human Rights Commission also plays a role in raising awareness and educating the community about age discrimination, and assisting in fostering age-friendly communities.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Support for Carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers should be given additional support, including economic and social supports. • Provide scholarships for principal carers to obtain a management qualification after having children. • People who have multiple caring responsibilities are often not recognised and should gain added support. • Families who care for family members should not be isolated economically and socially because they care. 	<p>The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth is conducting an inquiry into better support for carers. The ideas raised in the 2020 Summit relating to carers fall within the scope of the matters being considered as part of the inquiry.</p>
Disability – Life Long Care Catastrophic Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>The Government will consider the development of an insurance model to meet the costs of long term care for people with disabilities in conjunction with the development of the National Disability Strategy.</p>
Productivity Commission Inquiry into Gambling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the damage caused by problem gambling. 	<p>The Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministerial Council on Gambling is developing a national approach to address problem gambling.</p> <p>COAG has requested the Productivity Commission to update its inquiry into problem gambling carried out in 1999. The Productivity Commission inquiry commenced on 24 November 2008.</p>
Centralised Service Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Services Australia – a street-level one-stop shop with integrated governance. • A single national office for the third sector – a regulatory regime to create a single entry point for all organisations. 	<p>The Government is considering service delivery reforms, including whether there is merit to developing a centralised website or single coordinating body to facilitate a one-stop-shop for information on government services.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Service Delivery – Community Hubs/Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish community hubs as one-stop shops for all services and establish networks of hubs. Establish services hubs which are well-funded, holistic and integrated, building on existing services, supporting local community actions and providing a possible role for philanthropy. Invest in local community initiatives including: creating social infrastructure in local communities, building local community capacity, and establishing a network of community hubs in the most disadvantaged communities. Provide community infrastructure to create centres for community life. 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. 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. 	<p>There are a number of existing examples of community hubs that have had some success and that could be used as a model for service delivery, volunteering and engagement. The Government is considering undertaking a review of community hubs and whether additional pilot projects should be considered.</p>
Strengthening Local Government – Code of Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government should be strengthened as the closest tier of government to the community, to act on ideas to strengthen community participation. Develop a code of practice for local governments: the grass roots are reliant on how local government community engagement happens. Develop national codes of practice, so that local government organisations can share best practice and overcome inconsistencies. 	<p>Local Government is being strengthened in Australia. The first meeting of the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) was held in November 2008. The Government has announced that an ongoing ACLG will meet several times a year as a forum for direct contact between the Commonwealth and local governments. An all-mayors meeting of the ACLG will occur annually and a combined meeting of the ACLG and the Local Government and Planning Ministers’ Council will also take place once a year.</p> <p>At the ACLG meeting the Australian Government also committed to the establishment of the Local Government Centre of Excellence. The Centre will improve workforce capability in local government, facilitate the sharing of good practice and promote innovation. The Centre will complement other training initiatives aimed at enhancing the professionalism and capability of this tier of government.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>National Development Index</p> <p>Also raised by: Economy</p>	<p>There were a range of ideas to create a national development index or national balanced score card that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on the economy, people, the environment, culture, innovation and governance • Measures progress against social inclusion based on economic, social and environmental measures. Federal budget papers should report annually on progress • Contains social inclusion indicators – with social, economic and environmental measures and the publication of 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 • Has three streams – economic, social and environmental development – as measures of progress rather than GDP. It may include sub-indices • Develops social inclusion performance indicators to measure progress, particularly child social inclusion indicators such as literacy and numeracy benchmarks. 	<p>The Government is considering expanding the use of national indicators of development and ensuring consistency between the performance measures and indicators that are used across various levels of government.</p> <p>The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) already publishes a range of relevant reports, including Measures of Australia's Progress. Further work could be done to enhance areas of these reports and engage the community in discussion about what is important to Australia's progress and development.</p> <p>The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion will include reporting on a suite of indicators to show the nature and extent of social inclusion in Australia as well as how to best measure progress in achieving social inclusion goals.</p> <p>The Government is also looking into the establishment of a set of national environmental accounts. This will need to consider existing accounting mechanisms including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Greenhouse Gas inventory • The new National Water Account maintained by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) • Water, energy and emissions, and other environmental accounts developed and published by the ABS.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Third Sector Reform / Working with Government</p> <p>Also raised by: Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove constraints on community organisations and reduce regulation in funding agreements. • A regulatory framework for the non-profit sector. • Ensure money is spent according to intent. • Take a whole-of-organisation approach to funding. • 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. • Hold a government inquiry into the needs of the sector, looking at competition policy, and so on • Streamline governance in the community sector. • Create a national standards framework, including an alignment of rules, regulations and standards on charitable organisation across the jurisdictions. • National Coordinating Body for the community sector to create a new way of working with government at all levels. This would not necessarily be run by one group. • 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). • 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. • Tax incentives for companies to participate in social inclusion strategies – for example, employing homeless people or the long term unemployed. • Provide tax incentives for businesses to support the social inclusion agenda. • Provide tax deductions for volunteering in a mentoring program. • Encourage social investment funds-sharing responsibility between government, corporate and individual philanthropists (for example, through grants or tax deductions). 	<p>The Government recognises the important role of the third sector within the Australian community and is committed to building a strong and sustainable sector. The Government is considering strategies to this effect, one of which is a national compact between the Australian Government and the sector.</p> <p>It is anticipated that a national compact would take the form of an agreement between the Australian Government and the third sector that outlines how the two will work together to improve and strengthen their relationship.</p> <p>The Government will work closely with the third sector to progress the development of a national compact in 2009. It is expected that key governance and structural issues will be addressed in that compact.</p> <p>The Government will also consider broader reform, including reforms to the way the sector is regulated, in light of the findings of ongoing reviews. For example, the Minister for Finance and Deregulation is examining ways of reducing red tape across Commonwealth grants, which would assist the not-for-profit sector. Philanthropic tax incentives fall within the broad scope of the current review of the Australian taxation system, Australia's Future Tax System, which will report to the Government by the end of 2009.</p> <p>There are many other existing initiatives in this area under the states and territories, and philanthropic organisations.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Third Sector Reform / Innovation and Partnerships</p> <p>Also raised by: Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform the way the Government funds community organisations to ensure their viability. • Longer term, secure funding for non-government organisations, in fewer funding streams, with greater flexibility and responsiveness, and with support from the corporate sector. • National coordinating body for families and communities. • Create incentives for organisations to create innovative ideas for community sector work: could be a research and development social investment fund. <p>Other support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a social investment fund by corporate and voluntary individuals, matched dollar for dollar by government, to fund innovative social inclusion programs. • Hold the corporate sector responsible for the community and set them up as mentors to community-based organisations. • Encourage partnership arrangements between private enterprise, government and the community sector to support social inclusion. • Promote corporate social responsibility. • Conduct a national promotion of Workplace Giving. • Encouragement of volunteering. 	<p>The Government is considering wider incentives and strategies for corporate philanthropy, and is considering the input provided by the Australia 2020 Summit in that context.</p> <p>The Government is also considering the development of a national volunteering strategy.</p> <p>Through the \$650 million Jobs Fund, the Government will support local jobs, build skills and improve facilities in local communities through investment in community projects and local infrastructure that will also create immediate jobs in communities affected by the global economic downturn and assist in providing start-up capital for innovative social enterprises.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Third Sector Reform / Building a Strong and Sustainable Third Sector</p> <p>Also raised by: Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop national workforce attraction and retention strategies for the community sector to build a sustainable sector. • Establish a Community Service Commission (like a Productivity Commission) that assesses and lays out plans for the community sector. • Provide additional support for the community sector to build capacity to deliver on the social inclusion agenda. • Develop a community service national attraction and retention workforce strategy. • 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. 	<p>The Government recognises the important role of the third sector within the Australian community and is committed to building a strong and sustainable sector. The Government is considering strategies to this effect, one of which is a national compact between the Australian Government and the sector.</p> <p>It is anticipated that one of the objectives of a national compact will be to enhance the capacity of the sector to deliver efficient and effective services, thereby increasing capacity to evolve to meet changing and complex community needs.</p> <p>On 17 March 2009, the Government commissioned the Productivity Commission to undertake a study into the contributions of the not for profit sector with a focus on improving measurement of the sector's contributions and removing obstacles to maximising contribution to society.</p> <p>In addition, a Community Response Task Force has recently been established to help the non-profit sector work directly with Government regarding the impact of the Global Financial Crisis on vulnerable Australians.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Workforce Participation – Paid Maternity Leave</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a national, paid maternity leave scheme to operate alongside expanded access to early childhood care as a whole package to promote workforce participation. • Consider system-wide improvements to early childhood and schooling, including paid maternity leave. • Provide paid leave for parents and carers. • 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. • Provide a minimum payment for one parent to stay at home, because two incomes are needed to buy a home. • Provide 12 months paid parental leave for all parents. France does this for three years. • Provide 24 weeks of paid, universal parental leave. • Encourage workplace flexibility. • Implement flexible working strategies for families and the community sector. • Provide a tax incentive if parents choose to remain at home rather than work. 	<p>The Government asked the Productivity Commission to examine ways the Government can improve support to parents with newborn children specifically in the area of paid maternity, paternity and parental leave. The final report was provided to the Government on 2 March 2009. The Government is considering its response.</p> <p>The National Employment Standards due to commence on 1 January 2010 will entitle full-time employees to 10 days of paid personal/carer's leave each year (pro-rated for part-time employees). These standards will not limit the amount of accrued paid carer's leave that an employee may take each year as is currently the case.</p> <p>The Government will also provide \$12 million over the next three years to encourage small businesses to pursue practices that help employees to balance their work and family obligations.</p>
<p>Workforce Participation – Micro-finance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A micro-finance foundation to support disadvantaged groups in the establishment of their own business. • Establish a micro-finance scheme in the form of an investment capital fund to help disadvantaged people set up small business. • Encourage companies and corporations to support a micro-finance scheme to create employment opportunities for marginalised people. 	<p>The Government supports these initiatives through the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (DEEWR/Centrelink) and by providing \$42 million in support to community Business Enterprise Centres. The Government's 2008 Economic Security package includes an additional \$4 million in support for small business as part of the response to the financial crisis.</p> <p>A range of micro-finance products are already being supported and further developed by business.</p> <p>The Government recognises that further investigation is needed to ensure micro-finance is meeting the needs of disadvantaged groups. The Government is considering further work in this area.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Support for Philanthropy and Giving</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural</p>	<p>Change taxation laws in relation to philanthropy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • The definition of charity should be expanded to increase access to benefits. • Tax incentives for companies to participate in social inclusion strategies – for example, employing homeless people or the long term unemployed. • Provide tax incentives for businesses to support the social inclusion agenda. • Provide tax deductions for volunteering in a mentoring program. • Encourage social investment funds-sharing responsibility between government, corporate and individual philanthropists (for example, through grants or tax deductions). <p>Other support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a social investment fund by corporate and voluntary individuals, matched dollar for dollar by government, to fund innovative social inclusion programs. • Hold the corporate sector responsible for the community and set them up as mentors to community-based organisations. • Encourage partnership arrangements between private enterprise, government and the community sector to support social inclusion. • Promote corporate social responsibility. • Conduct a national promotion of Workplace Giving. • 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. • Encouragement of volunteering. 	<p>Philanthropic tax incentives fall within the broad scope of the current review of the Australian taxation system, Australia’s Future Tax System, which will report to the Government by the end of 2009.</p> <p>The Government is considering wider incentives and strategies for corporate philanthropy, and is considering the input provided by the Australia 2020 Summit in that context.</p> <p>The Government is also considering the development of a national volunteering strategy.</p> <p>Job Services Australia (which will replace Job Network from 1 July 2009) has a work experience stream and will encourage job seekers to participate in volunteer and other community work to build their work skills.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Supporting victims of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving victims of violence and sexual abuse choice and control (court system, restorative justice, mediation, counselling). • Restore the value of the victims and the perpetrators of sexual abuse, so both don't get locked in denial and power. • 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. 	<p>There is a role for governments in ensuring the fair treatment of victims of crime. While the states and territories have primary responsibility in this area, the Minister for Home Affairs is considering best practice approaches with respect to victims' rights with counterparts through the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General.</p>
Social Inclusion – Risk Identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively assist the many who are hidden, who think they are doing OK but in reality are not. 	<p>The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion may consider the issues around identification of individuals at risk.</p>

Ideas others may progress

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Social Inclusion – Local Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Run citizenship workshops in local communities to bring alive the idea of social inclusion and citizenship in local areas. • Encourage communities to start work. 	These strategies are best led by local government or the local community, as they know most about the unique requirements of each community.
Neighbourhoods and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Buddies. • Instigate a campaign to ‘wipe out’ fences from suburbs and a program to bring back the neighbourhood. • Induct ‘community mentors’ through registered courses and set up a database. 	Initiatives of this kind are most effectively managed by state, territory or local governments, and by community organisations in relation to individual communities.
Young people – Youth support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring young people into organisations to learn skills that can later be contributed to non-government organisations. • Run two-week camps for young people (aged 15+) in disadvantaged communities. (There was disagreement on this idea because some communities are not safe.) • Provide special support services specifically for children, including 24-hour youth centres and safe places to escape violence and sexual abuse. 	Initiatives of this kind are most effectively implemented by state and territory governments, local governments or community organisations based on local needs. The Australian Government plays a key role in coordinating youth strategies and initiatives through the newly established Office for Youth.
Corporate Social Responsibility – Frequent Flyers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change frequent flyer programs to allow contributions to non-profit organisations (philanthropy). 	This is not an area for government intervention, but could be pursued by private entities providing reward schemes.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Corrective System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. Address institutionalised exclusion such as prisons: reinvest what is squandered in the formal justice system on inclusion programs. 	State and territory governments have responsibility for leading programs for the corrective system.
Housing – Share Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boost share-housing as there are too many empty houses. For example, a house could be overseen by a central person but shared by a number of people. 	There are a range of private sector mechanisms that facilitate the sharing of houses, including online services and newspapers. State, territory and local governments that provide emergency or public housing could also consider the use of increased share housing. However, it is not clear that consumers would accept the involvement of governments in this area, which has traditionally been left to individual choice.
Housing – Rent-to-Own Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce a rent-to-own scheme that will enable families to own a home. 	Some states already operate rent-to-buy schemes within public housing programs, which allow public housing tenants to purchase their homes.
Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a national leadership learning agenda, with certificates and diplomas in leadership to train people to harness ideas and energy in community. Private sector and business sector and community (plus individuals) coming together to define what leadership should look like across all sectors. 	There are already a significant number of leadership training programs in place in the private, community and academic sectors.
Service Delivery – Mentoring in Community Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an organisation that develops and assists in mentoring across the sector. 	There are already a large number of mentoring programs in place within the community sector. The coordination and development of further mentoring programs could be best managed by the community. State or Local Governments may also be involved in coordinating access to the programs.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Service Delivery – Provision of Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the Neighbourhood Watch program to run different programs and activities for households. 	Initiatives of this kind are currently most effectively managed by state, territory or local governments and community organisations.
Service Provider Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trainers of family programs should have a competency-based framework – for example, for family violence, education. 	The Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council has a national competency framework.
Indigenous Australians – Funeral Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	The Government is committed to addressing Indigenous disadvantage and has adopted a range of strategies to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and provide more community support. State and territory governments provide support for funeral costs in certain instances.

