



Submissions for the *Australia 2020* Summit

The Rudd Government will convene an *Australia 2020* Summit at Parliament House on 19-20 April 2008 to help shape a long term strategy for the nation's future.

The Summit will bring together some of the best and brightest brains from across the country to tackle the long term challenges confronting Australia's future.

Every Australian has the opportunity to make a submission to the Summit in one of the ten critical areas of discussion:

1. Future directions for the Australian economy – including education, skills, training, science and innovation as part of the nation's productivity agenda
2. Economic infrastructure, the digital economy and the future of our cities
3. Population, sustainability, climate change, and water
4. Future directions for rural industries and rural communities
5. A long-term national health strategy – including the challenges of preventative health, workforce planning and the ageing population
6. Strengthening communities, supporting families and social inclusion
7. Options for the future of indigenous Australia
8. Towards a creative Australia: the future of the arts, film and design
9. The future of Australian governance: renewed democracy, a more open government (including the role of the media), the structure of the Federation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens
10. Australia's future security and prosperity in a rapidly changing region and world.

Submissions

Contributing a submission to the *Australia 2020* Summit is a way for all Australians to be involved in bringing the best ideas forward to address Australia's long term challenges.

All submissions will be made publicly available on this website and will be presented to the *Australia 2020* Summit participants to stimulate discussion and ideas about addressing our future challenges.

Individuals, schools, groups, and organisations are invited to make submissions.

Written submissions are limited to 500 words per topic and should focus on one of the ten identified areas. You may contribute a submission in one or more policy areas.

Submissions will be collected by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, which is acting as a secretariat for the *Australia 2020* Summit.

All submissions require a 'name for publication'. This can be an individual, group or organisation. In addition to this, each submission is required to include a contact person, their name and details. These contact details will not be published.

Your submission can play an important role in our national discussion about our future and facing Australia's long term future challenges.

What do I have to do to contribute a submission?

If you would like to contribute a submission to the *Australia 2020* Summit in Canberra on 19-20 April 2008, complete this form and return it to the address below no later than **5.00pm Wednesday 9 April 2008**.

Submissions can also be completed online through the *Australia 2020* website at www.australia2020.gov.au.

Before completing the form please read all the information provided on this page to assist in completing your submission.

All submissions require a 'name for publication'. This can be an individual, group or organisation. Your name will appear with your submission when they are published online.

You will also be required to include contact details – your name, address, email address and a contact phone number. These details are collected in case we need to contact you in the lead up to or after the summit to discuss your ideas further. Your details will only be used for this purpose and will not be published.

If you are making a submission as a group, please include the details of a contact person for your group.

Completing the form

The form requires you to complete your personal details and a 'name for publication'. This may be your name or your group's name.

You will then be able to complete a submission for one or more of the topic areas.

Each submission may be up to 500 words per topic to ensure that delegates are able to consider each of the submissions. If just one in every 1000 Australians comments on just one of the ten topic areas, each delegate may have to read more than one million words in the lead up to the Summit. Keeping your contribution concise will ensure that all submissions receive the attention and consideration they deserve.

For this reason attachments, publications, photos and images may not be included in your submission, though you may make reference to any of these you consider useful, including by providing references to further material.

Editorial guidelines

Submissions will be published subject to editorial control that restricts any offensive material or material inappropriate for publication being made public.

If you are hand writing your nomination, please be sure your writing is clear and legible to ensure your submission is able to be considered.

Contacts

Any enquiries regarding the Summit should be directed to:

Australia 2020 Summit Secretariat
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
1 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

Toll free number: **1800 703 599** (during business hours Eastern Standard Time)

Privacy and confidentiality

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is committed to the protection of your privacy in accordance with the Federal Privacy Commissioner's Guidelines for Federal and ACT Government World Wide Websites. These guidelines outline the requirements for transparent collection, appropriate and ethical use and secure storage of personal information.

The information you provide to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet through the *2020 Summit* submission form will be used for the purposes of the *2020 Summit* only.

Only your 'name for publication' and your submission will be provided to delegates for consideration in their deliberations of 19-20 April 2008, and in this way may be incorporated into the Summit Outcomes.



