

14 February 2001

The Secretary
Trade Sub-Committee
Joint Standing Committee on
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Vincent

As Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I am responding to your letter of 29 November 2000 addressed to Professor Chris Fell, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and International).

Thank you for inviting the University of New South Wales to prepare a submission in relation to the inquiry into *Enterprising Australia - planning, preparing and profiting from trade and investment*.

The inquiry raises significant issues to which the University of New South Wales would like to make the following comments:

➤ **The role of development agencies in economic expansion**

UNSW believes agencies such as the Economic Development Board of Singapore, if structured and resourced properly, are able to enhance trade and investment through initiatives for economic expansion. Their success is contingent upon significant government resources and funding being directed towards research and development, resulting in enterprising and innovative spin offs that contribute to and stimulate economic growth.

The Singapore EDP has been the driving force behind many enterprising and innovative initiatives that have been embraced by government ministries and emerging industries in Singapore. Hand in hand with these government initiatives significant funding has been poured into research and development to ensure the success of emerging industries such as biotechnology, chemical processing, information technology and multi-media.

➤ **Reasons for the success or otherwise of development agencies in establishing countries and regional areas as economic leaders.**

Provided there is a clear objective together with an integrated development strategy and adequate resources there is evidence in Europe and Singapore that such agencies do work.

➤ **Incentives and impediments to foreign investment in Australia**

For Sydney to be competitive we should be developing an integrated, efficient and reliable rail service such as the MTR in Hong Kong, MRT in Singapore and the Underground in London. To assist UNSW with its export strategy we desperately need a rail link that runs from Central to Taylor Square, Oxford Street, SCG, Foxtel Studios, Centennial Park, Kensington, Randwick Racecourse, UNSW, Prince of Wales Hospital and Coogee Beach.

It would be a popular route and very profitable, at the same time providing an opportunity for our 8000 international students to select suitable accommodation from a much wider geographic area thereby boosting our export potential and spreading the economic benefits of this successful export across a number of local government areas.

The taxation system should also be amended to encourage industry to contribute to research and development by offering suitable taxation incentives. The higher education sector would then have the resources to develop collaborative ventures internationally providing the country with a broader base of expertise to draw on.

Increased government expenditure on research and development will result in greater entrepreneurship and innovation within higher education and will result in stronger links between the public and private sectors. The Governments of Singapore and Hong Kong are investing handsomely in research and development and this is having a very positive impact on industry and commerce as spin-off companies emerge.

➤ **The adequacy of skilled workforce in Australia**

UNSW has the privilege to educate high achieving students from all around the world. When it comes to growing the skilled workforce in Australia we should give priority to our graduates, who have been educated to the highest standard in Australia and who would be able to make a valuable contribution to our workforce and the continued economic growth of Australia.

➤ **Opportunities for encouraging inward investment and promoting export sales.**

The Governments of Britain, Canada and Singapore, for example, have pro-actively assisted with the export of education by developing policies to ensure the competitiveness of their countries in the international arena. The Australian Government must do likewise and must ensure that the following instrumentalities work together to enhance education exports: Austrade, DIMA, DETYA to name a few.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Mark S Wainwright
Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Research and International)