

Amazing Australia

SEPTEMBER 2011



Rich in natural resources

India is already the fourth largest export destination for Australia

ANINDYA SENGUPTA

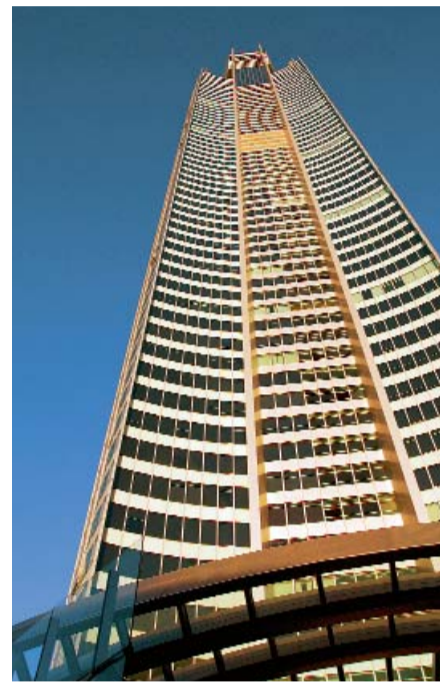
LAND of sunshine and golden glow, Australia is that rare developed economy which is growing at a healthy rate, thanks mainly to a global boom in commodities. Richly endowed in natural resources, Australia is one of the major exporters of agriculture commodities like wheat and wool, minerals like iron and gold and energy resources like coal and natural gas. These commodities are largely responsible for a phenomenal growth in Australia's export performance in recent years.

As the commodities cycle picked up momentum in last decade or so, the contribution

of mining sector in Australia's GDP almost doubled from 4.5% to more than 8% between mid-1990s and mid-2000s. This has not only changed the overall sectoral pattern in the Australian economy but also brought the global focus back to the country. Australia is home to global mining giants like Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton.

Australia made a significant shift in its trade policy toward the last quarter of the 20th century by turning the focus on the Asia-Pacific market. As a former Prime Minister described in eloquent terms, though the emergence of modern Australia was rooted in the West, the country's future lies in the East.

From Europe and North America, first the focus shifted to Japan, South Korea and other South-East Asian economies, then to China and India. Demand for iron and coal is insatiable in these two large economies, which are growing at a fast clip - this also coincided with the global boom in commodity prices. China is the topmost destination for Australian iron, coal and several other commodities and state-owned Chi-



nese companies have pumped in billions of dollars in Australia's mining and processing industries.

India is already the fourth largest export destination for Australia. Indian companies are also increasingly investing in Australia's



resource extraction industry. The latest in a series of such deals - acquisition of Hancock coal assets by the GVK group - came just a few days back. Other large Indian investors in the Australian resources industry include Adani, Lanco, Aditya Birla, Sterlite and Gujarat NRE Coke groups. Top Indian conglomerates like the Tatas and Reliance have a significant presence in Australia. Australia is also consciously trying to develop manufacturing industries in her soil, this is likely to present more opportunities for emerging market companies Down Under.

Australia is ahead of countries like the UK, Germany and France in terms of per

capita income (in PPP basis). Equally important is the fact that Australia ranks very high on the Human Development Index. At nearly 70%, services sector is the dominant contributor to Australia's GDP. Property, business and financial services, travel and tourism are the fastest growing service segments. By 2015, Australia and New Zealand are scheduled to create a single economic market - this is expected to provide a new momentum to the economy in both the countries and in other Pacific Islands. Most of the Indian IT companies are present in Australia and two-way services trade is growing rapidly.

Advertorial

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF INDIAN AUSTRALIANS

Lobbying for NATIONAL ISSUES

NCIA would take up issues which are relevant for Australia-India relations

OVER the years, the migration of Indians to Australia has been gaining pace. If we include Indian students and people of Indian background from other countries, there are about 500,000 people of Indian heritage in Australia. There are several associations of Indian Australians in every state but there was no organisation representing them at the national level. This changed in November 2010 when National Council of Indian Australians Inc (NCIA, www.ncia.org.au) was formed. People of substance and proven leadership from all over the country joined up and the organisation was established. The main agenda of NCIA is to lead the community on matters which are of national significance, while the local issues are being dealt by local associations. The classical examples of such issues would be the students' issues, sale of Australian uranium to India and inclusion of Hindi in the national curriculum. NCIA sees its role as a lobbying organisation for national issues which are relevant for Indian Australians and also for the issues which are relevant for Australia-India relations.