AUSTRALIAN 2020 SUMMIT SUBMISSION FORM

Nominations must be received **by 5.00pm Wednesday 9 April 2008** to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet at:

Australia 2020 Summit Secretariat
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
1 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

Please Note: fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory

denotes information that will be made publicly available

PUBLICATION DETAILS #	
So that your submission can be published on the www.australia2020.gov.au website before the Summit, we need you to provide a 'Name for Publication' that you are happy to have appear with your submission. If you are submitting on behalf of a group, this may be your group's name.	
Individual Name/Group Name for Publication on the website*	Victorian Healthcare Association
CONTACT DETAILS	
We need to collect some personal details from you in case we need to contact you in the lead-up to or after the summit to discuss your ideas further. These details will only be used for this purpose. If you are making a group submission, please provide these details for one member of your group.	
INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP CONTACT	
Title*	Mr
First Name*	Trevor
Surname/Family Name*	Carr
Age Groups*	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> 25-30 <input type="checkbox"/> 31-40 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 41-50 <input type="checkbox"/> 51-60 <input type="checkbox"/> Over 61
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SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #**(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)*****Future Directions for the Australian Economy - Education, skills, training, innovation and productivity***

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. After a long period of sustained economic growth and with the added benefits of the global mining boom, how do we best invest the proceeds of this prosperity to lay the foundations for future economic growth
- b. How we best prepare for a global economy that will increasingly be based upon advanced skills, advanced technology, low carbon energy sources and integration with global supply chains
- c. How we take advantage of Australia's proximity to the fast growing economies in the world
- d. How Australia attracts and retains the most talented, creative and highly skilled people, including researchers and scientists, entrepreneurs, and professional and skilled workers
- e. How we ensure that our children have the highest quality teachers, whether in early childhood, school, TAFE or university, including dealing with the crisis in maths and science related disciplines across the education system
- f. How we foster innovation in the workplace; encouraging the transfer of ideas across businesses and economies.

As the peak body for public health services in Victoria, the Victorian Healthcare Association (VHA) believes that a skilled workforce is vital to meet the emerging health needs of communities.

Whilst the Australian health care system is arguably among the best in the world, the demands placed on the current health workforce mean it inevitably needs reform. VHA stresses that the issues facing the health workforce should not be looked at in isolation as the causal factors are interconnected and complex. It is crucial all components of workforce recruitment and retention are looked at holistically, to reflect a primary health care approach. Training institutions must be empowered to reflect current and emerging approaches to care. The Victorian health sector provides a platform for the delivery of a comprehensive range of primary health care and support services, delivered via community based strategies.

Chronic disease cannot be solved merely by pharmaceutical solutions. Rather, it must be managed over a lifetime using skills of the wide spectrum of professions. Due to an ageing workforce and the changing nature of care, there is increased demand for multidisciplinary teams working across traditional structures (Duckett 2005). Health roles and new professions are expanding making a 'monodisciplinary approach of health workforce preparation' (Duckett 2005) a social challenge. The preparation of the health workforce in Australia requires radical transformation. Empirical evidence exists that the use of teams in healthcare can improve both the quantity and quality of health care services (Mickan 2005) and these must be harnessed sector-wide.

Australia is not unique in facing health workforce shortages. However, Australia does not possess the comparable population of other nations to counter the shortages with more workers. To achieve gains, multi-sectoral action is required, utilising capacity of the academic, political, representative and economic sectors. Whilst governments must develop and implement appropriate strategies, VHA believes a National Primary Health Care Policy should be devised to guide the direction practitioners across the health continuum.

Transformation of the health workforce will be difficult as territorialism threatens teamwork. Fundamental workforce innovation is necessary, including changes to scope of practice and job redesign (Del Mar and Dwyer 2006) that will ultimately disrupt historical hierarchies. However, the end result, a more efficient, effective and sustainable health system will be undeniably beneficial. Growth in the workforce is not enough. Whilst the health workforce grew by 26% between 2000 and 2005 (Duckett 2005), there must be progress in developing the scope of practice of existing health professionals, role extension and task substitution. Escalating health costs due to chronic disease means the Commonwealth must investigate how nurse practitioners, physician assistants (Dr. Jolley 2008) and allied health assistants can be better utilised to develop an integrated skills mix within a service. VHA believes these models can be utilised without jeopardising the quality and safety of healthcare.

These changes cannot be seen as the panacea to issues affecting the effectiveness of the health workforce in Australia; however they provide a catalytic point which is supported by evidence (Duckett 2006).

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

Economic Infrastructure, the digital economy and the future of our cities

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine ways to:

- a. Boost public and private investment in economic infrastructure
- b. Improve planning and coordination of infrastructure investment across different levels of government and the public and private sectors (including maximising the most efficient future design of our cities)
- c. Ensure that digital technologies are harnessed to improve consumer services, business productivity and the delivery of government services.

No submission.

