



Secretariat
Review of Australian Higher Education
GPO Box 9880
Canberra ACT 2601

By post and by email to: HEReview@deewr.gov.au

Tuesday, 5 August 2008

Dear Sir/Madam

Our Foundation became aware yesterday of the Discussion Paper and particularly noted the following reference:

Section 3.6 Australia's higher education sector in the international arena

- 22. Are there any unintended consequences of the current approach to internationalisation of higher education in Australia?*
- 23. What is an appropriate role for government in assisting the Australian higher education system to internationalise? On what principles should this role rest and what purposes should it serve?*
- 24. Can you provide any examples of good practice in encouraging local students to undertake study in other countries?*

We note that submissions have closed but we seek your indulgence to make comment upon this section and if possible an opportunity to speak to or expand on our points.

The General Sir John Monash Foundation asks the review to note:

1. It is of the utmost importance that Australian graduates broaden their vision and experience through a period of study overseas in order for them to take their place at the forefront of a globalised world of trade, science and communication.
2. The prestige of Australia is enhanced through academic awards of national significance in line with:
 - i. The General Sir John Monash Awards;
 - ii. The Rhodes Scholarships;
 - iii. Fulbright Fellowships;
 - iv. The Cambridge Trust.

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The advantage of the General Sir John Monash Awards are they are Australia's own prestigious scholarships which support study at any of the world's best universities (not just one university or country) and in any field and without restriction on age. Also, the Monash Awards specifically target outstanding young Australians who will be leaders of their fields and leaders of the community.

3. General Sir John Monash Award Winners are now returning to the workforce and the initial Commonwealth Government funding of the General Sir John Monash Awards has proven the value of a nationwide selection process. This selection process involves over 70 prominent individuals from academia, business and the community who assess outstanding young applicants showing qualities of intellect, leadership and citizenship.
4. In June 2002, the Commonwealth Government committed to contribute funding for 32 initial General Sir John Monash Awards. Current funding for the awards is sought from the private sector and from the Commonwealth and State Governments. This is hard to achieve: the private sector holds the view that education is a government responsibility and States holds the view that higher education is a Commonwealth Government responsibility.
5. While the Commonwealth Government has extended the Endeavour Awards to enable Australian citizens to undertake postgraduate study overseas, the study is limited in extent and is tenable only at universities in Asian and Middle Eastern countries.
6. The Federal Government contributes funding annually for the American Fulbright fellowships but study is restricted to universities in the United States of America.
7. Therefore, current funding support for outstanding young Australians to undertake postgraduate study at the world's best universities is too limited.
8. Australia will gain immensely by investing in postgraduate education of future leaders at the world's best universities. They will have a direct impact as leaders and as exemplars for other young Australians to emulate.
9. Monash Awardees go to the best universities anywhere in the world and develop through them global networks for their future leadership roles.
10. It is appropriate and timely that the Federal Government now takes a lead role in supporting the postgraduate education of a select number of really outstanding young Australians with enormous potential to benefit our community in the future.

Yours sincerely



Ken Crompton
Chief Executive