NCIA will coordinate, interact and collaborate with associations of Indian Australians and individuals who may not be in any association but are known for their leadership as well as substance, to develop its agenda and deliver outcomes. It will interact and coordinate with Indian government organisations (con-



sulates and high commission) and Australian government agencies to achieve its goals.

As there are more than 400 incorporated associations for Indian Australians all over Australia, many of which are really very small associations, it was impossible to figure out whom to include in NCIA. For this reason, NCIA has individuals as its members, not associations. In other words, it is an individual-centric organisation. Its structure is such that there are people from all the states and territories in it. NCIA leaders are already recognised for their leadership role in their states and are known for their substance, communication ability and capacity to deliver outcomes. Most of them also head the state organisations. NCIA stands for assertive,

proactive, productive and goal-driven leadership. It will always remain cognizant of the principles of conflict of interest, integrity, accountability and good governance.

In weeks to months in future, NCIA will have its national function - likely to be in Canberra, where it would be formally inaugurated. It will then outline its agenda and programme. With Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Australia later this year, NCIA will take a leadership role in interactions with the visiting Prime Minister.

Dr Yadu Singh, founding co-chairman of NCIA, is a Sydney-based, Cardiologist and is also the president of Sydney-based Council of Indian Australians Inc [www.cia.org.au].

www.ippcs.com.au

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INTERVIEW: SUBBA RAO VARIGONDA, Managing Director, IPP Technologies Pty Ltd

Advertorial



'We expect to double revenue in 3 years'

IPP Technologies Pty Ltd is an Australian Software development and consultancy company with core competence in Information Technology Solutions and Services. Founded in March 1993, with its registered offices in Sydney, Australia. IPP's mission is to provide cutting edge IT solutions and services to its clients in the Australian and global IT sphere. In an interaction, Subba Rao Varigonda, managing director, IPP Technologies Pty Ltd shares his thoughts and vision for the company.

Can you briefly throw some light on the history of IPP Technologies?

IPP was founded in 1993 as a consultancy organization. The next seven years saw extensive work being carried out in the Unisys customer base. We soon moved into the commercial location and made rapid progress as a result of Year 2000 - bug fixing euphoria that engulfed the world at the time.

Over the years IPP has grown in strength and has formed alliances and partnerships with global majors. With operations in New South Wales, ACT, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia already in place, IPP have now expanded its operations into the Philippines, India, Singapore, the Middle East and the USA.

Can you talk about some of the major milestones that your company has achieved?

In January 1993, the year the company was established, we bagged the first major order from Mitsubishi Australia. Within three years we were selected to the ITS (Information Technology Services) Panels of NSW

Government, IBM and other corporate ITS panels. In 1997 we planned to diversify our operations and established the SSR Holdings Pty Ltd. Again in 1998 IPP was selected to the ITS Panels for the Federal and Queensland Governments.

In 2001 we signed a major contract worth A\$4 million with a major Government department and outsourced this work to a large Indian software company. In 2002 we entered into SW product distribution arrangements with Microedge Inc, USA to sell and support their products in Australia and in 2004 bought Li-fabout Pty Ltd, a professional services company. The IPP Global Technologies in India was established in 2006 and in 2007 a BPO / Call Centre (IPP Technologies Inc, Philippines Office) was set up. In 2008 we established office in Singapore and Bahrain.

IPP Technologies has many group companies, can you name them and the niche areas of these companies?

The IPP Group companies consist of:

IPP Technologies Pty Ltd Australia - It provides application, development and maintenance services and also product distribution and support to clients across Australia and New Zealand. This company also controls the operations of its units in other countries.

SSR Holdings Pty Ltd Sydney Australia—It concentrates mainly on IT contracting / professional services line of business in Australia.