Population, sustainability, climate change and water

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How Australia develops a long term plan to adapt to the growing impacts of climate change on our environment
- b. How does Australia best plan for its long-term water and energy needs
- c. How we position Australia to become a global leader within the next decade in the new low carbon technologies and industries
- d. How do we plan future population growth at a national and regional level, given the constraints of water shortages and sustainability.

No submission.

Future directions for rural industries and rural communities

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. What rural industries are best positioned to take advantage of the global consumer markets of the 21st century
- b. What options are possible for effective structural adjustment for rural industries and communities suffering the long term impact of climate change
- c. What is the most intelligent form of support the Government can provide to ensure the long term sustainability of rural and regional communities, including the fostering of the next generation of Australian farmers.

As the peak body for public health services in Victoria, the Victorian Healthcare Association (VHA) regards access of rural and remote communities to health services as a critical national issue. Rural and remote communities face a series of barriers which reduce access to health care. Rural health services which provide emergency and urgent care face issues relating to workforce shortages and therefore the importance of primary health care in rural areas cannot be understated. The inherent link between the impacts of drought, access to services, promotion of healthy behaviours and social connectivity are paramount. Drought has explicit correlations to mental health status, impacting on income, livelihood, self-esteem, purpose and opportunity. More integrated, multidisciplinary, community based teams acting on a population health model are needed to focus specifically on the demographics and needs of rural areas. As many cases of depression go undiagnosed, rural regions need to be enabled to develop safe environments which provide opportunities to connect, through primary health care and health promotion strategies such as “Men’s Sheds” (Mensheds Australia Ltd 2008).

VHA is aware of current strategies being implemented by all governments, but stress that significant workforce pressures exist in filling medical on-call rosters across rural Victoria, leading to variable access to after-hours GP services. As the government has stated, this leads to increased presentations at emergency departments, putting added pressure on acute services, through potentially avoidable admissions.

VHA believes the Australia 2020 summit provides another opportunity to articulate a vigorous vision of primary health care within the context of rural Australian society. Community-based approaches backed by active inter-sectoral support are integral to success.

Funding is required to support empowered communities to find their solutions. Thus, VHA believes community health

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #**(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)**

services should be funded and resourced to act as the conduit between government and community in providing access points for the community to meet their health needs.

VHA believes many health gains could be achieved by narrowing the inequities that exist between rural and metropolitan Australia. Many of the determinants of poor health in rural areas are neither genetic nor biological, instead related to the macro socioeconomic, cultural and environmental conditions influencing individual lifestyles.

Ultimately, VHA believes the Australia 2020 summit should develop a means of supporting communities by focusing on good health being fundamental to social and workforce participation. The role of the small rural hospital has changed over time. Through Commonwealth management, an understanding of this change can be engendered to the community. A strong, adaptable, appropriate and holistic rural primary health care system will deliver both improved health outcomes and quality community outcomes. Thus, it is important for health services to adapt to community needs and also lead communities towards necessary change.

A long-term national health strategy – including the challenges of preventative health, workforce planning and the ageing population

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How we invest to help prevent chronic and acute health problems
- b. How we plan to ensure all Australians continue to have access to the very best of modern medical technology including pharmaceuticals
- c. How we meet the emerging regulatory challenges of modern medical technology
- d. The use of electronic infrastructure to facilitate efficient and effective patient care
- e. Strategies to preserve Australia's internationally unique blend of public and private health services
- f. How Australia best plans for the future demands on our medical workforce.

As the peak body for public health services in Victoria, the Victorian Healthcare Association (VHA) believes it is crucial to counter preventable chronic illness with systemic health care reform to meet the demand challenges of the future. Transition from a bed-based acute focussed system to appropriate ambulatory and primary health care is needed to reorient the health system. Population health approaches that direct resources to health promotion, prevention, early intervention and primary health care, through out the health system are required. There currently exists no incentives in the system for population health approaches. VHA believes an articulated set of industry agreed population health indicators coupled with mandated reporting is an important avenue to reorient perception of health service performance.

VHA has emphasised the need for policies that address holistic health needs and place greater emphasis on a wellness approach (VHAa 2007; VHAb 2007; VHAc 2007; VHAd 2007). The development and implementation of a national health promotion plan to address preventative conditions is required. Facilitation of healthy lifestyles including healthy food, physical activity and social inclusion are paramount. VHA believes a cohesive framework that aligns both Federal and State funding models and strategies will create a more efficient use of resources. This includes a review of the Medical Benefits Schedule with the aim of simplification.

