



Submission No 24

Review of Australia's Relationship with the Countries of Africa

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Dr John Carter
Inquiry Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
jscfadt@aph.gov.au

Dear Dr Carter

Australia's relationship with the countries of Africa

Universities Australia is the peak industry body representing Australia's 39 universities in the public interest both nationally and internationally.

Universities Australia is pleased to provide a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into Australia's relationship with the countries of Africa. This submission will respond to the Terms of Reference with specific regard to trade, scientific and educational relations.

Educational Relations

The 2008 Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations data collections record approximately 10,600 African students as enrolled in Australian education institutions (universities and others) both on and offshore. Mauritius, Kenya, Botswana and South Africa have the highest number of students in our educational institutions and the most popular fields of study are Management and Commerce and Society and Culture.

Australian universities have 45 agreements (on cooperation, staff and student exchange or research collaboration) with universities or like institutions in Africa. The vast majority of these (24 agreements) are with South African universities. A list of countries in which Australian universities have agreements is at Attachment A.

Monash University is the most active Australian university in Africa. The university established a campus in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2001 and draws its students from all over Africa. The university delivers programs including Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Business and Commerce, Bachelor of Business Systems, Bachelor of Computing, Bachelor of Psychology and a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education. In 2008 there were approximately 1,500 undergraduate enrolments.

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Monash University academics engage in research in areas of concern in contemporary Africa. Research themes include water, energy, climate, global movements, injury prevention and accident management and health promotion.

Beyond South Africa, Australian universities also enrol a large number of students who are part of the Botswanan Fellowship Program. The Fellowship program is funded by the Botswanan government and aims to increase the level of education of Botswana's citizens and so their capacity to contribute to the development of their country. Approximately 200 Botswanan Fellows are enrolled in Australian universities each year as part of the program.

Science and Research Relations

Australia and South Africa have agreed to work more closely together on the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) program. South Africa and Australia will work together to develop a coordinated scientific and technical program for the SKA pathfinder telescopes, the South African pathfinder MeerKAT and the Australian SKA Pathfinder (ASKAP). It is anticipated that collaboration on the SKA will further stimulate academic collaboration and exchange between Australia and South Africa.

Edith Cowan University has partnered with the Medical Research Council of South Africa on a research program due for completion in 2011 on smoking cessation in youth. James Cook University is also working with the Wildlife Conservation Society and other institutions in South Africa on research regarding conservation planning for a sustainable future.

Trade Relations

The University of South Australia recently launched the international version of their PERMPAVE software. PERMPAVE evolved from research into the use of permeable pavements in Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD). The South African Concrete Manufacturing Association (CMA) has purchased the first international license for PERMPAVE.

Universities Australia welcomes the opportunity to contribute to further discussions, should this be desired. If you have any questions or comments regarding this submission please feel free to contact me on (02) 6285 8104.

Yours sincerely



Dr Glenn Withers AO
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment A

List of African Countries with which Australian universities have agreements

Country	Area	Total links
Botswana	Sub-Saharan Africa	2
Congo	Sub-Saharan Africa	1
Egypt	North Africa and the Middle East	3
Ghana	Sub-Saharan Africa	2
Kenya	Sub-Saharan Africa	2
Libya	North Africa and the Middle East	1
Madagascar	Sub-Saharan Africa	1
Mozambique	Sub-Saharan Africa	1
Namibia	Sub-Saharan Africa	2
South Africa	Sub-Saharan Africa	24
Tanzania	Sub-Saharan Africa	2
Zambia	Sub-Saharan Africa	2
Zimbabwe	Sub-Saharan Africa	2