Lifeabout Pty Ltd—The company was bought in 2004 with the aim of enhancing IPP's Government business but has now been

merged into IPP Technologies.

IPP Technologies— With a seating capacity of 250, this unit provides BPO / Call Centre services to customers in Australia, the UK and the United States of America.

IPP Global Technologies Pvt Ltd Hyderabad, India—This company provides offshore software support services to the IPP group companies in Australia and the Middle East region.

IPP Technologies W.L.L Kingdom of Bahrain—provides software - custom built and product based support services to clients in the GCC market place - Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE and the Saudi Arabia.

IPP Technologies has partnered with a few fortune 500 companies? Your take on the learning from such experience?

Yes, we have partnered with a number of Fortune 500 companies and during the years have learned quite a lot from these companies. With a strong client focus, it is important that IPP addresses the client requirements with the state of the art technology. Secondly, we believe that the solutions that the Fortune 500 companies bring to the marketplace are proven solutions and therefore the risk we as well as our clients take is reduced substantially.

You are a successful first generation Indian entrepreneur in Australia? Briefly share with us your experience in Australia?

I have had a wonderful experience in Australia. Over the years I have learned that

hard work always pays.

Also, we should never feel "inferior" to anyone. Today India is on the world map due to its superior technology and this should give Indians a feeling that they are 'Number One' in the world. It is important to follow the rules and regulations of Australia and to understand the culture and working environment of the country. But at the same time we should not forget about our roots.

Australia is a country of "FAIR-GO" and gives a wonderful opportunity to everyone. Therefore, I believe there is a piece of cake for everyone. Patience pays in the long run.

As an entrepreneur, on professional front, our experience shows that we need to have:

Strong customer focus;
Long term partnerships with clients. There is no scope for "fly by night" players in this market place; Technology alliances with leading global IT companies and solution providers; and A tangible value proposition against business and technical drivers.

What message would you like to give to the Indian community which is planning to live and work in Australia?

This is a country of great opportunities; if you stay focused on your goals I am sure you will achieve them. Do not follow shortcuts—follow the established norms and results will automatically come. Stay customer-focused as they are the main reason for our existence and growth. Believe in yourself, uphold high values and have a strong commitment to work.

What is IPP's vision for the future?

IPP expects to consolidate the operations across the countries where it is operating now and double the revenue in the next three years. For this we are looking for organizations that may fund our growth. We have to consolidate and sustain the rapid growth we experienced over the past four years.

We are aiming to grow the company at 25% CAGR and the annuity revenue to from A\$7.5 million to A\$15 million over the next three years. Further, we are also maintaining a strong focus on the mid-market prospect base.

Advertorial

A UWA degree helps you achieve whatever the Test

Simon Katich
UWA graduate and Australian Test Cricketer

Simon Katich is one of the nation's most gifted and accomplished Test cricketers, having amassed over 4,000 runs at an average of more than 45. As well as knowing the importance of natural talent, he has always recognised the value of having a world-class formal qualification behind him.

"I chose to go to UWA because it had the reputation of being the most prestigious university in the State. My commerce degree didn't get me into the Australian cricket team but it certainly has helped me throughout my professional career."

Simon's degree provides him with the skills needed to develop a career alongside the business of performing at cricket's elite level.

To find out more about the world-class university which enables you to excel in all aspects of your life, visit www.uwa.edu.au



UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A reputation for excellence

The university aims for excellence in teaching, learning and research

THE University of Western Australia (UWA) is one of Australia's leading universities and has an international reputation for excellence in teaching, learning and research. A dynamic and progressive university, UWA is a member of the prestigious Group of Eight partnership of leading Australian universities and offers a diverse range of courses.

UWA is Western Australia's first university, established in 1911, with more than 22,000 students currently enrolled across nine faculties— Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts; Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Business; Education; Engineering, Computing and Mathematics; Life and Physical Sciences; Law; Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences; and Natural and Agricultural Sciences—and the School of Indigenous Studies.

With an international reputation for excellence and enterprise, UWA's strong research culture sees it attract high levels of competitive research funding and outstanding staff. High quality teaching and research ensure

UWA attracts high-calibre undergraduate and postgraduate students from around the nation and overseas.