Ideas with no further action at this time

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Social Inclusion – Management System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design, build, test and implement a coordinated social inclusion management system (borrowing ideas from the business sector to drive social sector outcomes differently). 	<p>Social inclusion is highly valued by the Government, which has taken action to improve social inclusion across the Australian community. These actions have included the establishment of the Social Inclusion Unit in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the creation of the Australian Social Inclusion Board and the development of a National Action Plan for Social Inclusion. A broader management system is not being considered at this stage.</p>
Social Inclusion – Impact Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government should recognise social inclusion as a first order issue fundamental to all Cabinet decisions and Government processes. A social inclusion impact statement or test should be applied to all proposed policies to prevent social exclusion. A possible test would be whether the community is strengthened by the policy. 	<p>The Government has taken action to improve social inclusion across the Australian community. These actions have included: establishment of the Social Inclusion Unit in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the creation of the Australian Social Inclusion Board and the current development of a National Action Plan for Social Inclusion.</p> <p>At present, a Regulatory Impact Statement must be prepared for all major policy proposals to explicitly address stakeholder issues. All submissions that go before Cabinet now require a Family Impact Statement (FIS) addressing three priority areas, including the economic impact on family wellbeing, the impact on work and family balance and how proposals will affect children's health, development and general wellbeing. Adverse impacts on families in these three priority areas are addressed in the FIS.</p> <p>It is not clear that a separate statement would be beneficial and would significantly add to costs.</p>
Social Inclusion Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Centre for Social Inclusion. 	<p>The Government has taken action to improve social inclusion across the Australian community. These actions have included: establishment of the Social Inclusion Unit in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the creation of the Australian Social Inclusion Board and the current development of a National Action Plan for Social Inclusion. A Centre for Social Inclusion is not being considered at this stage.</p>
Social Inclusion – Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the rhetoric on 'working families'. Many non-working families are disenfranchised. The largest family type is single people. 	<p>The Government considers that all family types are important. The Government recognises all forms of families, including singles and same sex families.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Same-Sex Couples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce same-sex civil unions. 	<p>The Government's policy on marriage reflects the widely held view in the community that marriage is between a man and a woman.</p> <p>The Government is also of the view that couples who have a mutual commitment to a shared life, but who are not married should not be discriminated against. One step towards eliminating discrimination against same-sex couples is for their relationships to be legally recognised. The most appropriate way to achieve this is by the development of nationally consistent, state-based relationship recognition that will include the opportunity for committed couples to have their relationships registered. As part of the Government's same-sex law reforms, registered relationships will also be recognised in many Commonwealth laws to provide a more consistent approach to the recognition of relationships.</p>
Indigenous Australians – Native Title / Property Rights Also raised by: Indigenous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Amend legislation to allow Indigenous communal ownership of land to be maintained. • Develop clear individual property rights in relation to homes and businesses. 	<p>The Government considers that negotiation is preferable to litigation in relation to native title matters and does not plan to fundamentally alter property rights. However, the Government has released a discussion paper which sought submissions on how to make better use of benefits that can flow to Indigenous Australians from native title agreements. The Government has also introduced a Bill into Parliament to bring about institutional changes to improve the operation of the native title system.</p>
Older Australians – International Pension Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Australian citizens eligible for the aged pension are already able to receive their pensions while living overseas and more than 55,000 individuals currently claim their pensions this way. Australia also has international social security agreements in place with approximately 21 countries where pensioners could be eligible for benefits under both countries' schemes.</p>
Older Australians – Levy to Support Pensioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Although the Government is not considering a levy at this time it is undertaking an investigation into measures that might be adopted to strengthen the financial security of seniors, carers and people with a disability. This forms part of the Government's wider enquiry into Australia's Future Tax System, which will consider improvements to the tax and transfer payment system.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Families – National Family Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a National Family Action Plan, with the full breadth of services across all ages. 	A National Action Plan for Social Inclusion is being prepared by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments and community groups already deliver a wide range of family services. The Government has no current intention to prepare an action plan for families.
Families – Family Law Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents should be encouraged to stay together and share parenting duties by making divorce more difficult by law. 	The Government is not considering changing its current policy on no-fault divorce to make divorce more difficult.
Families – Parenting Skills Training Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give financial incentives to attend parenting classes, as parents will not attend if they are optional. 	The Government provides a number of initiatives to provide support, education and training for parents. It is not evident that there is a need for the Government to provide financial incentives for the attendance of parenting classes.
Houses – First Home Owner Grant Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>The Government recently announced the First Home Owner Boost, under which first home buyers who purchase established homes have their grant doubled by \$7000 \$14,000. First home buyers who build a new home or purchase a newly constructed home will receive an extra \$14,000 to take their grant to \$21,000.</p> <p>The First Home Owner Grant scheme does not extend to the provision of grants to people purchasing their second house. The First Home Owners Grant is not the appropriate mechanism for addressing broader issues of families in housing crisis. Those purchasing a second home may have already been a beneficiary of the First Home Owner Grant scheme, may have made capital gains on the sale of a previous house, or may be able to leverage the equity within their first house to purchase a second house.</p>
Housing – Funding for Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Withdraw from wars overseas and redirect funding to homeless people. 	The White Paper on homelessness sets out a ten year strategy to address homelessness in Australia. The Government's Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan includes funding of \$6.4 billion for social housing which will also contribute to achieving the targets set out in the White Paper. The Government's spending in other areas, including defence, is an unrelated issue.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Community Safety – Legalisation of Drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia should legalise all drugs. This would reduce crime. 	<p>Legalising all drugs would be contrary to Government policy, which recognises the harmful impact of drug use on our community. It would also be inconsistent with Australia’s international obligations to combat illicit drug use, including our commitment under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.</p>
Service Provision – Governance, Coordination and Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver solutions locally, and take work away from governments. 	<p>Government will address particular service requirements in different locations on a case by case basis.</p>
Workforce Participation – Flexible Government Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>The Australian Government’s policy is to implement a workplace relations system, underpinned by a strong safety net, which allows employers and employees to negotiate working arrangements that best meets their individual needs.</p>
Workforce Participation – Women in Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase representation of women in all management roles in society, including the not-for-profit sector. 	<p>This issue is already covered by the work of the Australian Human Rights Commission, which runs a number of initiatives to promote the role of women in the workforce generally and anti-discrimination. The <i>Sex Discrimination Act</i> makes it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of a person’s sex, pregnancy, potential pregnancy or family responsibilities in a wide range of employment areas. The Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency is responsible for encouraging women’s representation in the work force. There are also a range of community and private women’s leadership programs in place.</p> <p>The Australian Government Office for Women will continue to foster and support women to achieve leadership positions, including building the capacity of the non-government sector.</p>
Campaign on Taxation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a campaign on what we do with tax to revive the concept of ‘the common good’, incorporating ideas such as why tax is good for the community, what we do with tax, and how it is used. 	<p>The Government does not plan to undertake a campaign in this area at this time.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Taxation – Preventative Health Taxes</p> <p>Also raised by: Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax hypothecation of cigarettes, alcohol and junk-food products to fund a national preventative health agency. • Establish a separate funding stream for prevention, funded by tax on alcohol, fat, and so on. • Fund a national preventative health agency through taxes on cigarettes, alcohol and junk food. • Volumetric tax on alcohol, with proceeds to go towards combating alcohol problems. • Volumetric taxation of alcohol with revenue to be used for services. 	<p>The ongoing review of Australia's tax system will consider taxes on consumption (except the GST) and is expected to consider the public health effects of certain taxation options, including options for the taxation of alcohol. In April 2008, the Government introduced measures to equalise taxes on spirits and spirit based products as part of its strategy to reduce binge drinking amongst young people.</p> <p>The Preventative Health Taskforce has invited comment on possible changes to taxation and excise in its discussion paper – Australia: the Healthiest Country by2020 – and will finalise its advice on these matters in the National Preventative Health Strategy, to be delivered in June 2009.</p> <p>Hypothecation of public health-related revenues to a specific agency is not under consideration as this would be unwieldy, inefficient and fail to allow for sufficient flexibility to adapt to changes in the future.</p>
<p>Corporate Social Responsibility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a levy on business – for example, 1 per cent of superannuation contributions and put the money into a social investment fund. 	<p>It is a matter for individuals and business to make contributions if they wish.</p>
<p>Support Households to Address Climate Change, Water, National Energy Efficiency – Universal Design</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all new buildings, houses and renovations are a universal design: retro-fit houses, including through the provision of incentives for landlords and owners for energy efficiency. 	<p>It is not planned to require all houses to be of universal design. Government has identified Universal Design in its public housing stock and through its new housing programs, the National Rental Affordability Scheme and the Housing Affordability Fund, as an area of priority for funding.</p> <p>Government supports work to make builders aware of Universal Design Principles and to consider them when planning new housing.</p> <p>A range of initiatives are already in place to encourage energy efficiency in homes. In particular, COAG has committed to developing a National Strategy for Energy Efficiency, to be implemented from June 2009.</p> <p>The Australian Government's new housing program, the National Rental Affordability Scheme and the Housing Affordability Fund require applicants for funding to outline the sustainability features of homes or proposals. The Government is looking to rate the sustainability features of new homes constructed with the assistance of these programs against the Housing Industry Association Greensmart checklist.</p>

OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA

OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA

Australia's Indigenous people experience unacceptable disadvantage. Through the Closing the Gap strategy, the Government is taking action to address Indigenous disadvantage and is focusing on achieving the following targets agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG):

- close the life expectancy gap within a generation
- halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade
- halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for children within a decade
- halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade
- provide access to early childhood education for all four years olds in remote communities within five years
- halve the gap for Indigenous students in year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates by 2020.

The Government recognises that achieving these targets will require sustained action across all levels of government and all sectors.

Some of the key themes that were raised by the Indigenous Stream during the 2020 Summit included formal constitutional recognition of Indigenous people, establishing bipartisan dialogue between Indigenous people and government, valuing the cultural history and knowledge of Indigenous people, closing the gap in all areas and achieving better social and economic outcomes. The issues faced by Indigenous Australians were also a clear priority for many other streams across the Summit. Ideas and aspirations for the future of Indigenous Australia were also raised by the Health Stream, Creativity Stream, Sustainability Stream, Communities Stream, Productivity Stream, Governance Stream and Rural Stream.

The Indigenous Stream developed a broad range of ambitions, themes and ideas that have influenced and guided the Government's policy in this area, including:

- **Indigenous cultural education and knowledge centre** – Indigenous culture is a critical part of Australia's identity and strengthening it is a core element of sustaining a strong and healthy Indigenous community. It was a prominent theme at the Summit and was raised across multiple streams. The Government agrees that the celebration of Indigenous culture in this way will complement and contribute to its core development policies for Indigenous Australia. An Indigenous Knowledge Centre would build on the current role played by the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and could:
 - Become a national gathering place for the celebration and discussion of Indigenous culture, in a physical or 'virtual' sense
 - Become a reference point for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture
 - Engage in research to harness traditional knowledge to support sustainable management of country
 - Support the education and understanding of Indigenous culture and affairs across Australia and preserve Indigenous heritage

As the first step in the establishment of a centre, the community will be consulted on its form.

We are therefore initiating a feasibility study to engage the Indigenous and wider communities and existing institutions to develop options for the most effective way to strengthen and support Indigenous culture.

- **Council of Australian Governments Working Group on Indigenous Reform** – Many of the ideas raised at the 2020 Summit supported the development of reforms recently agreed by COAG at their November 2008 meeting. At this meeting, all Australian Governments backed up their commitment to closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage with \$4.6 billion in initiatives across early childhood development, health, housing, economic development and remote service delivery.

The following tables provide the Government's response to the ideas raised by the Indigenous Stream at the 2020 Summit.

Key ideas being taken forward by the Government

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Indigenous Early Childhood Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on early intervention/prevention for early childhood. • Establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Fund to tackle long term problems through the development of services to redress unmet need. • Re-establish and reinvigorate multi-functional childcare centres. • Place a child health nurse in every school, and give young mothers and their babies in the community access to this service. • 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. • Share information about good practices, so as to keep families functioning well and staying together. 	<p>Agree in-principle. In October 2008, the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) first National Partnership (NP) was agreed, covering Indigenous Early Childhood Development. Through the agreement, the Commonwealth and the states and territories will work together to improve the early childhood outcomes of Indigenous children. The National Partnership comprises \$564.6 million of joint funding over six years to address the needs of Indigenous children in their early years, and reflects many of the ideas raised at the Summit.</p> <p>As part of the initiative, 35 Children and Family Centres in areas of high Indigenous population and disadvantage will be established across Australia to deliver integrated services that offer early learning, child care and family support programs. The funding will also increase access to ante-natal care, teenage reproductive and sexual health services, and child and maternal health services for Indigenous Australians.</p> <p>COAG has agreed to ensure that all children have access to quality early childhood education. In July 2008, COAG agreed to the development of a National Early Childhood Development Strategy during 2009. The strategy will provide the framework for a comprehensive approach to early childhood, including for assisting vulnerable children.</p> <p>Broader issues on family support will also be considered by the Australian Social Inclusion Board and the work on the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion.</p>
Health and Learning Compacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Education – introduce individual learning and health compacts (case management) for each Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child to ensure that children who need help receive it promptly and effectively. 	<p>Agree. In the 2008–09 Budget, the Government committed \$54 million over four years to expand intensive literacy and numeracy programs in schools. This funding will include support for teachers to enable them to prepare and maintain individual learning plans for every Indigenous student up to Year 10.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Additional Schooling Support</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<p>A new education framework should be established. The following could be included in the framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of high quality education, including boarding schools and hostels • Access to away-from-home foster families to stay with at weekends for students away from home • Funding through ABSTUDY, private school scholarships, government funding and community schooling • Encourage high-performing young professionals to work as teachers alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators in remote schools • Expand ABSTUDY to all post-secondary Indigenous students to facilitate engagement with education and ultimately the workforce • Introduce 500 'Mabo Scholarships' for Indigenous students in research and higher level degrees similar to the Endeavour scholarships. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government is introducing a range of new support mechanisms for Indigenous education options. In 2008, the Government committed \$20 million over three years from 2009–10 as a contribution towards secondary scholarships for Indigenous students to attend boarding schools. The funds will be managed by the Australians Indigenous Education Foundation, with additional funds which more than match the Government contribution expected to be raised from corporate, philanthropic and private sources over the life of the initiative.</p> <p>The Government is also providing \$10 million to leverage private and state funding for six existing Clontarf Academies, six new academies from 2009–10, and a further three new academies from 2010–11. The additional funding represents the first stage of a long term commitment by the Government to helping the Clontarf Foundation to expand its network of academies throughout Australia. This initial \$10 million investment will enable Clontarf to expand its services in Western Australia, the Northern Territory and other interested states.</p> <p>In the 2008–09 Budget, the Government also committed \$28.9 million over four years to construct and operate three new boarding colleges for Indigenous secondary students in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>The National Education Agreement agreed by COAG in November 2008 includes a focus on outcomes for Indigenous students, with a particular focus on literacy and numeracy. Enhanced arrangements for teaching and school leadership are being progressed through the Improving Teacher Quality and Low Socio-Economic Status National Partnership Agreements, including increased opportunities to gain qualifications that form part of pathways into teaching for Indigenous education workers.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>National Indigenous Health Equality Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a comprehensive health strategy to eradicate diseases such as trachoma and to tackle alcohol and drugs. 	<p>Agree. The Government is strongly committed to achieving health equality for Indigenous Australians. The National Indigenous Health Equality Council was launched in July 2008 to assist in developing and monitoring health-related goals to support the Government's commitments on improving Indigenous life expectancy and reducing child mortality.</p> <p>The National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC) is also in the process of making recommendations regarding long term macro reforms to improve Australia's health system (including for Indigenous and rural communities). These recommendations should be finalised in mid-2009.</p> <p>The Government has committed funding to states and territories to provide additional drug and alcohol rehabilitation services to Indigenous communities, and is providing funding to tackle high rates of smoking.</p> <p>COAG is also working to ensure that the Closing the Gap targets are being supported across a range of financial arrangements between the Commonwealth and state governments. The National Healthcare Agreement agreed by COAG in November 2008 includes a commitment to achieving health outcomes for Indigenous Australians comparable to the broader population. The Indigenous Health National Partnership also provides an additional \$1.6 billion over four years to expand primary health care and targeted prevention activities to reduce chronic disease for Indigenous Australians.</p>
<p>Eradicate Trachoma in Indigenous Children</p> <p>Also raised by: Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eradicate trachoma amongst Indigenous children within five years through a comprehensive health strategy. This could include a national hand-washing campaign in Indigenous communities 	<p>Trachoma is a preventable and treatable disease which still causes blindness in an unacceptable number of Indigenous Australians. The Government has committed \$58.3m to expand eye and ear health services for Indigenous Australians. This includes \$16m to address trachoma.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Indigenous Economic Development Strategy</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development Strategy – recognise the importance of jobs and make improvements to private philanthropic and business partnerships with Indigenous enterprises, greater corporate participation via incentives such as tax concessions. • 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. • Provide incentives to encourage people to move into employment. • Include incentives for self-help and development of skills that support independence in government funding. • Explore options and opportunities for increased employment of Indigenous people in the private sector. • 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. • Conduct a national review of Indigenous businesses and an annual survey of them. • Improve the skills of local people, particularly Aboriginal people, before importing labour. • Establish a national awards scheme for organisations proactive in training and employing Indigenous people. 	<p>Agree in-principle. On 29 November 2008, COAG agreed to a five year National Partnership on Indigenous Economic Participation. The Commonwealth and state governments will invest \$228.8 million to assist up to 13,000 Indigenous Australians in obtaining employment. This National Partnership will contribute to meeting the national target set by COAG in March 2008 to halve the gap in Indigenous employment outcomes within a decade.</p> <p>The reforms to the Community Development Employment Program, the Indigenous Employment Program and the new Job Services Australia (to be introduced on 1 July 2009) include a strong focus on job readiness and skills development for Indigenous people.</p> <p>Under the reforms to the Indigenous Employment Program, a high profile program will be created that recognises and supports significant achievements in Indigenous employment.</p> <p>The Prime Minister has pledged Government support to the Australian Employment Covenant, a private sector initiative to create 50,000 jobs for Indigenous Australians announced by the CEO of Fortescue Metals Group, Mr Andrew Forrest.</p> <p>The Government is also developing a wider Indigenous Economic Development Strategy to provide a framework to guide government investment and to work with Indigenous Australians and the corporate sector to increase Indigenous participation in employment and business. This strategy is expected to be finalised in late 2009.</p> <p>In addition, the Government is currently conducting a wide-ranging review of Australia's tax system, including incentives for workforce participation and skill formation.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Indigenous Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring options and opportunities for increased employment of Indigenous people in the private sector. • Improving private philanthropic and business partnerships with Indigenous enterprises and encouraging greater corporate participation with incentives such as tax concessions. • Recognising the importance of jobs and encouraging people to move into employment. 	<p>Agree. From 1 July 2009, the Government is introducing new employment services called Job Services Australia, and reforms to the Indigenous Employment Program and to the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP), that include a strong focus on job readiness and skills development for Indigenous people.</p> <p>On 30 October 2008, the Prime Minister pledged the Government's support to the Australian Employment Covenant (AEC), a private sector initiative to create 50,000 jobs for Indigenous Australians announced by the CEO of Fortescue Metals Group, Mr Andrew Forrest. The AEC reflects the Summit's recognition of the importance of increasing employment opportunities for Indigenous people.</p> <p>Under the AEC the Government will make resources available to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and facilitate training to the appropriate job standards of the employing industry • Facilitate post-placement and mentor support for eligible Indigenous Australians in guaranteed AEC jobs • Help with the take up of AEC jobs by eligible Indigenous job seekers through referral, placement and support services. <p>The Australian Employment Covenant will also be supported by Job Services Australia and reforms to the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program and the Indigenous Employment Program, as well as the wider Indigenous Economic Development Strategy to be further developed in 2009.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Indigenous Reform – Remote Service Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better coordination of services between the states and territories and the Commonwealth. • Renewed emphasis on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delivery models. • The creation of 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. • Develop service delivery mechanisms that are people-centred and convenient. For example, a ‘one-stop-shop’ community hub where services are delivered by people who are able to coordinate across governments and agencies and are not confined to their service ‘silo’. 	<p>Agree in-principle. On 29 November 2008, COAG agreed to a new National Partnership on Indigenous Remote Service Delivery to improve the delivery of services in 26 remote Indigenous locations. The Commonwealth and state governments are providing \$291.2 million over six years to improve access to services by Indigenous Australians in remote areas.</p> <p>The employment services being introduced through Job Services Australia from 1 July 2009 include arrangements to enhance collaboration and cooperation across services, including Service Level Agreements between Job Services Australia service providers and Community Development Employment Project program (CDEP) organisations where this operate.</p> <p>To further build understanding of effective Indigenous initiatives, the Government is providing funding in 2008–09 for a Closing the Gap clearing house through agreed joint funding arrangements with the states and territories. The clearing house will operate as a knowledge management service run by research specialists. It will provide a central repository of evidence and links to a range of existing data that can be accessed by interested stakeholders. It will build an evidence base that details effective, successful interventions to address Indigenous disadvantage.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Government Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New independent mechanisms with teeth and sanctions to monitor accountability of governments, with significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander involvement. • Assess senior public sector managers' performance against Indigenous-specific outcomes and indicators. • Build accountability, reporting and monitoring in Indigenous policy initiatives, either through: establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Productivity Commission, involving significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation or building on existing frameworks, such as the Productivity Commission having responsibility to monitor, be a 'watchdog' and report on progress 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government has already accepted and established accountability at the highest level through the annual Prime Ministerial statement on Closing the Gap.</p> <p>On 29 November 2008, COAG agreed to the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) which sets out the objectives, outcomes, outputs, performance measures and benchmarks that all governments have committed to achieving in order to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage. The COAG Reform Council will report to the Prime Minister on the performance of all jurisdictions in relation to each National Agreement, and independently assess whether performance benchmarks have been achieved before an incentive payment to reward nationally significant reforms under a National Partnership is made.</p> <p>Commonwealth, state and territory treasurers also agreed in January 2008 to the development of a national framework for reporting expenditure on services to Indigenous Australians, including expenditure from all funding sources on both Indigenous-specific and mainstream services, with an emphasis on 'on the ground' service provision. The Productivity Commission acts as the secretariat for this framework.</p>
Senate Estimates Committee on Indigenous Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build accountability, reporting and monitoring in Indigenous policy initiatives by establishing a parliamentary committee, possibly a Senate estimates 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 health education, policing law enforcement, and employment services. 	<p>On Friday 24 October 2008 and 27 February 2009, the Senate's Community Affairs Committee held special hearings on Indigenous matters. This followed a Senate resolution on 26 August 2008 where the Senate agreed to provide for future estimates hearings to include a separate time for a hearing on Indigenous matters.</p> <p>The national performance reporting framework being developed by the COAG also aims to increase accountability for and improve reporting and monitoring of Indigenous policy initiatives.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
National Indigenous Representative Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative body. It should be established after considering the nature of its role and relationship with government, the corporate sector and the wider community and the options for its structure. 	<p>Agree. The Government is committed to creating a National Indigenous Representative Body to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a voice in national affairs. This will not involve the re-establishment of an ATSIC-style body or the transfer of legislative power. Extensive consultation was held in 2008 with Indigenous and wider communities. A second phase of consultation is being led by an independent steering committee of Indigenous leaders, convened by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner. Recommendations from the steering committee to the Government are expected in July 2009.</p>
UN Declaration of Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. 	<p>Agree. The Government publicly stated its support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on 3 April 2009.</p>
Indigenous Memorial Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a memorial service to commemorate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who served in or demonstrated exceptional courage in war. 	<p>A commemorative event of this nature has been held annually since 1999. A memorial service was also held on 9 July 2008 at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Memorial in Canberra, as part of the National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) celebrations throughout Australia. The service combined Indigenous culture with traditional military culture and honoured the Indigenous men and women who played an active role in protecting Australia in times of war and peace.</p>

