



**THE ROYAL
AUSTRALIAN CHEMICAL INSTITUTE Inc**

Submission No. 22

ABN 69 030 287 244

29 April 2005

The Secretary of the Committee
Standing Committee on Science and Innovation
House of Representatives Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Sir/Madam

SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO "PATHWAYS TO TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS"

The Royal Australian Chemical Institute Incorporated (RACI) founded in January 1917, is the qualifying body in Australia for professional chemists. It advances the teaching and practice of chemistry in industry, academia and government authorities. The RACI has almost 6,000 members and is committed to maintaining and improving the status of the profession of chemistry. Chemistry is one of the enabling sciences that underpins and fosters technological innovations.

The RACI commends the Committee on conducting the inquiry in area that is fundamental to the economic sustainability and future growth of Australia. The following terms of reference are addressed

1) skills and business knowledge

The RACI is in the process in conducting a review into the supply of and demand for chemists. A preliminary report "Future of Chemistry" can be viewed from <http://www.raci.org.au/future/futureofchemistry.html>

2) business and scientific regulatory issues

The RACI has been taking an interest in the ever increasing amount of regulation affecting chemists in their profession. A number of initiatives have been undertaken:

- i) The Chemistry in Australia (edition September 2004), the magazine of RACI, was concerned with "Understanding Chemicals Regulation in Australia" and can be viewed on <http://www.raci.org.au/chemaust/pasted/2004/september2004.html>
- ii) The RACI National conference "Connect 2005 – Chemical Challenges for the 21st Century" is being held in Sydney. The Industrial Chemistry Division in conjunction with the History and Archives Group has organised a one-day symposium (Wednesday 6 July 2005) focussing on regulation in the chemicals industry in Australia. Information for the symposium is available from http://www.pco.com.au/connect2005/new_page_5.htm

Founded in 1917 Reg No A0040386D

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We would be happy to provide further information written or as a presentation to the inquiry.

Yours sincerely

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