In the most extensive curriculum reform in its history, UWA is implementing an innovative new course structure which will provide students with a cutting edge, world-class education. In line with leading international universities and commencing in 2012, the new model caters both for students who know exactly what they want to study and those who are not as certain and wish to explore their options before deciding on their ultimate study pathway. All fields of study previously offered will continue to be available within the new courses, in addition to a number of exciting new majors.

UWA has established several research collaborations and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with various universities, institutes and research centres in India. The current research partners for UWA in India include: the Indian Institute of Technology—(IIT) Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, PEC University of Techno-



PAUL BUIST, REGIONAL MANAGER
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

nology, Kerala Agriculture University (KAU), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Anna University, University of Mumbai, Rashtriya Vidyalyaya College of Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Punjab University, Osmania University; Ansal Institute of Technology and MVSREngineering College.

In order to attract the best students from India, UWA has established 50 'UWA Indian Scholarships' to enable Indian postgraduate students to undertake a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) at the university. UWA is a university of choice in India, especially in the areas of Science, Engineering, Agriculture and Business due to its very generous scholarship program, quality of research supervisors and state of the art research facilities.

World-class is our minimum standard and we strive to achieve international excellence in all we do. Our longer-term aim is to be counted among the top 50 universities in the world by 2050, continuing to play a vital role in scholarship and discovery of global significance.



Advertorials

Perth, Australia's Education City

The city has lots to offer and is being rated as one of the world's top three livable cities

WHAT comes to mind when thinking of the perfect place to study? It would be just about any student's dream to study in a place that will offer world-class education and pathway to a successful career, an exceptional standard of living, a pollution free, safe and secure environment, an exciting lifestyle at an affordable price.

Enter Perth—the capital of Western Australia. A cosmopolitan city of 1.5 million people that has been home to international students for decades. Every year, more and more students are discovering why Perth is the ideal place to study.

THE LIFESTYLE

Famous for its friendly people and relaxed atmosphere, Perth embodies the true Australian lifestyle. There are not many places left in the world where a passer-by will warmly greet you on the street or stop to have a chat. Australians love to interact with overseas visitors and embrace other cultures. Recently Lonely Planet voted Perth as one of the world's "top 10 future cities" and *The Economist* has voted it as one of the world's top three "most livable" cities for eight consecutive years.

West Australians enjoy a great amount of time outdoors, and it doesn't take long for those new to the city to realise that this is one of the best ways to enjoy what Perth has to offer. Its natural environment and Mediterranean climate make Perth

the ultimate lifestyle location. Beyond Perth, the South-West region of Western Australia has officially been pinpointed as a UNESCO Biodiversity hotspot, making the region a unique, protected area for adventure.

Perth has Australian best-practice in student travel concession. WA is one of two states in Australia to offer international students a government-sponsored 40% discount on any type of public transport.

The booming Western Australian economy has created a strong demand for skilled staff, which means plenty of opportunity for part-time work and this kind of participation not only benefits the student financially, but also contributes to the local community, while providing opportunity for the student to expand their skill set, develop their work experience to gear them for more permanent employ-



ment opportunities. With just 10% of Australia's population, it has around 20% of the job vacancies in the country.

THE SUCCESS

Perth has a tradition of punching above its weight. The city has produced two Nobel Laureates in medicine, the revolutionary tissue engineering technology, otherwise known as "spray-skin" and Perth is also home to the southern hemisphere's largest eye research institute, the Lions Eye Institute, leading the world in its field. WA universities are all experts in oil and gas engineering, sports science and veterinary science just to name a few. It's English language colleges teach modern English through an interactive approach and the local vocational education colleges give students the practical skills they need to succeed in today's ever-changing and increasingly globalised world.

THE DIVERSITY

Diversity is a key factor when going to study abroad. Each year, Perth hosts over 45,000 international students and boasts of Australia's best source country diversity. This ensures that students mix with the over 140 different nationalities across WA institutions so they study with those from around the world including Europe, North and South Asia, Africa and South America.