Ideas the Government will consider further

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Indigenous Cultural Education and Knowledge Centre</p> <p>Also raised by: Creativity Sustainability</p>	<p>A national Indigenous knowledge and cultural centre should be established. This centre could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcase the cultural contributions of Indigenous people • A National Knowledge Centre Network should be established to provide support to regional knowledge centres • These centres could be linked to community hubs so that resources can be shared • Use digital technologies to document, record and share knowledge and culture • Establish a national cultural authority for the protection of Indigenous intellectual property • Create an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural framework for developing a strategic plan to expand art and other opportunities globally • Consideration should be given to whether people with cultural knowledge should be accredited • A National Indigenous Knowledge Centre should be established and maintained by Indigenous people. This centre could examine multidisciplinary research and program delivery pertaining to climate change, sustainability and water. • Include the creation of a national cultural authority to measure, document and leverage the strengths of culture, articulate roles and improve protection of Indigenous culture, language and heritage • Recognise that creativity is central to Australian life and Indigenous culture is the core to this • Connect to Indigenous knowledge centres. 	<p>Indigenous culture is a critical part of Australia’s identity and strengthening it is a core element of sustaining a strong and healthy Indigenous community. It was a prominent theme at the Summit and was raised across multiple streams. The Government agrees that the celebration of Indigenous culture in this way will complement and contribute to its core development policies for Indigenous Australia.</p> <p>An Indigenous Knowledge Centre would build on the current role played by the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become a national gathering place for the celebration and discussion of Indigenous culture, in a physical or ‘virtual’ sense • Become a reference point for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture • Engage in research to harness traditional knowledge to support sustainable management of country • Support the education and understanding of Indigenous culture and affairs across Australia and preserve Indigenous heritage. <p>As the first step in the establishment of a centre, the community will be consulted on its form.</p> <p>We are therefore initiating a comprehensive feasibility study to engage the Indigenous and wider communities and existing institutions to develop options for the most effective way to strengthen and support Indigenous culture.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>National Indigenous Cultural Education Scheme</p> <p>Also raised by: Creative Communities</p>	<p>Place Indigenous culture and knowledge at the core of our education system by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing in local elders to share cultural practices at schools. Making 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) • Introducing school exchanges to give Indigenous and non-Indigenous children an experience of living in each others' worlds, so there is a deeper mutual understanding among future generations • Building, developing and rewarding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educational workforce, and introducing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander liaison staff into schools and childcare centres • Cultural awareness – Change lexicon of public discourse and public education – continuation of bipartisan commitment to inform national dialogue in order to change ethos through which Aboriginal affairs and interests have been constructed, including public education campaign • Developing a mentor system based on the role elders play in Indigenous communities • Including Indigenous arts and culture in the school curriculum. 	<p>The Government supports developing cultural understanding and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, as well as the important role that elders play in Indigenous education.</p> <p>In consultation with the Indigenous community, the Government will further consider how to best progress the role of Indigenous cultural education as a future phase of the Closing the Gap strategy – once the first phase of policy priorities in health, education and economic development have been completed.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Indigenous Targets in Government Contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous targets and KPIs in Govt contracts. Include Indigenous business, employment or outcomes targets in government contracts. 	<p>On 29 November 2008, COAG agreed to a new five year National Partnership on Indigenous Economic Development. As part of this initiative, public-sector Indigenous employment and career development strategies will be reviewed, with the aim of increasing Indigenous public sector employment to reflect national Indigenous working age population share by 2015. Through the National Partnership, governments will also strengthen current procurement policies to maximise Indigenous employment.</p> <p>In 2008, a consistent performance indicators framework across government agencies involved in funding Indigenous services was agreed to. This will help service providers to better focus their activities on addressing clear targets, streamlining government funding agreements and enabling governments to promote a more transparent and effective approach to measuring performance.</p>
Constitutional Reform – Indigenous Recognition Also raised by: Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians and reconciliation compact. Constitutional recognition, Treaty or Settlement – commence a dialogue leading to Constitutional recognition, Treaty or Settlement – through which the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is defined. That the Constitution be amended to remove any language that is racially discriminatory. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being recognised as First Nations people. Formal legal recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Including a national education program to support the dialogue and co-commitment to the agreement from the states and territories. 	<p>Indigenous recognition in the Constitution is a key issue for consideration and the Government is committed to consulting with the community on a range of proposed constitutional reforms. The Government is considering a timetable for this consultation.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Indigenous Policy Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect a better relationship with the Australian government through changes in the machinery of government. • 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. • 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'. • Use the term 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander' people, not 'Indigenous'. 	<p>The Government is committed to the creation of a National Indigenous Representative Body to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a voice in national affairs. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner is currently undertaking consultations with the Indigenous community about its preferences in relation to such a body. The functions of the body may include a role in strategic policy development and the representation of, and language used in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues.</p>
National Meeting Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish 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. 	<p>The Government recognises a potential role for a more established national centrepiece. Once the National Indigenous Representative Body has been established, the Government may engage with the body over priorities in this area.</p>
Indigenous Art and Symbols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Aboriginal artwork and symbols as national symbols and at commemorative events. Other suggestions included 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. 	<p>The Government is committed to promoting the importance of Indigenous symbols and will consult with Indigenous Australians on any proposals to use Aboriginal artwork or when dealing with symbols.</p> <p>The Australian Government held the first official welcome to country at the opening of Parliament on 12 February 2008. Options for an official 'Welcome to Country' and 'Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners' protocol are currently being examined</p> <p>On 24 November 2008, the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs officially launched a new art work in Reconciliation Place – Wati Jarra Jukurrpa: two men dreaming by Paddy Stewart Japaljarri – bringing the spirit of the Tanami Desert in the Northern Territory to Canberra.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Indigenous Healing Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a National Healing Foundation • Future Fund to build capacity and capital works (including an Aboriginal Healing Fund similar to the Canadian Healing Foundation) – investment to heal and build children’s, families’ and communities’ capacity to participate and function, fund housing and major capital works and invest in innovation. • Establish an equity-based reconstruction fund to build infrastructure and services designed to promote better health, to build housing and infrastructure, and to engage in innovation projects aimed at improving communities’ capacity to function well. 	<p>An Indigenous Healing Forum was held on 16 and 17 September 2008, including a broad range of community, experts and members of the Stolen Generations.</p> <p>On 13 February 2009 the Government announced the appointment of Professor Lowitja O’Donoghue and Mr Gregory Phillips to lead a group to develop a proposal for establishing a Healing Foundation to address trauma and healing in Indigenous communities, with a strong focus on the unique needs of Stolen Generations. The Foundation will provide practical and innovative healing services, as well as training and research.</p> <p>Other significant investments in housing and health are being made in conjunction with states and territories as part of the Government’s broader strategy to Close the Gap on Indigenous disadvantage.</p>
Indigenous Languages in School Also raised by: Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach Indigenous languages in schools, including in the early school years. 	<p>The Government provides funding to the government school sector through the National Education Agreement and the non-government school sector through the Schools Assistance Act 2008 to support languages education, including Indigenous language learning, at all levels of schooling from kindergarten to Year 12. The teaching of Indigenous languages in schools is included in some state and territory programs. Further review of the success of different local approaches to Indigenous language programs may be considered in the future.</p> <p>The Government also recognises the importance of fluency and proficiency in English for Indigenous children and is pursuing basic literacy objectives as a first step.</p>
Sister Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Sister School arrangements. 	<p>The Dare to Lead Project, funded by the Government, already drives change in schools through a coalition of school leaders who influence improvements in Indigenous education. The project’s Partnerships Building Success direction for 2009–2012 has been supported by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. The inclusion of collegial reviews in sister school arrangements expect to increase the achievements in Indigenous student outcomes.</p>

Ideas with no further action at this time

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Superannuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Disagree. The Government does not consider that superannuation is an appropriate mechanism for solving this problem.</p> <p>On 29 November 2008, as part of the National Affordable Housing Agreement, the Commonwealth and states and territories committed to improving access by Indigenous people to mainstream housing, including home ownership.</p>
Native Title / Property Rights Also raised by: Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Amend legislation to allow Indigenous communal ownership of land to be maintained. Develop clear individual property rights in relation to homes and businesses. 	<p>The Government considers that negotiation is preferable to litigation in relation to native title matters and does not plan to fundamentally alter property rights. However, the Government has released a discussion paper which sought submissions on how to make better use of benefits that can flow to Indigenous Australians from native title agreements. The Government has also introduced a Bill into Parliament to bring about institutional changes to improve the operation of the native title system.</p>
Economic Zones Also raised by: Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Disagree. The objectives this idea seeks to pursue are likely to be addressed through the review of Australia's Future Tax System. However, creation of 'economic zones' may prove unconstitutional as they may favour one region over another.</p>
Business Ownership Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include an Indigenous business ownership target in the Closing the Gap annual report. 	<p>Disagree. The Prime Minister will report to Parliament on the first working day of every parliamentary year on the progress in closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Indigenous employment is the best overall measure of Indigenous economic development.</p>
Guaranteed Indigenous Representation Also raised by: Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrenched and guaranteed Indigenous representation in federal parliament. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander seats in Parliament as in New Zealand; or greater support to stand as candidates. 	<p>Not supported at this time.</p>

TOWARDS A
CREATIVE AUSTRALIA

TOWARDS A CREATIVE AUSTRALIA

Australia has a rich, diverse, creative and unique culture. The Government recognises that fostering creativity is not merely fundamental to a healthy arts industry, but is critical to capturing innovation and strengthening a unique Australian identity that is recognised around the world. The Government is committed to encouraging excellence in the arts, supporting our cultural heritage, promoting creative education and ensuring public access to arts and culture.

During the 2020 Summit, the participants in the Creativity Stream agreed that the arts and creativity are a valued and integral part of society and that all Australians should be encouraged to realise their creative potential. Some of the core themes addressed by the Creativity Stream included the reshaping of teaching and mentoring in the creative arts, reforming the way arts are supported, making the arts a key national objective, expanding the audience for Indigenous culture and focusing on Indigenous culture as the core of Australian culture. The Creativity Stream also focused on increasing access to culture and the arts throughout Australia, including through the use of emerging technologies.

The Creativity Stream developed a broad range of ambitions, themes and ideas that have influenced and guided the Government's policy in this area, including:

- **ABC Children's Channel** – The Government is committed to supporting a dedicated ABC Children's Channel. This channel will give all Australian children ready access to advertising-free, child-appropriate content to support the development of our children.
- **Artists-in-Residence** – The Government will fund a \$5.2 million Artists-in-Residence schools program over four years to improve access to quality artistic experiences for primary, secondary and tertiary students.

The following tables provide the Government's response to the ideas raised by the Creativity Stream at the 2020 Summit.

