

Australian Federalism: *Rescue and Reform*

Draft Program

Thursday 23 October 2008

1 pm	Registration opens, Sir Henry Parkes School of Arts Museum
5 pm	Welcome reception: Wallangarra Railway Station (Qld-NSW border)

Friday 24 October - Day 1 – Conference

8 am	<i>Registration and coffee in Museum</i>	
9.00	Welcome -- Andrew Podger AO	
	1) The value of federalism – Professor Cheryl Saunders AO	
	2) Pressures for reform of Australian federalism	
10.30	<i>Morning tea</i>	
11.00	3) Current initiatives in federal reform (parallel sessions)	
	Health	Water
12.30	<i>Lunch</i>	
1.30	Education	Local government
3.00	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	
3.30	4) Common themes, issues and future options	
5.00	<i>Drinks - Museum</i>	
7.00	<i>Conference Dinner – Kurrajong Downs Winery</i>	

Saturday 25 October - Day 2 – A Roundtable on Federal Reform

8.30 am	<i>Coffee available</i>	
9.00	Introduction to the Roundtable	
	1) Cooperative Federalism in the Rudd Era	
	<i>How are new initiatives for intergovernmental collaboration unfolding in Australia? Are new strategies for the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) showing results? Is enough being done to institutionalise collaboration for the long-term? If not, what should be done?</i>	
10.30	<i>Morning tea</i>	
11.00	2) Who Does What? Renegotiating a 21st Century Federal Compact	
	<i>Are sufficient steps being taken to strategically revisit the share of responsibilities between federal, state, regional and local levels? Is a focus on short-term policy outcomes enough, or is longer-term thinking needed? Do we need a Convention to renegotiate roles, or a Federalism Commission, or both?</i>	
12.30	<i>Lunch</i>	
1.30	3) Structural Reform: Federalism in Local & Global Contexts	
	<i>What role can devolution play in a more responsive, dynamic and cooperative federal system? How should the constitutional recognition of local government be pursued, and what can it deliver? What is the future for regional collaboration and capacity-building? How can Australian federalism be made more responsive to international developments?</i>	
3.00	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	
3.30	Conclusions and recommendations	

4.00 **Closing Address** – George Anderson, President, Forum of Federations

5.00 *Drinks - Museum*

7.00 *Parkes Oration Anniversary Dinner (including Re-enactment)*