VHA's members have indicated the need for a broader primary health care approach. Essentially, any policy developments should use the social determinants of health as legitimate considerations of all public policy. VHA believes the 2020 Summit can provide a starting point for articulating how a shift in focus of the primary health care system will be devised and funded.

VHA supports increased funding to develop programs that address impediments to access of primary health care for some sections of the Australian community. This is to be supported by clearly articulated service outcomes so that all levels of government and all service delivery agencies are transparent regarding their responsibilities. VHA is interested in articulation of how a shift in focus of the primary health care system will be funded, in strategies for better integration of private and public services at a local level and strategies for engagement with local communities that support community ownership and management of services. In addition, VHA supports the development of models of care to facilitate innovations in workforce structures.

Importantly, VHA believes there should be clear accountabilities established which are designated for all levels of government and for all health care providers who receive public funding. This will lead to effective and efficient usages of resources to address the rising burden of disease. VHA supports developing a health system with a "whole of health" perspective to create an integrated service system which purports a seamless continuum of care. The policy impact of all departments on health must be investigated. Further, VHA believes the funding and service system structure is inefficient and ineffective in some instances, creating a multi-layered, siloed health system which is not conducive to health outcomes.

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #**(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)*****Strengthening communities, supporting families and social inclusion***

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How we provide practical support to families to combine the tasks of work, raising children and caring for ageing parents
- b. How we make a long term difference on homelessness
- c. How we better harness the goodwill and commitment of the Australian community through voluntary and community organisations and philanthropic endeavour
- d. How we build social capital within and between communities, particularly those that are cut off from the economic mainstream.

Many of the Victorian Healthcare Associations (VHA) members operate based on the social model of health. As the peak body for public health services in Victoria, VHA believes the economic growth and sustainability of the community is dependant upon healthy communities. Not only does social exclusion have an impact on health and quality of life but the chances of living with low-socioeconomic status are loaded heavily against some groups. Australian studies demonstrate that disadvantaged groups have higher levels of hospital admissions and medical consultations but make less use of preventive care and screening services (Turrell and Kavanagh 2004). This is exacerbated by the increased frequency and influence of health damaging behaviours found in socio-economically disadvantaged Australians (Blane 2006). VHA agrees with Hancock (2001) that social capital (and inclusion) are inextricably linked to the human, natural and economic capital of communities, and that the provision of health and social services should be accessible to all. VHA note the comments of Julia Gillard as Minister for Social Inclusion: “if we want Australia’s long term future to be competitive, we have to invest more in human capital – the skills and talents of our population” (Gillard 2008).

VHA agrees with the Productivity Commission that governments should “consider the scope for modifying policies that are found to damage social capital and ways of harnessing existing social capital to deliver programs more effectively” (2003). Furthermore, Australia could adopt lessons from the United Kingdom Social Exclusion Unit where genuine progress has been made in employment, education, health and housing outcomes through reducing disadvantage (Social Exclusion Task Force 2007). Breaking the cycles of social disadvantage through early intervention, health promotion and prevention strategies formulate VHA’s “whole of health” approach.

The 2020 Summit must work collectively to determine proven approaches. As the seriousness of problems rises, so does cost. Thus, there needs to be a balanced approach targeting both acute need and ensuring sustainable social change. Much can be done by working in partnership and that multi-sectoral activity operating around the needs of individuals and communities will bear outcomes. VHA suggests priorities include: poverty, debt, skills, employment, relationships, mental health, disability, violence, drugs and alcohol, housing and risk-taking behaviour. VHA proposes the Victorian Government Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy as a usable, effective model.

Victorian examples of socially inclusive community health strategies include an Indigenous ‘laughing club’ which socialises participants and links them other health services. Community health can reconnect people to their community and directly or indirectly address the community needs (Rural and Regional Health and Aged Care Division 2005). These programs can bring stability and autonomy to people’s lives.

To deliver socially inclusive communities, there must be greater regulatory and legislative support to foster inter-personal collaboration (Thornhill, Dault and Clements 2008). VHA applauds the Government for seeking to ensure early childhood years are supported through policy such as the Healthy Kids Check (Australian Labor Party 2007) as early childhood can profoundly affect a child’s life chances and health outcomes.

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #**(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)*****Options for the future of indigenous Australia***

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How we forge a new partnership with between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia to overcome disadvantage and provide practical pathways to the future
- b. The role of targeted programs and interventions such as the Northern Territory Intervention and the Cape York Welfare Reform Trials in achieving change in remote communities
- c. How we might promote economic development in remote Australia to provide Indigenous community members with the opportunity to be economically independent
- d. Improving access to mainstream programs by Indigenous Australians
- e. Promoting and preserving Indigenous culture, languages and traditions.