Key ideas being taken forward by the Government

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Dedicated ABC Children's Channel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a children's channel on the ABC in order to provide high quality content for children. • Making healthy food choices easy – e.g. banning junk food advertising to children. 	<p>Agree. The Government is committed to supporting a dedicated ABC Children's Channel. This will give all Australian children ready access to advertising-free, child-appropriate content to support the development of our children, as discussed at the Summit.</p> <p>The full Government response to healthy food choices can be found in the Health Stream.</p>
Arts in Education – Artists-in-Residence Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring art into our schools by introducing 'practitioners in residence' via a national mentoring plan funded by philanthropic funds and tax incentives. • Expose students to creativity, with artists' presence in schools as mentors or residents. • Introduce a new model of teacher attraction and development by integrating artists more thoroughly into education delivery. • Subsidise or provide a tax benefit to support artist residencies in schools, museums, galleries and workplaces. • Facilitate artists in residence across all industries and institutions to engage in storytelling, sense-making and capacity building. • Expand the current limited program of artists in residence at schools, which are now confined mainly to private schools. 	<p>Agree in-part. The Government considers that creativity, interpretation, innovation and cultural understanding are all sought after skills in the industries of the 21st century.</p> <p>The Government has committed to funding a \$5.2 million Artists-in-Residence program over four years to improve access to quality artistic experiences for students in primary and secondary schools and tertiary institutions. Memoranda of Understanding are being developed between the Australia Council and the Arts and Education Agencies in each state and territory. This will allow consultation and delivery of targeted programs for students.</p> <p>In addition federal, state and territory education ministers agreed on 17 April 2009 that arts be included in the national curriculum.</p> <p>There are many other existing state, territory, local government and philanthropic activities in this area, and these are encouraged.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Arts in Education – Training Teachers in Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore new opportunities for extension and development, such as Creativity Summer Schools, pre-service and in-service training for teachers. Introduce a national mentoring program at secondary school level and provide tax incentives for artists to participate. 	<p>Agree in-part. The Government is progressing the development and extension of teachers' creative and innovative skills through a variety of mechanisms, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Artists-in-Residence program, where teachers from schools and universities work with artists to develop innovative teaching methods The Count Us In Program teacher professional development component Teaching for the Digital Age (TDA) Work Plan, which supports the integration of ICT skills in teaching practice. <p>There are also a wide range of other existing programs in this area from a range of organisations, including state and territories, local government and philanthropic bodies.</p>
Education – Digital Education Revolution Also raised by: Productivity Economy Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. Use technology to improve the delivery of education inside and outside the classroom. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government is committing new funding of \$2 billion over five years to support the Digital Education Revolution. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants through the National Secondary School Computer Fund for new or upgraded information and communications technology (ICT) for secondary students in Years 9 to 12 A contribution of up to \$100 million through the Fibre Connections to Schools initiative, to support the development of fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) broadband connections to Australian schools Collaboration with the states and territories and Deans of Education to ensure new and continuing teachers have access to training in the use of ICT \$32.6 million over two years to supply students and teachers with online curriculum tools and resources. <p>In addition, the Government has also committed to a new Vocational Education Broadband Network which will create a single post-secondary high speed broadband network, connecting the Australian training system to the same network currently serving universities.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>National Broadband Network</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural Productivity Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting Australia: Use new technologies to foster new working environments that dissipate the ‘tyranny of distance’ both within and beyond Australia. • Build and enable the use by all Australians of a world class broadband system to foster full participation in the digital economy. • Roll out a competitive national broadband network across Australia. • Establish a national digital fund to continue to expand Australia’s broadband. • Improve technology infrastructure and increased access to technology. • Provide broadband access for remote, rural and regional Australia. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rural, economy, creativity and productivity streams proposed that the Government should assess the case for vertical separation of the national broadband network owner from retail carriers and carriage service providers. 	<p>Agree. The Government has announced it will establish a new company that will invest up to \$43 billion over eight years to build and operate a National Broadband Network (NBN) delivering superfast broadband to Australian homes and workplaces.</p> <p>Every person and business in Australia, no matter where they are located, will have access to affordable, fast broadband at their fingertips.</p> <p>The Schools Summits also recognised the importance of connecting regional areas to the internet, and the Australian Broadband Guarantee (ABG) program complements the rollout of the National Broadband Network in rural areas by providing safety net broadband services to all Australian households that are unable to access metro-comparable broadband services. An additional \$270.7 million over four years was allocated in the 2008–09 Budget to continue the ABG program.</p> <p>In addition the Government is preparing a ‘Digital Economy – Future Directions’ Paper in consultation with industry. The paper will provide a roadmap of how the Government and industry can collaborate to maximise the participation of Australians in the digital economy.</p> <p>Further, the Government’s Vocational Education Broadband Network will create a single post-secondary high speed broadband network, connecting the Australian training system to a similar network to that currently serving universities. This will increase flexibility in the place and pace of learning, and offer speedy access to resources no matter where they are located.</p> <hr/> <p>Agree in-part. The Government has established a company that will invest up to \$43 billion to build and operate a new super fast national broadband network.</p> <p>The network will be a wholesale-only, open access network that offers equivalent access terms and conditions for all access seekers. The Government will encourage private sector investment in the new network but measures will be put in place to ensure that the equivalence arrangements are not compromised.</p> <p>The Government has also announced that in the transition period to the full rollout of the new network, it will give consideration to stronger measures to ensure access seekers receive equivalent access terms on Telstra’s existing fixed-line network.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Continued ...</p> <p>National Broadband Network</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural Productivity Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fibre-to-the-home should be the key technology goal of government. 	<p>The Government has announced that it will establish a company that will invest up to \$43 billion to build and operate a new super fast national broadband network.</p> <p>The Government's objective is that the national broadband network achieve 90 per cent coverage to homes, schools and workplaces using optical fibre (fibre-to-the-premises or 'FTTP') and remaining coverage to be delivered through wireless and satellite technologies, within this funding envelope.</p>
<p>Alliances between Indigenous Communities and Australian Manufacturers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>The Government is committed to improving Indigenous employment incomes and skills development. On 29 November 2008, COAG agreed to a five year National Partnership on Indigenous Economic Participation. The Commonwealth and state Governments will invest \$228.8 million to assist up to 13,000 Indigenous Australians in obtaining employment. This is in part to support the 26 March 2008 commitment by COAG to a national target to halve the gap in Indigenous employment outcomes within a decade.</p> <p>There are also a range of state and territory and philanthropic programs in place which aim at addressing issues in Indigenous employment.</p>
<p>Convention on Cultural Diversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratify the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity. 	<p>Agree. The Government has committed to ratifying the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity and a draft National Interest Analysis has been prepared. Ratification is expected in 2009.</p>
<p>Government Patronage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Agree. The Government is strongly committed to a vibrant, diverse and well-supported arts sector, and recognises the contribution of the arts to Australia's identity, community and economy. The Government will continue to seek opportunities to demonstrate this commitment.</p>
<p>Australian Honours</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance community perceptions of artists to ensure that artists have mainstream recognition, including through civil honours. 	<p>Agree in-principle. Artists can be, and are often, nominated for Order of Australia honours by community members. Standard recognition processes are sufficient to ensure the continuing representation of artists in these honours lists.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Commonwealth-State Visual Arts and Craft Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish facilities and 'soft infrastructure' to support artists. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Commonwealth-State Visual Arts and Craft Strategy includes support for infrastructure and the National Arts and Craft Industry Support Program provides support for Indigenous art centres.</p>
Arts Administration – Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise compliance obligations in the grant process and reduce bureaucracy – in some cases compliance obligations are too burdensome and distract the artist from their work. 	<p>Agree. The Government has committed to ensuring the Australia Council implements simplified and faster grant application processes.</p>
Tourism Australia and Australia Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use tourism as a way of advancing international promotion of Australian culture and creativity. 	<p>Agree. One of the legislated functions of the Australia Council is to promote the knowledge and appreciation of Australian arts by persons in other countries. The current Chair of Tourism Australia is a member of the Australia Council.</p> <p>In October 2008, Tourism Australia released major advertising campaigns developed by Baz Luhrmann to link with the launch of his film 'Australia'.</p>
Artist Development – Mentoring for New artists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support a mentoring scheme for new artists. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government is providing \$6.6 million over four years to the Opportunities for Young and Emerging Artists program, which will include a significant national mentoring component.</p> <p>There are also a range of State and Territory, and philanthropic programs in place which aim to mentor and support new artists.</p>
Cultural Diplomacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an environment in which we can present our unique stories to the world. 	<p>Agree. The Government is committed, through its overseas network of Australian diplomatic posts and interagency arrangements, to the active promotion of Australian arts and culture internationally.</p>
Digitising Collections of Major National Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digitise the collections of major national institutions by 2020. 	<p>Agree in-principle. All national collecting institutions are gradually digitising their collections.</p>
Indigenous Representation on Cultural Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate Indigenous influence into cultural institutions by having Indigenous appointees on boards. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government supports Indigenous participation in cultural institutions, and a number of cultural boards already include Indigenous members, such as Screen Australia and the Australia Council.</p>

Ideas the Government will consider further

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
National Cultural and Design Strategy and Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a national cultural and design strategy and policy. • Develop 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. • Develop better ways of measuring and disseminating information about the benefits flowing from cultural initiatives. • Develop an integrated statement across government and society, expressing and detailing the centrality of the arts and culture to society and innovation. • Develop a centrality statement through a National Cultural Strategy. 	The Government will consider developing a national cultural policy.
Arts Funding and Incentives Package	<p>Revise Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a core fund to sustain new work until an audience and support base is established. • Establish a foundation for the arts based on the same model as that which exists for sports. • Clarify government funding to promote long term investment, diverse structures and art-making models. • Foster commercial activity by introducing a film incentive-type scheme for arts projects generally. • Provide flexibility in financing scales of production small to large. • Model Australian arts administration more on Asian and European models than on UK and US models. • Examine rigidity of funding models and reporting requirements. <p>Encourage entrepreneurialism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop mechanisms to reward success. • Build entrepreneurial models that reward success with next-project funding. • Reward success where content has earned significant financial and cultural support. 	The Government will consider these ideas further as part of meeting its commitment to examining a number of support mechanisms for the arts. The Review of Australia's Future Tax System is also considering related tax incentives for private investment in the arts.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Corporate Support	<p>Revise funding/incentives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review philanthropy and tax incentives to support organisations and individual artists and expand the scope of Prescribed Private Funds. • Provide tax incentives for private entities that make private space available for creative purposes. • 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. • Grant tax-deductible gift recipient status to prescribed private funds to encourage contributions to the endowment fund. • Provide ongoing funding through a hybrid funding model: part government funds, part other sources. • Introduce pairing schemes, where donations are matched by government grants. • Investigate various additional funding sources – including endowments, philanthropic funding, micro-loans and a HECS-type plan and improve and foster commercial funding. <p>Promote investment in the arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a formal patronage system. • Widely promote the benefits of giving to the arts. • Redefine the benefits of giving, to remove barriers to donations. • Develop a marketing campaign to encourage giving. 	<p>The Government will consider these ideas further as part of meeting its commitment to examining a number of support mechanisms for the arts, including in relation to private sector support. A national endowment fund could be considered in that context.</p> <p>The philanthropic tax incentives fall within the broad scope of the Government’s Review of Australia’s Future Tax System. Some philanthropic tax incentives are also likely to be considered by other reviews of the not-for-profit sector.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Screen Australia Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding for screen writers to support script development. • Make producer offset format and technology neutral. • Increase funding for screen development from 4 per cent to 20 per cent. • Ensure that screen agencies support access and development for emerging film makers and practitioners. • Simplify governance demands of screen agencies and cap administrative and internal costs at 5 to 10 per cent of annual budget. • 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. • 20 per cent of government screen funding expenditure to go to research and development. <p>Remove barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflexible and expensive insurance requirements – more spent on insurance than script development. • Legal complexity and excessive documentation. • Reduce the complexity of applications and reduce bureaucracy. • Inadequate marketing support. 	<p>The Government is strongly committed to supporting Australian film and screen production.</p> <p>On 1 July 2008, the Government established Screen Australia to boost support to the Australian film industry and consider many of the ideas raised here. Screen Australia brings together the functions of the Film Finance Corporation Australia (FFC) and Film Australia Limited, as well as most of the functions of the Australian Film Commission (AFC). It aims to develop, produce, promote, distribute and provide access to diverse Australian programs, and support the development of the Australian screen production industry, so that Australian screen content is accessible nationally and internationally.</p> <p>Screen Australia has also announced significant changes to its development funding guidelines, including streamlined processes and a 60 per cent increase in funding available for development.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Triennial Review of Funding for the National Broadcasters (ABC and SBS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce more cultural content on Radio Australia. • Resource the ABC and other public broadcasters as a virtual platform for the delivery of culture and the arts to society. • Revise and strengthen the ABC Charter and the <i>Australian Broadcasting Commission Act</i>. • Make the ABC, SBS and National Indigenous Television (NITV) the custodians of Australian stories, creativity and Indigenous broadcasting. • Introduce a levy on commercial broadcasters, with funds raised going to public broadcasters in exchange for the lifting of the mandatory Australian content quota. • Address the historical lack of increases in real funding for national broadcasters to invest in local talent. • Increase fivefold the support of public broadcasting as a hub and brand for quality, distinctive Australian content into the future. • Encourage wider cross-sector representation on the ABC and SBS Boards. 	<p>The Government will consider these ideas further during 2009. They will be studied in the context of the current triennial review of funding of national broadcasters (ABC and SBS). Consultation for the review is complete and the forward package of support for national broadcasting will be announced in the near future.</p>
National Indigenous Television	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide National Indigenous Television with digital spectrum and resources. • Make donations to NITV tax-deductible. • Provide ongoing funding through a hybrid funding model – part government funds, part other sources. 	<p>The National Indigenous Television (NITV) is Australia's first national Indigenous television service. The Commonwealth currently funds NITV and has provided \$50 million over four years to 30 June 2010.</p> <p>With the switch over to digital television by 2013, the government is considering a range of options to support NITV and other community television.</p>
Artist Development – Arts Fellowships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish living wage fellowships. • Establish a scheme modelled on HECS for assisting artists with advancement that includes study, travel and materials. 	<p>The Government will consider additional individual artist support through scholarships, fellowships or HELP extensions, as budget conditions allow. However, the Government does not have immediate plans to provide additional assistance.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Artist's Income Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set targets to double artists' income, the proportion of export of cultural products, and the number of Australians participating in cultural activity. • Significantly improve the material conditions of artists. • Develop artists' capacity to undertake professional development courses. • Revise social service criteria. For example, social security payments could be used by artists to create work. • Introduce HECS arrangements for young and emerging artists. They would pay back their debt once they become commercially successful. • Superannuation and workers' compensation (both availability and cost). 	<p>The Government will deliver the commitments set out in its New Directions for the Arts election policy, which includes a number of actions relating to artists' welfare and income support, including start up assistance for emerging artists and a review of the current state of artists' incomes.</p> <p>The Government will implement the ArtStart program, which will introduce initiatives that enable artists currently on welfare greater opportunities to produce work and generate employment</p>
Science, Maths, Business and Arts Connections Also raised by: Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Connect scientists, business and the arts with the education system. • Expand the current limited program of artists in residence at schools which are now confined mainly to private schools. 	<p>This proposal is directly related to the Scientists in Schools (SiS) program. Around 800 scientist-teacher partnerships have been formed as at end November 2008.</p> <p>The arts component is being partially addressed by the existing Artists in Residence program.</p> <p>The benefits of further expansion of these programs will be considered in the future.</p> <p>There are also a range of state and territory, and philanthropic programs already in place which aim to address these ideas.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Indigenous Cultural Education and Knowledge Centre</p> <p>Also raised by: Sustainability Indigenous</p>	<p>A national Indigenous knowledge and cultural centre should be established. This centre could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include the creation of a national cultural authority to measure, document and leverage the strengths of culture, articulate roles and improve protection of Indigenous culture, language and heritage • Recognise that creativity is central to Australian life and Indigenous culture is the core to this • Connect to Indigenous knowledge centres. 	<p>Indigenous culture is a critical part of Australia’s identity and strengthening it is a core element of sustaining a strong and healthy indigenous community. It was a prominent theme at the Summit and was raised across multiple streams. The Government agrees that the celebration of indigenous culture in this way will complement and contribute to its core development policies for Indigenous Australia.</p> <p>An Indigenous Knowledge Centre would build on the current role played by the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become a national gathering place for the celebration and discussion of Indigenous culture, in a physical or ‘virtual’ sense • Become a reference point for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture • Engage in research to harness traditional knowledge to support sustainable management of country • Support the education and understanding of indigenous culture and affairs across Australia and preserve indigenous heritage. <p>As the first step in the establishment of a centre, the community will be consulted on its form.</p> <p>The Government will therefore initiate a comprehensive feasibility study to engage the indigenous and wider communities and existing institutions to develop options for the most effective way to strengthen and support indigenous culture.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Indigenous Stream.</i></p>
<p>National Indigenous Cultural Education Scheme</p> <p>Also raised by: Indigenous Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place Indigenous culture at the core of our education system by including Indigenous arts and culture in the school curriculum. 	<p>The Government supports developing cultural understanding and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, as well as the important role that elders play in Indigenous education.</p> <p>In consultation with the Indigenous community, the Government will further consider how to best progress the role of Indigenous cultural education as a future phase of the Closing the Gap strategy – once the first phase of policy priorities in health, education and economic development have been completed.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Indigenous Stream.</i></p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
National Body of Excellence for the Built Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a national body for excellence in the built environment to encompass large and small towns. 	<p>As announced on 30 April 2008, the Government is prioritising sustainable urban design issues through the creation of the Major Cities Unit within the Infrastructure portfolio.</p>
Cultural Diplomacy – International Societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>The Government will consider further opportunities, as they arise, to work with international cultural institutions.</p> <p>The Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, supported the Advance Australia Asia 50 Summit, held in Shanghai in March 2009, which focused on expanding the network into Asia.</p>
Access to Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Improve access to the arts. Support measures to improve access to the arts in regional Australia, including providing guidelines for the community sector. Double the number of festivals, writers and performers that have travelling exhibitions to provide access to remote areas. 	<p>The Government is committed to ensuring all Australians have the opportunity to participate in and enjoy the arts – wherever they live.</p> <p>The Government supports regional access to the arts. Playing Australia, Festivals Australia, the Contemporary Music Touring Program, Visions of Australia and the Regional Arts Fund also provide Australian Government funding for arts activity in regional and remote areas, including touring.</p>
Arts in Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tap expertise that already exists in creative and music therapies in special-needs schools and further develop for all schools. Map the cultural institutions in each area and identify how to link these with education processes Ensure the role of arts and creativity is central in education through the requirement of national reporting of creativity. 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. Initiate a national inquiry into drama teaching in Australia. 	<p>At its October 2008 meeting, the Cultural Ministers Council (CMC) agreed to develop a framework for a national curriculum for the arts. The CMC and the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs Joint Implementation Working Group on Education and the Arts are developing a further work plan.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Arts Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • Improve flexibility of research and development and responsiveness to business models, production methodologies, flexibility between low- and high-budget ranges. • Improve support for new digital media technologies. • Double the level of activity in the creation and presentation of new Australian works in all genres as a result of increased research and development. • Make creativity a national research priority with funding access to R&D, ARC and similar funding. • 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. 	<p>The Government agrees there is a strong link between the arts and innovation and has already committed \$17 million of funding to the Creative Industries Innovation Centre to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the creative industries make a larger contribution to the Australian and global economy.</p> <p>The Government will study these specific ideas further in the future when considering other links between arts and research.</p>
Review of Australia's Future Tax System Also raised by: Productivity Economy Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax incentives should be provided for private investment in research and development. 	<p>The Government agrees with the need to review taxation issues and is undertaking a comprehensive review of Australia's tax system to position Australia to deal with the demographic, social, economic and environmental challenges of the 21st century. The review's terms of reference have been heavily influenced by ideas from the 2020 Summit. The final report is due by the end of 2009.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Economy Stream.</i></p>

