

## Recommendations

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1. That government extends the *Backing Australia's Ability* funding initiatives, both in time and funding level, to address the continuing decline in Australia's overall R&D effort, and to ensure the realisation of the national benefits to be achieved as outcomes of the National Research Priorities, announced in December 2002.
2. That government revisits its strategy to encourage investment in R&D by the private sector.
3. That government considers implementing a formal offset program when giving assistance to major industrial developments.
4. That government reviews the quantum of funding allocated to CSIRO for the next triennium, to capitalise on the multidisciplinary capacity of CSIRO to engage as a coherent partner with the rest of Australia's innovation system.
5. That government establishes a Higher Education Funding Council to drive the process of developing a shared vision for Australian higher education, in which government, universities and the private sector work for the common good of Australia.
6. That government introduces a research assessment process within the framework of the proposed Higher Education Funding Council, to inform the process of allocating research-related funding to universities.
7. That government restores the level of public funding for universities to compensate for the decline in total funding available for teaching and research.
8. That HECS-exempt scholarships be provided for students commencing science teacher education and a percentage of the HECS debt of science and mathematics teachers forgiven for each year of teaching service.
9. That the ad hoc nature of the Major National Research Facilities Program be replaced by the inclusion of a one-line budget item in the Science and Technology Budget each year, even if there are competitive rounds on a less-than-annual basis.
10. That government works to maintain bipartisan support not only for the Cooperative Research Centre Program, but also for education, research and innovation more broadly.
11. The Academy proposes a model for enhanced collaboration in the Australian innovation system via a competitive Collaborative Fellowship scheme involving universities, Publicly Funded Research Agencies and industry, to be administered by the Joint Academies.
12. That government retains the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC) and upgrades the Commonwealth, States and Territories Advisory Council on Innovation.
13. That government ensures that Australia retains a creative scientific community capable of pursuing internationally significant science, and makes specific provision for the maintenance of international linkages with Australian research and researchers.