As the peak body for public health services in Victoria, the Victorian Healthcare Association (VHA) applauds the recent National Apology and signing of the Close the Gap statement of intent provides an opportunity for the disproportionate gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous health status to be comprehensively addressed. The 2006 Australian Census reports there are over 30,000 Indigenous people living in Victoria, and there are over 170 Indigenous community controlled organisations (Department of Planning and Community Development 2007) operating in the state. Thus, VHA is hopeful the 2020 summit will also consider the needs of Victorian urban, rural and remote Indigenous people.

There is often inappropriate and inequitable delivery of care to the Indigenous community, despite the high levels of poor health and wellbeing. The complexity faced when Community Health Services, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) and Acute Services try to work collaboratively is problematic. It is integral that Aboriginal Victorians access primary health care that is culturally respectful and includes prevention, promotion and treatment. VHA supports the Victorian Initiative, Aboriginal Health Promotion and Chronic Care (AHPACC) Partnership but is cognisant of the fact that the system is currently susceptible to territorialism. VHA believes that Indigenous Health is a whole of health responsibility of services, not the sole responsibility of designated Aboriginal liaison staff. However, these Aboriginal health workers are key participants in the Indigenous health process and need to be enabled to link the social, political, economic and environmental effects that community health and ACCHOs can contribute towards.

The health status of Indigenous populations transcends organisational boundaries, and it is crucial that the Governments and health services of Australia utilise the knowledge of Indigenous leaders to develop closer links across sectors. Reducing these structural problems will lead to both improved service provision and access to services, potentially achieving better health outcomes through primary, secondary and tertiary prevention. It is important that this process is culturally appropriate, holistic, inclusive and empowering. Furthermore, VHA believe there is need for urgent action from all stakeholders; governments, communities, private industry, human services and individuals contributing to a shared goal. VHA supports the ongoing need for engagement and consultation with the Aboriginal people. The challenge is to build successful partnerships that achieve social gains in the health system.

Increased media attention and a change in federal leadership provides an opportunity for reducing poverty, increasing education, reducing unemployment and improving housing standards through community-led initiatives. This will depend on the changing relationship between Commonwealth and Indigenous health stakeholders. There is increasing research into the intricate links between low socioeconomic status and health status. VHA believes the increased focus of the current government on early childhood education must support prevention, health promotion, early intervention and health education. Ultimately, developing human and social capital will lead to improved economic capital and health. However, it is not plausible to solely impose radical change on these communities without incorporating focus on social determinants, cultural appropriateness and comprehensive multi-sectored planning.

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #	(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)
<p><i>Towards a creative Australia: the future of the arts, film and design</i></p> <p>The <i>Australia 2020</i> Summit will examine:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Future directions for Australia’s principal arts bodies b. Future directions for the ABC, SBS, Australia Television and Radio Australia c. How best to develop a globally innovative and competitive film industry d. How to encourage participation in emerging global industries such as game design, the internet 2.0, graphics-rich applications and animation e. How we build on the creative sector’s potential as a major Australian export industry. 	
No submission.	
<p><i>The future of Australian governance: renewed democracy, a more open government (including the role of the media), the structure of the Federation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens</i></p> <p>The <i>Australia 2020</i> Summit will examine:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How best to implement an effective an agenda of open government which best balances the legitimate requirements of the media and the confidentiality requirements of cabinet government in the Westminster system b. How best to engaged the community in government decision making c. What forms of Federation reform are appropriate for the future to maximise outcomes for the economy and the community d. How to ensure the future viability of local government operations and infrastructure provision. 	
No submission	
<p><i>Australia’s future security and prosperity in a rapidly changing region and world.</i></p> <p>The <i>Australia 2020</i> Summit will examine:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How Australia best protects its national security interests in the face of an increasingly complex threat spectrum, including terrorism, bio-security and other threats to human security – as well as the adequacy of existing institutional arrangements for dealing with the threat spectrum into the future b. How Australia should maximise its cooperation with its long-standing ally the United States c. How Australia engages with China and India in the coming decades as both play an increasingly important economic and political role d. How Australia can make the greatest contribution both within and outside the framework of the United Nations in addressing the challenge of extreme poverty e. The long-term adequacy of Australia’s existing foreign language capabilities to meet increasingly complex challenges presented by the globalisation. 	
No submission	

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