Ideas others may progress

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Artist Development – Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate a middle school within a multi-faceted cultural institution. 	Location of schools is a state government responsibility. However, many of these institutions already exist. For example, the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the Victorian College of the Arts each have an associated secondary school.
Access to Arts – Social Networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create allied social network communities to improve access to the arts and also reduce the impact on public resources. 	This idea may be one that the arts and community sectors wish to adopt.
Virtual Collaboration and Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harness broadband as a platform to create a virtual cluster for artists to congregate and exchange ideas and collaborate. 	There are already online forums of this nature. The Government has no immediate plans to progress this idea. However, private individuals or the community sector may wish to take this idea further.
National Indigenous Theatre Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a National Indigenous Theatre Company. 	Funding of arts organisations at the national level is primarily the responsibility of the Australia Council, which makes funding decisions based on artistic merit. If a National Indigenous Theatre Company was to be formed, it would be considered through this competitive process.
Screen Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-establish peer assessment and arms-length decisions. Use the Australia Council as an example and regain or establish the same for other Federal arts agencies. 	The Government recognises that the principle of peer assessment is important for the arts community. For example, Screen Australia, like the Australia Council, is an Australian Government agency that operates at arms-length from government.
Mentoring in Museums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce mentoring programs in the museum and cultural sector to encourage young people to work in these fields. 	Many of Australia's national collecting institutions and other cultural organisations undertake excellent mentorship programs. The Government has no current plans to add to these schemes.
Subsidies for School Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidise museums, theatres and film festivals to make them freely available to school students. 	The national collecting institutions already have free entry to their permanent exhibition spaces. Other cultural institutions may wish to consider actions they could take to facilitate increased access by school students, or may have done so already.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Intellectual Property Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an awareness campaign in relation to theft of intellectual property. 	<p>An extensive number of existing industry-led education campaigns are already in place, such as Music Industry Piracy Investigations (MIPI) and the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (AFACT). The Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) has also recently released a major education campaign on intellectual copyright jointly with industry: smartcopying.edu.au.</p> <p>Crimestoppers, operated in conjunction with the Attorney-General's Department, has also created an online campaign addressing music piracy for use in schools.</p>
Cultural Diplomacy – International Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage Australians onto international boards, such as those of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Tate Gallery in London. • Appoint international representatives to the boards of Australian cultural institutions. 	<p>Cultural institutions in other countries have their own governance arrangements and criteria for board appointments. While Australians could be encouraged to seek appointment, this is ultimately a matter for the individual institutions.</p> <p>Appointments to the boards of Australian cultural institutions usually take into account a range of factors including statutory requirements, merit, diversity, skills, experience, availability and capacity to attend meetings, and board composition.</p>
Cultural Diplomacy – Exchanges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the period of time for international exchanges. 	<p>Time periods for individual international exchanges are a matter for individual programs.</p>

Ideas with no further action at this time

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Funding Mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attach a levy to the government broadband contract to provide funding for the proposed digitisation of works in museum collections. • 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. • Reintroduce death duties, with exemptions for bequests and donations to the arts. • Introduce a 125 per cent tax deduction for public art and performing arts in public spaces. 	Not supported at this time. The Government does not believe that the specific models proposed are the most appropriate or effective for support of the creative arts.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund creative endeavours through a 1 per cent creative dividend from all government departments for expenditure on arts (including design, performance, installation). • Allocate 1 per cent of each government portfolio's funding to arts-related activities where these activities support and enhance the department's goals. 	Not supported at this time. Tight budgetary constraints are confronting all government departments and additional levies could compromise service delivery.
International Film Levy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a levy on movies made outside Australia, to provide funds for the local industry. 	Not supported at this time. This idea is inconsistent with Australia's current international trade commitments.
Taxation on Cinema Tickets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest the GST on cinema tickets back into the local film sector. 	Not supported at this time. Direct funding is already provided to Australian film through Screen Australia. The Government does not intend to specifically earmark GST revenue from cinema tickets to the film sector.
Broadcast Content Quotas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate an 80 per cent quota for Australian content by broadcasters in digital delivery. 	Not supported at this time. This is inconsistent with Australia's international trade commitments. Provision of an increased range of Australian content by the ABC and SBS will be considered as part of their triennial funding.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Arts Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce bureaucracy, capping expenditure on agency costs and overheads at a maximum of ten per cent to ensure funds are spent on content. • Develop a Ministry of Creative Industries or replace the ‘Digital Economy’ in the Department of Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy with ‘Creative Industries’. • Bring museums and education into one portfolio. • Establish a Ministry of Culture for high-level, cross-government advocacy that is central to and influential in government. • 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. • Lack of practitioner representation on boards – desired state is an increase to majority. • Facilitate artists’ participation in key aspects of society through a Cultural Commission. 	<p>Not supported at this time. While the Government is constantly looking for opportunities to improve administration of the arts portfolio, it does not believe such major changes to existing institutions are required at this time.</p>
Measuring Cultural Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop metrics to measure cultural value and creative cultural credits (like carbon credits) as a tradeable commodity. • Gather evidence across government that supports the proposition of the centrality of the arts in society. 	<p>Not supported at this time. A tradeable commodity measure is likely to be inappropriate as a funding model for the arts, where many benefits are intangible or difficult to quantify.</p>
Liability Insurance Also raised by: Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and arts groups, including those in rural areas, should no longer be required to obtain public liability insurance. Alternatively, the costs of public liability insurance should be minimised or should be the responsibility of the Government. • Funding support for community events and subsidisation of the insurance costs of holding these events. • 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’. 	<p>Not supported at this time. Civil liability issues are state and territory responsibilities.</p> <p>In recent years, there has been significant reform to state, territory and Commonwealth tort law. The cost of public liability insurance in Australia has also fallen significantly. In these circumstances, further evidence is required to justify Government intervention.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Sector Review – Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate a sector review of literature. 	Not supported at this time. The rationale for a review of the literature sector in Australia needs clarification.
National Policy for Architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a national policy for architecture, the built environment and design. Establish a national organisation that has an oversight role in preventing unnecessary development of creative sites, considering spatial relationships. 	Not supported at this time. While the Government supports excellence in the built environment, it does not believe a national policy for architecture would necessarily lead to better outcomes.
Arts in Education – Link the Creative Arts and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandate creative, visual and performing arts subjects in national curricula with appropriate reporting requirements for schools. Mandate 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. Make cultural institutions compulsory elements of the arts curriculum. 	<p>The Government strongly supports further development of arts in education – for example, through the Artists-in-Residence program - and will consider the inclusion of the Arts on the National Curriculum, consistent with the Goals of the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians.</p> <p>However it is also important to consider student choice and aptitude, and mandating some of these subjects may not be appropriate in that context.</p>
Cultural Diplomacy – Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a new organisation for international promotion of Australian art, to work in a way similar to Tourism Australia. 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. 	Not supported at this time. The Government believes that existing institutions are well-placed to promote Australian art, and that the benefits of establishing more organisations are unclear.
Cultural Diplomacy – Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) cultural diplomacy programs support visiting producers. Austrade initiatives also already address this idea.</p> <p>The Government also provides funding to AusFilm to promote Australia as a film location. The Australia Council also supports the biennial Australian Performing Arts Market, which showcases Australian arts product, including to overseas producers, promoters and presenters.</p>
Creativity – Government Departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee the preparation of creative plans by all departments and measure outputs. 	The case for further action at this time is not compelling. Government departments already seek to encourage the arts where relevant.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Creative Australian of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Prime Minister's Prize for the Creative Australian of the Year, as well as other awards for excellence. Establish a Prime Minister's Award for Creative Indigenous Australia of the Year. 	The Government does not believe that a specific award is necessary at this time. Rather, creative individuals are regularly nominated for Australian of the Year and other high honours. The Government has also instituted the annual Prime Minister's Literary Awards for fiction and non-fiction writing.
Screen Australia and Council of the Australian Film Television and Radio School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve artists' representation on the boards of screen agencies. 	The Board of Screen Australia and the Council of the Australian Film Television and Radio School already include artists.
Screen Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board of the Australia Council, Social Inclusion Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote wider representation of artists on public art boards. 	Artists already have wide representation on boards. For example, practising film-makers have been appointed to the inaugural Board of Screen Australia and the Artbank Advisory Board includes artist representation. Practising artists are regularly appointed to the Australia Council and its artform boards.
Artist Development – Register of Surplus Government Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a register of surplus government space and make it available to artists. 	Not supported at this time. Although the Government is committed to supporting the arts, establishing a register of surplus government space for use by artists is not practical at this time.



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THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNANCE

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Australia will face new challenges as it prepares for the future, and a new way of governing is needed to meet these challenges and help to shape the nation. The Government is enhancing cooperation and effectiveness across all levels of government, and is committed to increasing the transparency and accountability of government.

An example of the Government's new approach is the Community Cabinet process. This process has given a greater number of Australians an opportunity to meet Cabinet ministers and engage with them about important issues.

Another example is the 2020 Summit itself – a collaborative and dynamic process that brought together many people and generated many creative ideas.

The Summit's Governance Stream considered the breadth of issues relating to the future of Australia's governance. The development of a modern federation was a key theme, focusing on collaboration across all levels of government and with the community and private sectors. The Governance Stream considered that a modern Australia would include a reformed Australian Constitution that incorporates the rights and responsibilities of the Australian people.

An open, transparent and accountable government with integrity was also seen as a priority for the Governance Stream and many of the ideas were directed at achieving that objective.

The Governance Stream developed a broad range of ambitions, themes and ideas that have influenced and guided the Government's policy in this area, including:

- **COAG Reform Council** – The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) is undertaking a wide range of major reforms to strengthen effective collaboration between the Commonwealth, state and territory governments. COAG has agreed to an expanded role for the independent COAG Reform Council, which will monitor the aggregate pace of activity in progressing COAG's agreed reform agenda.
- **Australian Council of Local Governments** – The first meeting of the Australian Council of Local Governments (ACLG) was held on 18 November 2008, enhancing collaboration with local government. The Government is also committed to a full and frank dialogue through the ACLG on a process for moving towards the Constitutional recognition of Local Government.
- **Human Rights protection** – In December 2008, the Government announced a national consultation with the Australian people on how to best protect human rights. The consultation will be led by a committee, which is due to report by 31 July 2009.
- **Freedom of Information Reform** – The Government is undertaking broad reforms of the freedom of information system and is consulting with the public on its exposure draft legislation to improve and streamline the system.
- **Community engagement and e-governance** – The Government is acting to increase the community's ability to interact with the parliament and the policy development processes of government, and to make information about policy issues available online.

The following tables provide the Government's response to the ideas raised by the Governance Stream at the 2020 Summit.

Key ideas being taken forward by the Government

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Community Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the capacity for non-government organisations to participate – for example, through a Community Cabinet. 	<p>Agree. Community Cabinet meetings are now held throughout Australia. They are part of the Prime Minister’s commitment to ensure close consultation with the Australian people on the things that concern them, whether they are national or local matters. The 2020 Summit itself was also a successful example of non-government participation in the policy process.</p>
Community Engagement Also raised by: Communities Economy Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An online portal, free and searchable government information, and a space for citizens to participate and share their views – ourgov.au Establish a diverse set of community engagement mechanisms and multiple forms of participation to ensure public involvement, exploit opportunities from new technology. National platforms for various citizen groups, creation of a national online service for young people or a national platform for community radios. Establish a Commission for Participatory Democracy. Suggestion box on government department websites for community feedback (on governance) – all communications must be answered. AuSpan network – an Australian C-Span. 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. 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. Empower citizens and communities to participate in decision-making processes-provide a context for and facilitate place-based community planning. 	<p>The Government agrees with the idea of enhancing community engagement. The Government’s approach is to trial different and innovative mechanisms and draw on specific suggestions across several streams in that context.</p> <p>For example the Government is committed to developing practical initiatives in e-governance that increase communities’ ability to interact with the Parliament and the policy development processes of government. The Government is committed to making extensive information about policy issues available on-line to the community. The Government will develop better ways to increase interactive consultative processes using new technologies to communicate and hear from people. Some aspects of this work will be guided by the statutory Information Commissioner position, which the Government will be establishing as part of its Open Government reform agenda. As a first step, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has sought expert advice on the enhancement of information and access to Commonwealth information and policy and a whole-of-government approach to the development of an e-governance strategy.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Continued ...</p> <p>Community Engagement</p> <p>Also raised by: Communities Economy Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Introduce a Prime Minister's Grand Challenge Prize for solving big national challenges of a global nature-for example, climate change. • Strengthening the public policy debate. • 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. • Communities having a say in what happens. • The Council of Australian Governments (key decision maker): building genuine public involvement into it. • 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. • Implementation of a citizens' cabinet from the United Kingdom, currently being trialled in Queensland. • New mechanisms for facilitating greater involvement of non-government organisations, as well as the arts and volunteer sectors, in the development of policies for remote, rural and regional Australia – particularly new climate change policies. • Policy making at the local and regional level. • Define social citizenship and promote it – active, responsible social citizens, including organisations, not just individuals. • Establish a Charter of Community Engagement (similar to a Charter of Human Rights). 	<p>The Government is also considering holding a set of forums that will bring together experts, business and community representatives and others with a strong interest in a number of topics to promote a collaborative approach to challenging issues and better inform government decision making.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Continued ...</p> <p>Community Engagement</p> <p>Also raised by: Communities Economy Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve deliberative democracy and equip citizens to participate in an engaged, modern democracy. This could be done by using online participation, citizens' juries, citizens' parliaments, citizens' assemblies, participatory budgets, sampling citizens randomly about different issues, informing citizens about the legislative process, participatory budgeting, 21st century and electronic town meetings. • Establish a permanent 2020 summit to increase committee function and increase discussion of day to day issues. • Develop deliberative and new forms of democracy on tough issues through citizen assembly, participatory budget, on-line capability, develop a citizen- or community-focused public service. • Better information delivery and hubs of civic participation, presence of government in the community-rovng parliamentary sittings. • Deliberative inclusive processes that feed directly into government decision-making processes. • Engage the Australian community in the development of an ambitious long-term national strategic plan that delivers results. • Identify issues of national significance and a means to respond to them. • Empower citizens and communities to participate in decision-making processes – provide a context for and facilitate place based community planning. 	

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Removing Discrimination</p> <p>Also raised by: Economy Security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unleashing Australian talent by removing direct and indirect discrimination, which means improving structural support, strengthening laws and creating public accountabilities beyond gender – that is, age, race and disability. • Review domestic legislation for human rights impacts and compliance. 	<p>Agree in-principle. On 10 December 2008, the Commonwealth Attorney-General announced a national consultation process on human rights and responsibilities in Australia. The consultation will be conducted in the first half of 2009 by a committee comprised of Father Frank Brennan SJ AO (Chair), Ms Tammy Williams, Ms Mary Kostakidis and Mr Mick Palmer AO APM.</p> <p>The Government has recently taken some key steps to addressing issues of discrimination. For example, in July 2008, the Government ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in December 2008, tabled a National Interest Analysis proposing that Australia accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention. The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties reported its views on 12 March 2009 and recommended that Australia accede to the Optional Protocol.</p> <p>In December 2008, the Government tabled draft Disability Standards to improve access to premises for persons with disabilities, and introduced legislation to implement recommendations of the Productivity Commission from 2004 to improve the operation of the Disability Discrimination Act.</p> <p>The states and territories also have existing programs to address issues of discrimination.</p> <p>Also in December 2008, the Government acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Human Rights Reform Package</p> <p>Also raised by: Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia should be a country where the respect and protection of the human rights of all people are maintained and strengthened. • There should be a national process to consult with all Australians as to how to best protect human rights. • A federal statutory bill or charter of rights (or alternatively, a parliamentary charter of rights) should be created in consultation with the Australian community. • The Charter should protect and promote all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and provide meaningful remedies where rights are violated. It should address the rights and responsibilities of all Australians, including Indigenous Australians. • The Charter should make human rights an integral part of law-making and policy-setting processes. • The Charter should require parliament to consider whether laws comply with human rights. • The Charter should enable courts to interpret laws consistently with human rights where possible and to identify laws that do not comply with human rights. • The Charter should provide accessible and appropriate remedies for human rights breaches. • There should be 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. • Introduction of a non-statutory Charter of Comprehensive Rights and Responsibilities. • The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission should have explicit extensive power over all human rights. • Embed a non-discriminatory clause in the Constitution (not the preamble). 	<p>On 10 December 2008, the Commonwealth Attorney-General announced a national consultation process on human rights and responsibilities in Australia. The consultation will be conducted in the first half of 2009 by a committee comprised of Father Frank Brennan SJ AO (Chair), Ms Tammy Williams, Ms Mary Kostakidis and Mr Mick Palmer AO APM. The consultation delivers a key election commitment made by the Government and provides an opportunity for all Australians to share their views on how human rights and responsibilities can be better recognised and protected.</p> <p>The consultation will encourage broad community debate on a range of human rights issues, not only on whether a Charter or Bill of Rights is necessary. The consultation does not presuppose any outcome, although the Government has made it clear that any proposals must preserve the sovereignty of Parliament.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Freedom of Information Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely reforming freedom of information laws. • Appoint a Commissioner for Freedom of Information and conduct a full merits review. • Create an exemption test based on matters of essential public interest (e.g. national security). • Ensure that if public service documents are released in the public interest, they are free and accessible. • Release government and public service documents after 15 years instead of 30 years. • Reform the current freedom of information system by abolishing conclusive certificates. 	<p>Agree. The Government is moving ahead with broad reforms to the Freedom of Information (FOI) system and has released exposure draft legislation for public consultation. These reforms include the establishment of an Information Commissioner, a Freedom of Information Commissioner and other measures to improve and streamline the <i>Freedom of Information Act</i>, and measures to reduce the open access period under the Archives Act for all documents from 30 down to 20 years and for Cabinet notebooks from 50 down to 30 years. Legislation to remove conclusive certificates has been introduced.</p>
Electoral Reform – Advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). 	<p>Agree. The Government has implemented guidelines to govern Commonwealth Government campaign advertising to ensure that campaigns, at any time in the electoral cycle, are legitimately authorised, properly targeted and non-political. Any advertising proposed for the caretaker period prior to elections will only be undertaken following consultation with the Opposition.</p>
Parliamentary Reform – General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial advisers should have to appear before parliamentary committees when they are taking executive decisions. 	<p>In June 2008, the Government introduced a Code of Conduct for Ministerial Staff that makes it clear that Staff are not to make executive decisions.</p>
Parliamentary Reform – Review of the <i>Legislative Instruments Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen Parliamentary review of delegated legislation. 	<p>Agree. A review of the Legislative Instruments Act 2003 has been completed and the Attorney-General will table the report later in 2009.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Regulation – COAG Business Regulation and Competition Working Group</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform regulation, licensing, standards and enforcement for transport (both road and rail) and agriculture. • Harmonisation of state and territory regulations, including the removal of impediments associated with access to drought assistance. • Cutting red tape in general and setting minimum red tape targets when introducing new polices for dealing with climate change. • Harmonisation of federal and state regulations to reduce duplication and the costs of doing business. • The speed of regulatory reform should be increased, including creation of seamless national markets in key areas. • Review regulatory regimes to encourage private investment. • Regulation to be seen in the context of allowing market solutions wherever possible to deal with social problems and externalities. • Establish uniform national laws for industry, trade, finance and property. • Uniform laws for human rights, resources and infrastructure, and workplace safety. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The 2020 Summit recognised the importance of regulatory reform and harmonisation of state and territory laws.</p> <p>Many of the ideas discussed at the Summit reflect the work program of the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) Business Regulation and Competition Working Group (BRCWG).</p> <p>In December 2007, COAG established the BRCWG to deliver more consistent regulation across jurisdictions, reduce restrictions on competition in priority areas of the economy, and improve processes for regulation making and review. The work program includes reducing inconsistent and unnecessary regulation in 27 separate areas and delivering competition reform in eight agreed priority areas.</p> <p>In November 2008, COAG agreed to the new National Partnership Agreement to Deliver a Seamless National Economy, under which the Commonwealth committed to provide funding to the states and territories of \$550 million over five years. The payments are in two components; \$100 million to facilitate the implementation of reforms, and \$450 million in reward payments. The reforms, include nationally uniform OH&S laws, a national system for registering business names, and a national electronic conveyancing system.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Values and Civic Education</p> <p>Also raised by: Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify curricula from kindergarten to postgraduate education to include civic and moral education and engagement, social values 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. • Develop greater inclusion strategies at school to reduce exclusion and racism. • Provide active citizenship training as a universal component of primary and secondary school curricula and available to the broader community. • Incorporate active citizenship education as part of the school curriculum. • Develop and implement a national civics curriculum. • Establish a forum or audit to identify good practices and programs on values in Australia and internationally, using these to develop national programs. • Hold a national ethics and values convention every ten years or so to converse about our national key values. 	<p>The Government agrees with the importance of informed community discussion and education regarding Australian values.</p> <p>Through the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians (released on 5 December 2008), the Government – along with state and territory governments – has agreed to work in collaboration with all school sectors to support all young Australians to become active and informed citizens.</p> <p>The development of a national history curriculum will also provide significant opportunities for Australian students to access civics and citizenship education. The national history curriculum is being progressed by the Interim National Curriculum Board. Once operational, the national history curriculum will be developed by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority. The annual National Values Education Forum allows governments and the education community to engage in discussion about and develop best practices for values education.</p> <p>The Australian Human Rights Commission plays an important role in educating and raising awareness about racism, racial vilification and harassment. The Commission delivers a range of educational programs that are specifically developed for young people.</p> <p>The Government indicated in its November 2008 response to an independent review of the Australian Citizenship Test that work is underway on a whole-of-government approach to the promotion of civics and citizenship in the general community.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Formal Role for Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt a formal role for the most local level of government in adapting national policies. 	<p>Agree in-part. The Government has established the Australian Council of Local Government to give local government a direct voice into Commonwealth policy making, and help accelerate the implementation of program innovation, performance improvements and accountability in service delivery. The inaugural meeting of the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG), held on 18 November at Parliament House Canberra, highlighted the Australian Government's agenda for forging a new and stronger partnership with local government.</p>
Vision for Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an agreed vision for the future of Australia. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Australia 2020 Summit provided the Government with insight and guidance in developing a vision for the future. The Government will continue to consult with the nation in developing and adapting our vision for Australia.</p>
Australia in a Global Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address Australia's sustainable growth and change in a global context. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government recognises the future challenges that the nation will face and is targeting policies at ensuring sustainable growth for the nation in the context of global challenges.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Modern Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinvigorate the Federation to enhance Australian democracy and make it work for all Australians by reviewing the roles, responsibilities, functions, structures and financial arrangements of governments. • An expert commission to propose a new mix of responsibilities. • Implementation by intergovernmental cooperation or referendum. • Hold a convention of the people, informed by the commission and by a process of deliberative democracy to get community input. • An integrated planning process across the Commonwealth and states levels: a new compact between the three levels of government based around redefining roles and responsibilities. • National planning framework concept: by 2020 design and implement a cooperative national/intergovernmental planning framework. • Establish an agreed policy position, including principles, to facilitate outcome-based decision making. • 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. • Achieve greater coordination and alignment between the governments (federal, state and local) of Australia. 	<p>Agree in-part. There were many ideas from the 2020 Summit directed towards improving the way the Australian federation works. The Government agrees that improvements can be made, although it will not adopt all of the ideas from the Summit in the short term.</p> <p>The Government's approach is to work collaboratively with the states and territories through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). In November 2008, COAG committed to an historic new Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) on Federal Financial Relations which provides an overarching framework for the Commonwealth's financial relations with the states and territories.</p> <p>The new federal financial framework began on 1 January 2009 and provides a solid foundation for COAG to pursue economic and social reforms to underpin growth, prosperity and social cohesion into the future. The IGA is supported by six new National Agreements in the areas of health, education, vocational education and training, disability services, housing, and Indigenous reform, and a range of National Partnership payments to fund specific projects and to facilitate and/or reward States that deliver on nationally significant reforms.</p> <p>The new framework provides a clearer specification of roles and responsibilities of each level of government and an improved accountability for the delivery of outcomes.</p> <p>COAG has also agreed to an expanded role for the COAG Reform Council (CRC). To enhance accountability, the CRC will report to the Prime Minister (as Chair of COAG) on the performance of all jurisdictions in relation to each National Agreement, and independently assess whether performance benchmarks have been achieved before an incentive payment to reward nationally significant reforms under a National Partnership is made. The CRC will also produce an analytical view of performance information for each Specific Purpose Payment.</p> <p>The CRC also has a role in monitoring the aggregate pace of activity in progressing COAG's agreed reform agenda.</p> <p>The Government will consider further options for modernising the federation once the outcomes of the current reforms have been assessed.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Open and Accountable Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whistleblower protection is respected and strengthened. 	<p>The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs tabled its report entitled 'Whistleblower protection: a comprehensive scheme for the Commonwealth public sector' on 25 February 2009. The Government is now considering the report's recommendations and is committed to developing legislation to protect public interest disclosures within the public sector.</p>
Media – Strengthen Free Press Protections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government should be open and accountable and protections of free press should be strengthened. <p>A Charter of Free Speech should be established to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No journalist will face criminal proceedings for publishing information they receive from their sources in the official conduct of their duties Effective shield laws are established for journalists, without the threat that they must reveal their sources The journalists' 'code of ethics' is strengthened There is a national commitment to protecting journalists or media producers 	<p>The Attorney-General has introduced into Parliament amendments to the journalist shield provisions of the Commonwealth Evidence Act 1995. The Government has also raised the need for journalist shield laws in the States and Territories through the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General.</p>

Ideas the Government will consider further

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Constitutional Reform – General	<p>Republic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Australian Republic (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.) Be celebrating the fifth anniversary of the republic by 2020. <p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Constitution-retaining good bits of the existing Constitution, embodying a republic model, protecting rights, and permitting extensive community consultation. A national competition to draft a new preamble to the Constitution. Establish a constitutional commission or convention. If the Constitution and Senate powers remain the same, there should be a requirement that if the Senate blocks supply it should face the people. Statehood for the Northern Territory. 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. Improve process to make law making more efficient and effective by creating fixed parliamentary terms. 	<p>The Government recognises the priority placed on constitutional reform by the community. The Government is committed to ongoing reform of our Constitution where appropriate and will draw on the input of the Summit in thinking about future possible proposals for constitutional change.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Constitutional Reform – Indigenous Recognition Also raised by: Indigenous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians and reconciliation compact. • Constitutional recognition, Treaty or Settlement – commence a dialogue leading to Constitutional recognition, Treaty or Settlement – through which the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is defined. • That the Constitution be amended to remove any language that is racially discriminatory. • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being recognised as First Nations people. • Formal legal recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Including a national education program to support the dialogue and co-commitment to the agreement from the states and territories. 	<p>Indigenous recognition is a key issue for consideration and the Government is committed to consulting the community on a range of proposed constitutional reforms. The Government is considering a timetable for this consultation.</p>
Constitutional Reform – Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of local government in the Constitution. 	<p>The Government is committed to taking steps towards the recognition of local government in the Commonwealth Constitution and has committed to a full and frank dialogue on this issue. The Government intends to progress this in partnership with the Australian Local Government Association and through the Australian Council of Local Government.</p>
Electoral Reform – General	<p>The Governance stream raised a range of electoral reform proposals including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal automatic enrolment to vote, voting for all Australians over the age of 18 years and automatic re-enrolment of eligible voters • Optional enrolment to vote and voting for Australians aged between 16 and 18 years • Using electronic means to make it easier for people to enrol to vote • Supporting a strong electoral education program • Following an election, if a Member of Parliament's party is not elected, the Member of Parliament should still be compelled to see out the term and not retire. 	<p>The Government will consult Australians on a wide range of options for electoral reform through a second Green Paper on electoral reform, which will be released for public comment in 2009.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Electoral Reform – Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>On 17 December 2008, the Cabinet Secretary and Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon John Faulkner, released a first Green Paper on electoral reform for public comment. The Green Paper covers issues related to the possible reform of electoral funding, including political donations and campaign expenditure and was developed in consultation with the states and territories. The Government is considering the submissions made in response to the Green Paper.</p>
Open and Accountable Government	<p>Political Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Encourage greater use of ‘conscience votes’ by Members. Strengthen government accountability by establishing a Parliamentary Code of Ethics and an Ethics Commissioner. Promote a more open and publicly accountable government including through parliamentary processes. Establish a House of Representatives Estimates Committee. Strengthen question time: ‘Dorothy Dixers’ to be controlled. It is a limitation that the ‘other side’s’ question time is the only bit of Parliament that gets media coverage. The Senate also to have the capacity for supplementary questions with one minute answers from Ministers. <p>Independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a charter for Parliamentary reform to restore the independence and effectiveness of Parliament. 	<p>The Government recognises and supports the need for openness and accountability in government and in parliamentary processes. The Government has undertaken a number of reforms to improve transparency and accountability which reflect the Government’s commitment in this area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reforms to freedom of information legislation New rules for government advertising Merit selection processes for senior public service appointments The introduction of a Lobbying Code of Conduct and Register of Lobbyists A Code of Conduct for Ministerial Staff and new Standards of Ministerial Ethics. <p>Further reforms on open and accountable government will add to these measures.</p> <p>The Government notes that some aspects of the reform of political culture are principally a matter for political parties.</p> <p>The Government will consider undertaking further work in this area if the current reforms do not deliver the required changes.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Budget and Services Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish accountability of the Executive, with specification of how public money should be spent and reframe appropriation Bills to specify individual projects and programs. • Ensure more efficient and effective government service delivery. • Facilitate allocation of funding based on service responsibilities. • Establish relevant benchmarks and indicators to monitor performance. • Determine appropriate community service standards linked to community needs. 	<p>Through Operation Sunlight, the Government is delivering a range of reforms that will improve the openness and transparency of budget papers and financial management. In addition, there are a wide range of accountability measures which are regularly reviewed.</p>
Public Sector Reform Also raised by: Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attracting and retaining quality staff. • Develop a core of strong policy professionals with ease of movement between academia and the public service. • Commission an Inquiry on flexibility, remuneration and incentives within the APS to facilitate transition of top Australians between public and private sectors. • Innovative and open policy. • Develop a citizen or community focused public service and system. • Eliminate jargon in governance and bureaucracy. • 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. 	<p>The Government recognises that new approaches to workforce planning are fundamental to ensuring that the Australian Public Service (APS) is responsive, agile and well positioned to support government in the 21st century. With this in mind, the APS is taking steps to identify current and future capability requirements and implement strategies to make sure that they are met.</p> <p>A number of reforms aimed at improving the professionalism of the APS are already in place, including, for example, the introduction of merit based selection for government appointments to APS agencies and the commencement in May 2009 of the Ethics Advisory Service in the Australian Public Service Commission.</p> <p>Strategies are also being explored to build a professional and better skilled public service, attract and retain employees with specialist skills through cadetships and work experience programs for tertiary students, enhance strategic policy capability and encourage more evidence based policy making and increase mobility between the APS, universities and the private and not for profit sectors. These reforms will help ensure that the APS has the capability to meet the challenges of the future.</p> <p>In developing and implementing these reforms, the Government will draw on the input of the 2020 Summit.</p> <p>The Cabinet Implementation Unit in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet promotes effective policy and program implementation and builds skills and capacity across the APS in this area. <i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Economy Stream.</i></p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Abolish Crown Copyright	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown copyright should be abolished. 	<p>The Government is considering options to reform Crown copyright and other recommendations for greater open access to Government information.</p>
National Compact / Third Sector Reform Also raised by: Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a regulatory framework for the non-profit sector. • Recognise the importance of the non-government, or third, sector in public policy development and governance and protecting and promote policy advocacy – for example, removal of taxation roadblocks and reform of charity law. 	<p>The Government is considering reforms to the way it funds and regulates the not-for-profit sector (or the third sector), with a view to shaping a national compact between the Government and the sector.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the compact would take the form of an agreement between the Australian Government and the not-for-profit sector that outlines how the two will work together to improve and strengthen their relationship.</p> <p>The Government will work closely with the community sector to progress the development of a National Compact in 2009. It is expected that key governance and structural issues will be addressed in that Compact.</p> <p>The Government will also consider broader reform in light of the findings of ongoing reviews. For example, the Minister for Finance and Deregulation is examining ways of reducing red tape across Commonwealth grants, which would assist the not-for-profit sector. Philanthropic tax incentives fall within the broad scope of the current review of the Australian taxation system, Australia's Future Tax System, which will report to the Government by the end of 2009.</p> <p>There are many other existing initiatives in this area being addressed by states and territories or philanthropic organisations.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Communities Stream.</i></p>

Ideas others may progress

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Bill of Rights at State Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bill of rights at state level to strengthen the accountability of the states. 	This is a matter for the states.
Media – Reform of the Press Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve accountability of the media (Press Council). The media should be accountable to the public, including radio, television and media on the internet. • Improve media diversity and accountability. • Expand the role of the Press Council to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Strengthen and reinvigorate the professionalism of journalists – Improved accountability – Review roles of Press Council in light of new media. 	The Press Council is independent of government and reform should be driven by the industry.

Ideas with no further action at this time

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Constitutional Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Not supported at this time.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All agree that the Governor-General has the power in the Constitution – without reference to the Queen. 	Noted. Issues relating to the powers granted by the Constitution will be addressed in future discussions relating to Australia becoming a republic.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Constitution should recognise that under Australia’s system of government, all government power and authority is derived from the Australian people. 	Australia’s system of responsible and representative government already implicitly recognises the derivation of power and authority from the Australian people.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The principles of public service in our society should be incorporated in the Constitution so that public servants know their roles and responsibilities. 	Not supported at this time. There are existing mechanisms to ensure that public servants know their roles and responsibilities, including through the <i>Public Service Act</i> and the activities of the Australian Public Service Commission.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Not supported at this time. Read together, the Constitution and relevant Commonwealth legislation provide an appropriate framework for the regulation of these relationships.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Modern Federation Also raised by: Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formally enforce cooperative federalism at all levels. 	<p>The Government supports cooperative federalism, but does not consider that cooperation is best achieved through compulsion.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Not supported at this time. Australia's local governments play a key role in the governance of Australia. The Commonwealth, through the Australian Council of Local Government, is seeking better engagement with local government as part of progressing new cooperative federalism. It is also noted that local governments are a function of the states and are not within the ambit of Commonwealth action without reference to the states.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drive effective intergovernmental collaboration by establishing a national cooperation commission to register, monitor and resolve disputes concerning intergovernmental agreements. 	<p>Not supported at this time. A commission with powers of compulsion would alter the balance of powers and could undermine co-operative federalism. The COAG Reform Council and the system of ministerial councils and secretariat support provided by departments deliver many of the outcomes that could be achieved through a commission.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Structure government by regions, biophysical or other. 	<p>Not supported at this time. State governments play a central role in policy development and service delivery to citizens. Abolition of Australia's state governments has very limited popular support.</p>
Federation Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Federation Council with a degree of independence, to facilitate Commonwealth-State relations. 	<p>The Government does not consider this to be necessary given the expanded role of the COAG Reform Council.</p>
Northern Territory Emergency Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Northern Territory Intervention should happen everywhere, not just in the Northern Territory. 	<p>The Government is pursuing reform of service delivery in remote areas, including through COAG, as a critical contribution to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) Review Board was established to conduct an independent and transparent review of the NTER. The Review Board provided its report, including key recommendations for moving forward, to the Australian Government on 13 October 2008.</p> <p>The findings of the Review, along with wider lessons learned during NTER implementation, will help to inform future policies and programs in the Northern Territory and elsewhere in Australia.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Electoral Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives elected to represent groups rather than electorates. 	<p>Not supported at this time. The Government considers the current representative system remains appropriate.</p>
Electoral Reform – Engaging Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An alternative to the idea of changing the voting age to 16 is to have a youth parliament. 	<p>While noting that there are alternative mechanisms that enable young Australians to have a voice, this issue will be addressed in the second green paper on electoral reform.</p> <p>On 2 October 2008 the Government launched the new Australian Youth Forum. This aims to engage young people and the youth sector in public discussion and facilitate their input into policy and decision making on issues that affect their lives.</p>
Budget Research Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for a well-resourced and financed parliamentary budget office and research office. 	<p>The case for change is not clear at this time. Extensive expertise exists in the Parliamentary Library to advise on budget-related matters.</p>
Government Reform – Open and Accountable Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve accountability by keeping track of ministerial council discussions as well as delegated legislation and grant allocations. 	<p>The case for change is not clear at this time. Delegated legislation is recorded on a Federal Register of Legislative Instruments. Ministerial Council meetings are minuted. Grants are recorded on AusTender and reported to Parliament three times a year in accordance with Senate standing orders. Government departments and agencies also report grants in their Annual Reports.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve community and stakeholder engagement in scrutiny of Bills and policy development. 	<p>The Government is committed to ongoing improvement to community engagement at all levels of policy development and will choose the most appropriate form of engagement for each policy development process.</p> <p>The Government has no current plans for systemic reform. Rather, the Government will continue to make use of well-established mechanisms such as Green Papers, exposure draft legislation, parliamentary committees and ensuring that bills are publicly available.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Government Reform – Open and Accountable Government – Public Immunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent arbitration of Ministerial claims of public interest immunity and reversing the onus for public immunity tests for Ministers. • Strong political leadership on open government. • Ministerial advisers should be compellable witnesses in Parliament – but only when making executive decisions in the official conduct of their duty. 	<p>Public interest immunity claims are appropriately dealt with by each Chamber of Parliament. The Government does not support independent arbitration of public interest immunity claims (save where that is already part of normal legal process).</p> <p>The Code of Conduct for ministerial staff makes it clear that members of staff are not permitted to make executive decisions.</p>
Government Reform – Open and Accountable Government – Information Disputes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an independent process to resolve disputes about disclosure of information, along with an independent arbitrator. 	<p>The Government is undertaking reforms of the freedom of information system to improve accountability, including the establishment of an Information Commissioner and an FOI Commissioner.</p>
Government Reform – Trade Practices Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a <i>Trade Practices Act</i> section 52 ‘misleading or deceptive conduct’ offence for politicians. 	<p>Not supported. Politicians are accountable to the public at elections every three years.</p>
Government Reform – Minister for Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Minister for Democracy. 	<p>Not supported at this time. The Government believes that the current ministerial arrangements are appropriate. The Cabinet Secretary is the responsible Minister for many related matters.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Parliamentary Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embark on electoral and constitutional reform to renew and reshape the role and composition of the Senate as a house of review and to make the Australian Parliament more representative. 	Not supported at this time.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	The composition of upper houses in Australia (where they exist) is a matter for the electorate and the Government has no current plans for broader reform.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable members and the public to ask questions in question time; a four-minute time limit in question time. 	The function of Question Time is for elected members, representing the public, to ask questions. Members of the public can ask Ministers questions in correspondence, at Community Cabinets and, indirectly, through their local members and senators.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish minimum time and process standards for the passage of legislation, including Committee scrutiny (for example, 30 days), unless otherwise negotiated. 	The Government does not support time periods for legislative processes, as this reduces the capacity to prioritise and respond to specific needs. The period for consideration of bills should be dependent upon the context, complexity and potential impacts of the relevant legislation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Not supported at this time. The Government does not intend to alter the existing arrangements whereby the power to deploy Australian Defence Force personnel overseas rests with the executive arm of government.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Public Sector Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee structure to be broadened to include subject matter experts from outside parliament. Lower the level of public servants that are brought before committees. 	<p>Committees have the power to engage consultants and to require attendance of any person if necessary. However, the practice is that senior public servants attend to ensure the quality of the evidence and effectiveness of the process.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government to instruct the Australian Public Service that it has a duty to cooperate with Parliament. 	<p>The <i>Public Service Act</i>, the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct and the Australian Public Service Values set out a framework that makes it clear that the Australian Public Service has a duty to cooperate with Parliament.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflect a better relationship with the Australian Government through changes in the machinery of government. 	<p>The Government considers that the existing machinery of government arrangements are appropriate.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new public contract outlining what a model public servant should be. 	<p>The existing <i>Public Service Act</i> and Australian Public Service Code of Conduct and Australian Public Service Values already establish the code of conduct for Australian public servants.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>The Government does not support a national civil service. However, it is committed to making the Australian Public Service a career of choice and aims to encourage exchanges between the Australian Public Service and universities, state and territory public service agencies and the private and not for profit sectors.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a uniform national ethical framework and code of conduct for public servants across the three levels of government. 	<p>The Government does not support this approach. The code of conduct for other jurisdictions is a matter for their relevant authorities.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A commission of inquiry to look at the state of the public service, the structure and likely requirements. 	<p>A separate commission of inquiry is not supported at this time.</p>
Freedom of Information Reform – General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform of the current freedom of information system to be achieved by legislating through the <i>Electoral Act</i>. 	<p>The Government does not consider that the <i>Electoral Act</i> is the appropriate vehicle for reform of the freedom of information system. The Government is currently undertaking reform of the freedom of information system through other means.</p>
Freedom of Information Reform – Archiving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase open access to Government. The Government should apply new technologies to its records and make them searchable. There should also be a reduced period before Government documents can be accessed. 	<p>Wider aspects of freedom of information reform are proposed by the Government's current review and reform package. Archiving aspects are already supported through the National Archives and the Australian Government Information Management Office within the Department of Finance. Open access periods for documents under the Archives Act will be reduced from 30 years to 20 years.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Media – Supporting Independent Media and Journalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. More informed and empowered citizenry predicated on more accountable media. Improved media diversity and accountability, a trust established for community media and national broadcasters to secure their long term funding. a removal of restrictions on multi-channelling and other economic restrictions. Secure independent public broadcaster. 	The Government indirectly funds investigative journalism through its funding of the national broadcasters, the ABC and SBS, both of which have independent boards.
Change Defamation Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defamation laws should be reformed ‘to shift the burden of proof’. A public figure alleging defamation would bear the burden of proving falsity. 	Not supported at this time. Defamation is primarily governed by State and Territory laws. Substantial reform to streamline and harmonise defamation laws has been implemented in recent times.
National Days	National days of recognition for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constitution Day Democracy Day Deliberation Day. 	The Government will continue to monitor the need for additional days of recognition. At this time, it is not apparent that these particular days have significant public support.
National Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Prime Minister or Parliament to write a national narrative about governance and Australia’s connection into that narrative as a community. 	The Government will continue to develop and communicate its vision of the key challenges facing Australia and to further develop community engagement strategies.
Guaranteed Indigenous Representation Also raised by: Indigenous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrenched and guaranteed Indigenous representation in federal parliament. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander seats in Parliament as in New Zealand or greater support to stand as candidates. 	Not supported at this time.

AUSTRALIA'S
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AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE SECURITY AND PROSPERITY IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING REGION AND WORLD

Australia faces an increasingly complex and interconnected international environment. Globalisation has greatly benefited Australia and our economy has experienced sustained prosperity notwithstanding recent challenges such as the global financial crisis. However, globalisation has also resulted in exposure to a broader range of challenges. The Government is committed to addressing these challenges, including those posed by a global economy suffering the impacts of the financial crisis, climate change, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the potential spread of pandemic disease, people smuggling and narcotics trafficking. These are complex matters with far-reaching implications and the Government is committed to taking a collaborative approach in developing global solutions to these issues.

By 2020, the population of the Asia Pacific region will comprise around 60 per cent of the world's total. Ensuring stability and prosperity in our region is important for both humanitarian reasons and for Australia's security, in terms of protecting our borders and preserving our economic prosperity. The management of Australia's relationships with the United States, Japan, China, Indonesia, India and Europe are critical to ensure the security of the nation.

This new landscape will require new techniques and partnerships. To exercise international influence and tackle emerging challenges will require a new form of "middle power" diplomacy.

The Security Stream at the 2020 Summit developed a range of ideas to address Australia's role in the international landscape. The key themes raised included a concerted campaign to improve our familiarity with Asia, new partnerships and strategies within the Pacific region, greater international engagement and the importance of non-military security issues. Trade and energy security were also discussed. Ideas relating to Australia in a global context were also raised by the Productivity, Communities and Health Streams.

The Security Stream developed a broad range of ambitions, themes and ideas that have influenced and guided the Government's policy in this area, such as:

- **National Security Statement** – The Prime Minister presented Australia's inaugural National Security Statement to Parliament on 4 December 2008. This Statement outlined the Government's national security policy. It described the scope of national security, Australia's national security interests, principles and priorities, and outlined the Government's vision for a reformed national security structure.
- **Deployable Civilian Capacity** – The Government has agreed to develop a policy framework to enable rapid deployment of civilian experts to assist in international disaster relief, stabilisation and post conflict reconstruction efforts. An inter-agency task force is being led by AusAID to undertake this work. Once established, a national deployable civilian capacity will allow more rapid and early delivery of stabilisation and recovery assistance to countries that experience conflict or natural disaster. The program will be sufficiently adaptable to allow Australia to tailor its response to a particular event or emergency and will improve Australia's integration into multilateral reconstruction and stabilisation operations.
- **Maritime Security Enforcement** – On 4 December 2008 the Prime Minister announced that the Government would augment the Australian Customs Service (ACS) to give it the capability to comprehensively work to deter people smuggling throughout the operating pipeline from source countries to our shores. As part of the changes the ACS has been re-named the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service. The Government has reviewed aspects of Australia's maritime security enforcement effort and continues to consider opportunities for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of our strategic approach to maritime security.

- **The Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Endeavour Awards** – The Government is making a substantial new investment of \$14.9 million to facilitate the best and brightest students from Asia and the Pacific in having closer ties to Australia and for Australians to have closer ties in these countries. The Government will support academic scholarships for university students from Australia and Asia, including the expansion of capacity building and leadership scholarships for Asia Pacific students to study in Australia. These initiatives aim to build deep and enduring linkages with our Asia Pacific neighbours. This will have long term benefits for trade, security and development goals, as well as enriching all our cultures.
- **National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program** – Incorporating a better understanding of Asia into Australian society is critical to enhancing Australia’s engagement with the Asia Pacific region. To increase our Asian language capabilities, the Government is investing \$62.4 million in the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP). The NALSSP commenced on 1 January 2009 and provides opportunities for school students to become familiar with the languages and cultures of Australia’s Asian neighbours – China, Indonesia, Japan and Korea.
- **Asia Pacific Civil-Military Centre for Excellence** – The Asia Pacific Civil-Military Centre of Excellence was opened by the Prime Minister on 27 November 2008. The centre will improve the effectiveness of Australian civilian and military collaboration to prevent, mitigate and respond to the impact of natural disasters and conflicts in the Asia Pacific region. The centre will support Australian Government agencies to strengthen civil-military collaboration through research, and the development of training and doctrine.
- **Pacific Partnerships for Development** – The Government has committed to negotiating Pacific Partnerships for Development with our Pacific partners to make more rapid progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The Prime Minister signed the first two partnerships with Papua New Guinea and Samoa at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in Niue in August 2008. Further partnerships were signed with Solomon Islands and Kiribati in January 2009.

The following tables provide the Government’s response to the ideas raised by the Security Stream at the 2020 Summit.

Key ideas being taken forward by the Government

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
International Security – Creative Middle Power Diplomacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a new approach using ‘smart power’ to address food, water and energy security issues in collaboration with our neighbours. 	Agree. As noted in the Prime Minister’s National Security Statement of 4 December 2008, it is important that our national security be advanced through creative middle power diplomacy. This is an active foreign policy that is capable of identifying opportunities to promote our security; to prevent, reduce or delay the emergence of national security challenges; and to position Australia to take advantage of international developments.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
International Security – Collective Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen collective security. 	<p>Agree. The Government is working to strengthen international security through close engagement with its allies and other partners, including through the United Nations. In March 2008, the Prime Minister announced Australia's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the period 2013–14, which will enable Australia to take a more active role in addressing global security challenges.</p>
International Security – UN Peace-building Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the UN Peace-Building Commission. 	<p>Agree. To date Australia has contributed \$2 million to the Commission's Peace-Building Fund, with an additional \$1 million being contributed in early 2009.</p>
International Security – Preventive Diplomacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use preventative diplomacy. 	<p>Agree. Australia actively engages in 'regional preventative diplomacy' as evidenced by its assistance to East Timor and the Solomon Islands.</p> <p>Australia also supports the United Nations Secretary-General's proposals to strengthen the UN Department of Political Affairs, focusing on conflict prevention and mediation activities undertaken by African regional organisations.</p>
International Security – Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properly resourced nuclear disarmament diplomacy built on regional cooperation on nuclear expertise and non-proliferation, including the appointment of an Ambassador for Disarmament. 	<p>Agree. An International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND) has been created as a joint initiative of the Australian and Japanese Governments. The Commission aims to reinvigorate international efforts on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament in the context of the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and beyond.</p> <p>Australia's Permanent representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva is the Ambassador for Disarmament.</p> <p>In addition, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation has strong regional nuclear cooperation links through a number of forums.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
International Security – Peace-Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create deeper institutional engagement with a view to state and peace-building. 	<p>Agree. Australia works with partner governments, local institutions, non-government organisations, other donors and multilateral institutions to strengthen peace and state building programs in partner countries. At a global level, Australia undertakes these activities through UN agencies and academic and research institutions.</p> <p>The newly established Asia Pacific Civil-Military Centre of Excellence will enhance Australia’s institutional capacity to engage and coordinate with regional institutions to respond to causes of instability and build peace and security.</p>
Regional Security – Deployable Civilian Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a deployable public service that will be able to more rapidly and effectively deliver development assistance. 	<p>Agree. The Government has agreed to develop a policy framework to enable rapid deployment of civilian experts to assist in international disaster relief, stabilisation and post conflict reconstruction efforts. An inter-agency task force is being led by AusAID to undertake this work. Once established, a national deployable civilian capacity will allow more rapid and early delivery of stabilisation and recovery assistance to countries that experience conflict or natural disaster. The program reflects many of the ideas discussed at 2020, and also at the Youth Summit, and will be sufficiently adaptable to allow Australia to tailor our response to a particular event or emergency. It will also improve Australia’s integration into multilateral reconstruction and stabilisation operations.</p>
Regional Security – Asia Pacific Civil-Military Centre of Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an Australia-Japan regional peacekeeping centre and establish civil-defence partnerships. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Asia Pacific Civil-Military Centre of Excellence (APCM COE) was opened by the Prime Minister on 27 November 2008. The centre will enhance the effectiveness of Australian civilian and military collaboration to prevent, mitigate and respond to the impact of natural disasters and conflicts in the Asia Pacific region. The Government intends the APCM COE to be the Australian centre for the international exchange of doctrine on peacekeeping practice.</p> <p>The Government will seek formal links between the APCM COE and the relevant Japanese institutions involved in peacekeeping.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
National Security – Government Response to the Smith Review, National Security Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New research and analytical capabilities are required on non-traditional security threats. 	<p>Agree. The Government announced its National Security Statement and response to the Homeland and Border Security Review on 4 December 2008. The National Security Statement reinforced the importance of the Government's role in research and capability development activities that reach beyond counter-terrorism into other areas of national security.</p> <p>Research and development capabilities across the spectrum of national security challenges will be addressed through the development of the National Security Science and Innovation Strategy.</p> <p>The International Strategy Unit within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, which was established in October 2008, is regularly tasked to examine non-traditional security issues and their implications for policy.</p>
National Security – Information and Intelligence Data Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Security Committee of Cabinet should exercise leadership to push for meaningful, real information and intelligence data sharing between policing and intelligence agencies. 	<p>Agree. The National Security Statement outlined the establishment of a National Intelligence Coordination Committee (NICC). This committee will ensure that Australia's national intelligence effort is fully and effectively integrated with all relevant agencies and activities.</p> <p>The National Security Advisor, supported by the National Security Chief Information Officer and in consultation with other relevant agencies, will address the legislative, technical and cultural barriers to the sharing of national security information.</p> <p>This idea was also raised as an issue in the 2004 Flood Inquiry into Australian Intelligence Agencies. The Government is currently making a number of improvements as a result of the outcomes of the Street Review of interoperability between the AFP and its national security partners.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Pacific Development – Pacific Partnership for Development	<p>A number of ideas were raised regarding development and social exchange initiatives with the Pacific, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A partnership for development initiative to achieve priority Millennium Development Goals through sustainable business, academic, community and government linkages • Encouraging greater exchange of professionals and public servants and the exchange of information on approaches to tackle climate change and food security • The use of modern IT technologies to foster closer ties and address mutual challenges • Integrate policies and agencies' efforts to fast-track clean energy development and deployment, informed by a coherent plan. 	<p>Agree. The Pacific Partnerships for Development initiative launched by the Prime Minister in March 2008 commits Australia and our Pacific partners to make more rapid progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The first two partnerships with Papua New Guinea and Samoa were signed at the Pacific Islands Forum leaders meeting in August 2008. In January 2009, partnerships were signed with Solomon Islands and Kiribati. Partnerships for Development are being progressively established with other Pacific Island countries.</p> <p>The Pacific Islands Forum will be held in Cairns in the first week of August 2009, continuing partnership-building in the Pacific region.</p> <p>Additionally in the 2008–09 Budget, the Government allocated \$107 million over four years to increase Australia's support for Pacific public sector training and capacity building.</p> <p>Business and community links will be significantly advanced through the development of a Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme and consultations on a regional economic integration agreement (PACER plus). In addition, the Government actively supports the Business for Millennium Development (B4MD), which partners with Australian business to reduce poverty in the Asia Pacific region.</p> <p>Through AusAID, the Government is participating in the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility, which aims to develop and maintain critical economic infrastructure and make progress against the Millennium Development Goals in the Pacific. The Government is also providing assistance for Pacific countries in developing climate change expertise.</p> <p>The Government is considering further initiatives to support training opportunities for Pacific public servants and increased links with Pacific officials and programs.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Pacific Development – Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme</p> <p>Also raised by: Rural Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish 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. Develop links with Australia's overseas aid programs 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. A rights-based labour mobility initiative for South West Pacific, including East Timor. 	<p>Agree. The Government announced the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme on 17 August 2008. This three year scheme will examine the viability of a seasonal worker program, with a focus on the horticulture industry. The Government is conducting the pilot to examine whether a seasonal worker program could contribute to regional economic development objectives and also assist Australian employers.</p>
<p>International Trade – Reducing Barriers to Trade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Agree. Australia already has a longstanding and comprehensive closer economic agreement with New Zealand.</p> <p>At the Pacific Islands Forum in August 2008, Pacific leaders agreed to a new regional economic integration agreement (PACER Plus) to be developed in 2009 and cover Pacific Island countries.</p> <p>The Government is also committed to promoting APEC's agenda on regional economic integration and continuing on the path towards a Free Trade Agreement of the Asia Pacific. The announcement at the APEC Ministerial Meeting in November that Australia will join the Trans Pacific Partnership initiative is an important stepping stone on this path.</p>
<p>Energy, Water & Food Security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Agree. Agencies already make extensive use of available evidence-based systems. Enhanced systems are currently being established in the water and energy portfolios.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation in Australia and AusAID should help Australia's neighbours meet the challenges of food production in a world dealing with climate change. 	<p>Agree. Since May 2008, the Australian Government has committed over \$100 million to food security programs in developing countries, for emergency food aid, and for agricultural and rural development.</p> <p>The Government has also committed to invest \$150 million over three years to meet high priority climate adaptation needs in vulnerable countries in our region, including a range of issues related to food security.</p> <p>A comprehensive action plan for food security, which includes increased development assistance in agriculture and rural development and continued advocacy for international trade policy reform, is currently under development.</p> <p>The Government has made an immediate contribution of \$50 million to the World Bank Global Food Crisis Trust Fund and is supplementing this with support for urgent food requirements through the World Food Programme.</p>
International Rule of Law – General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaffirm our commitment to working in international institutions and to the international rule of law. 	<p>Agree. The Government is strongly committed to working with international institutions to shape coordinated responses to global challenges. The Government is also strongly committed to upholding and promoting the rule of law at an international level, including through the progressive development of international law and active participation in key international fora.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>Removing Discrimination</p> <p>Also raised by: Economy Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unleash Australian talent by removing direct and indirect discrimination, which means improving structural support, strengthening laws and creating public accountabilities beyond gender – that is, age, race and disability. Review domestic legislation for human rights impacts and compliance. 	<p>Agree in-principle. On 10 December 2008, the Commonwealth Attorney-General announced a national consultation process on human rights and responsibilities in Australia. The consultation will be conducted in 2009 by a committee comprised of Father Frank Brennan SJ AO (Chair), Ms Tammy Williams, Ms Mary Kostakidis and Mr Mick Palmer AO APM.</p> <p>The Government has recently taken some key steps to address issues of discrimination. For example, in July 2008, the Government ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and, in December 2008, tabled a National Interest Analysis proposing that Australia accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention. The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties reported its views on 12 March 2009 and recommended that Australia accede to the Optional Protocol.</p> <p>In December 2008, the Government tabled draft Disability Standards to improve access to premises for persons with disabilities, and introduced legislation to implement recommendations of the Productivity Commission from 2004 to improve the operation of the Disability Discrimination Act. The states and territories also have existing programs to address issues of discrimination.</p> <p>Also in December 2008, the Government acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.</p>
<p>International Rule of Law – Gender Equality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure Australia's commitment to gender equality is reflected in domestic and foreign policy. 	<p>On 4 December 2008, Australia acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Government is exploring ways to improve gender equality across a range of policy areas.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
International Rule of Law – Multilateral Treaty obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop multilateral treaty obligations in the areas of trade, human rights, labour and environment. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government has existing multilateral treaty commitments in each of these areas and is committed to developing further obligations where relevant and appropriate. Recent examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December 2008, the Government acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women • In July 2008, the Government ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in December 2008 tabled a National Interest Analysis proposing that Australia accede to the Optional Protocol • The Government is considering what steps would be required (in consultation with the states and territories) for Australia to become a party to the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment • The Government is pursuing vigorously an ambitious and timely conclusion to the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations • The Government ratified the International Tropical Timber Agreement in September 2008.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP)</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity Communities</p>	<p>Incorporate Asia literacy into Australian society to increase the knowledge of Asian and regional languages and societies to enhance Australia's global engagement and intelligence. This could be done by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boosting the teaching of Asian languages in primary and secondary schools • Mainstreaming language education • Recruiting foreign language teachers from local communities and overseas • Reinvigorating professional teacher training, including for native speakers and our ethnic communities • Developing a comprehensive national Asia literacy strategy at all levels of the education system by 2020. This should be backed by funding at least equivalent to the former National Asian Languages and Studies Strategy for Australian Schools • Ensuring by 2020 that Australia will no longer be the worst-ranked OECD country for second-language skills and that it is positioned to benefit from the economic reality of an increasingly Asia-centric world • Ensuring by 2020 every child in Australia can speak a language other than English and will learn about the contribution of other cultures to Australia • Ensuring that Australians directly experience Asia. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government has committed \$62.4 million to implement the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP) over 2008–09 to 2010–11, in recognition of the importance of Asian languages and studies in equipping young Australians with the skills to compete in the globalised economy of the future.</p> <p>The NALSSP commenced on 1 January 2009 and provides opportunities for school student to become familiar with the languages and cultures of four of Australia's Asian neighbours, namely China, Indonesia, Japan and Korea.</p> <p>Through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) processes, all governments have committed to the NALSSP and an aspirational target that, by 2020, at least 12 per cent of all students exit Year 12 with a fluency in one of the target Asian languages. NALSSP focuses on increasing both student demand and teacher supply.</p> <p>In addition, the Government's recent Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan includes \$1 billion to build up to 500 science laboratories or language learning centres in secondary schools. The second phase of the National Curriculum will also include language education.</p>
<p>Asia Literacy – the Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Awards</p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link young Australians to Asian communities through support for school twinning, exchange programs, mentoring, in-country and community-based learning programs. • Remove barriers to Australians studying in Asia. • Develop a comprehensive national Asia literacy strategy to re-skill Australia to capitalise on opportunities in Asia. • Provide university fee exemptions and other financial incentives to rebuild Asian studies in our universities. 	<p>Agree. The 2020 Summit, the Youth Summit and the Schools Summit all recognised the importance of Asia-literacy and the Government has made a commitment to delivering a new scholarship scheme: the Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Awards. This scheme will provide scholarships for the best and brightest university students from Australia and Asia. The scheme aims to build deep and enduring links with Australia's neighbours. This will have long term benefits for trade, security and development goals, as well as enriching all our cultures.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
National Security – Maritime Security Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess Australia's maritime area to inform long term management and planning in this area. 	<p>Agree in-principle. In the inaugural National Security Statement on 4 December 2008, the Prime Minister announced that the Government would augment the Australian Customs Service (ACS) to give it the capability to comprehensively work to deter people smuggling throughout the operating pipeline from source countries to our shores. As part of the changes the ACS has been re-named the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service. The Government has reviewed aspects of Australia's maritime security enforcement effort and continues to consider opportunities for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of our strategic approach to maritime security.</p>
National Security – Local, Domestic and Community Security	<p>Enhance local, domestic and community security as a foundation for national and global security. This can be done by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating a resilient and harmonious domestic community, and Rebalancing community security to support soft power and domestic security capacity. 	<p>Agree in-principle. The December 2008 National Security Statement outlined the Government's approach to achieving national security outcomes through enhanced community engagement, including through sustaining support for our forces deployed overseas, undermining the influence of violent ideologies and preserving the social cohesion of Australia's diverse society.</p>

Ideas the Government will consider further

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
National Security – High-Level Advisory Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a high-level advisory council to provide advice to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet on emerging security issues and policy options. This council would include representation from industry as well as the scientific, public and academic communities. 	The Government currently incorporates advice from industry and the scientific, public and academic communities into security issues and policy; however, it will look for opportunities to improve these arrangements over time.
National Security – Model Criminal Law Officers Committee (MCLOC)	<p>National harmonisation of the structures and relationships between agencies including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmonisation of criminal legislation to cut through the lack of consistency Removing overlapping law enforcement expertise to achieve economies of scale and harness innovative technologies. 	The Model Criminal Law Officers Committee (MCLOC) advances the development of a national model criminal code for all Australian jurisdictions, and therefore considers this idea on an ongoing basis.
Pacific Human Rights Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a new Pacific Human Rights Commission. 	The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade is currently completing a report on human rights mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific, which will include consideration of options for mechanisms, which could include a Commission.
Pacific Development – Pacific Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific Partnerships: Confederation or free association between Australia and the Pacific, beginning with micro-states. 	<p>Australia supports deeper integration between Pacific island countries and is pursuing this through Pacific Partnerships for Development, consultations on a regional free trade agreement and the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme.</p> <p>Australia also supports efforts to strengthen regional cooperation and integration through the Pacific Plan, a framework endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum leaders to address the unique challenges facing Pacific island countries.</p>
Regional engagement – Regional Energy Security Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a regional energy security forum including all four majors (US, China, Japan and India) and Australia. 	Australia is an active member of several international energy forums. Australia's approach to supporting and developing these international forums will be considered further in 2009 through the Energy White Paper, which will also be looking at the broader context of Australia's energy security.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Regional engagement – Study Institutes/ Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and fund four study centres covering the United States, Japan, China and India to ensure Australia has a deep understanding of these countries' politics, economies, societies and cultures. 	<p>Australia has a number of research and study centres in place that focus on different aspects of Australia's bilateral relationships. The Government will consider a review of the current centres to evaluate their work and potentially expand their roles. Some of the existing facilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney The Australia-Japan Research Centre (AJRC) at the Australian National University (ANU) The China Economy and Business Program at the ANU The Australia South Asia Research Centre (ASARC) at the ANU.
International Trade – Infrastructure Barriers to Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove technical barriers in shipping, for example to yield immediate efficiencies and promote more trade and investment. 	<p>At a regional level, Australia is working through APEC to facilitate trade and reduce technical barriers to trade. Under APEC's Second Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP), work is underway to reduce business transaction costs across the Asia Pacific. Singapore will host APEC in 2009 and has indicated that their theme will be logistics.</p> <p>In 2008, APEC also established the APEC Port Services Network, which will work to stimulate trade and investment through closer cooperation and coordination by ports across the region. At the APEC Ministerial Meeting held in November 2008 in Lima, Ministers also endorsed a new program of work to tackle inefficiencies and bottlenecks in the area of trade logistics across the region.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p>International Rule of Law – Resolution 1325</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>UNSCR 1325 urges Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict. The United Nations has called on Member States to implement national action plans, in order to encourage member states to initiate strategic actions, identify priorities and resources and determine the responsibilities and timeframes for a systemic and sustained implementation of UNSCR 1325.</p> <p>Earlier this year, the Australian Government provided funding to the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom to develop a draft Australian National Action Plan for the Government’s consideration.</p> <p>The Office for Women, in collaboration with AusAID, will liaise with Government agencies in considering the draft Action Plan in 2009.</p>

Ideas with no further action at this time

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
Community Security White Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A community security White Paper should be considered by COAG and a working group of 2020 Summit members and other experts should progress the idea. 	<p>Disagree. While the Government does not favour a White Paper process, the Government is committed to community security and has been undertaking a range of important initiatives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing funding for 500 AFP sworn officers Establishing the Safer Suburbs Plan and providing grants for community safety initiatives including CCTV Establishing the Secure Schools Program to assist at-risk schools to keep their students safe Conducting a Federal Criminal Justice Forum to engage the community and key stakeholders on criminal law.
National Security – Report on US-Australia Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a regular public report explaining what is happening in the US-Australia alliance. 	<p>The Government has no current plans for a regular update, but will continue to publically discuss issues relevant to this key strategic relationship as the need arises.</p>
International Rule of Law – Pre-Emptive Self-Defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repudiate the doctrine of pre-emptive self-defence. 	<p>Australia does not assert a right of pre-emptive self-defence. The United Nations Charter provides a right to self-defence (Art. 51).</p>
Travel Advisory System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the current travel advisory system. 	<p>A major review of the travel advisory system was undertaken in 2005. The Government conducts internal reviews of the system on a regular basis and has no current plans for a broader review.</p>
Second Language Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make learning a second language and integrating regional world and ways of knowing 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 of our region. 	<p>The Government is actively promoting the learning of languages through the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program and by including language education in the second phase of the National Curriculum. Student choice and aptitude considerations mean that mandating these subjects may not be appropriate or effective.</p> <p>The Government actively promotes and participates in interfaith dialogue. In June 2008, the Prime Minister announced that Australia would host the next meeting of the regional Interfaith Dialogue with participants from around South-East Asia.</p>