Perth is a city that attracts some of the world's leading minds, artists and citizens through a combination of cutting edge research, regional importance and global participation in various areas of policy development.

Perth Education City is a portal to exceptional institutions based in Western Australia. Learn more at www.pertheducationcity.com.au



MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

International scholarship is BROADER now

The scheme is designed to make studying at the university more affordable

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY is helping more international students who want to study at the institution by broadening the scope of its International Discoverers Scholarship Scheme.

The scheme, launched last year, is designed to make studying at Murdoch University in Perth Western Australia, more affordable at a time when the strong Australian dollar could mean that families across the globe are considering alternatives to Australia for higher education. Murdoch University is one of the leading

research universities in Australia, with a student population of more than 18,000 students including 3,000 from over 100 countries. It has a reputation for being a dynamic, modern university with a national reputation for excellence in teaching, research, student support and satisfaction.

The scheme already applies to a wide range of Murdoch courses at undergraduate level and has this year been broadened to include many postgraduate level degrees for commencement in 2012. Some of the courses that are part of this scheme are Business, IT, Media, Sustainability Psychology, Journalism, Engineering, Biology and Biotechnology.

Depending on the course selected, the scheme allows for a reduction in annual course fees from between AUD \$500 and AUD \$5,500.

Professor Gary Martin, Senior

Deputy Vice Chancellor, said: "The high Australian dollar is not good news for the parents of students who have worked all their lives to ensure their son or daughter can come to Australia to study."

"The International Discoverers Scholarship Scheme is designed to help these families, who, through no fault of their own, are currently not in a position to realise the dream of having their son or daughter study in Australia."

Part scholarships are also available to all students who apply for entry into an eligible undergraduate, postgraduate or study abroad program at Murdoch University for commencement in either semester one or two in 2012.

The scholarship will be applied to the annual published course fee for the duration of the degree.

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- > Five **world-class universities**
- > Home to two **Nobel laureates**
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Discover your potential at Murdoch University

Murdoch University is an international, award-winning university with outstanding reputation for excellence in teaching, research and student satisfaction. It provides the ideal place to take the first step on a pathway to lifelong career success. Make Murdoch your first choice destination for higher education.

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- Environmental Science
- Veterinary Science
- Hospitality and Tourism
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- Biomedical Science
- Accounting
- Media and Communication
- Information Technology

*Undergraduate and Postgraduate Scholarships are available for 2012 intake.

For more information, please contact Murdoch University:

Email: international@murdoch.edu.au
www.murdoch.edu.au



www.murdoch.edu.au



Gateway to education

MORE than 300,000 foreign students enrol in Australian institutions every year. With international education now worth A\$18.3 billion (US\$18.8 billion), it is the nation's third-largest export industry, according to a study by the Australian Institute of Criminology, which looked into the recent attacks on Indian students in Australia.

Over a lakh Indian students study in Australia. The number of Indian students studying in Australia rapidly increased from 20,512 in 2004 to over 120,000 enrolments in 2009 and Australia overtook the UK as the second largest destination for Indian students.

However, following the tightening of student visa regulations, changes in the general skilled migration rules, negative impact of the string of student attacks, and the rising cost of Australian dollar, the number of student enrolments from India declined significantly with enrolments at 100,310 and actual commencements at 42,576 during the year 2010 (-3.8% over 2009).

Overall, more than 600,000 foreign students study (including annual enrolments) in Australia today. The country has 39 universities, more than 580 vocational education and training institutions (VETs) and 6,800 schools across its six states and two territories. Courses range from primary school level (seven years) all the way up to post-graduate degrees in universities.



Australia runs from late February or early March to late November. There are two semesters per academic year. The major intake of students for the majority of courses happens in the first semester, but some courses may have an intake in the July semester.

In general, the academic year in Australia runs from late February or early March to late November. There are two semesters per academic year. The major intake of students for the majority of courses happens in the first semester, but some courses may have an intake in the July semester.

OVERALL, MORE THAN 600,000 FOREIGN STUDENTS STUDY IN AUSTRALIA TODAY

the July semester.

Each of the eight Australian states and territories has at least one university, each offering strengths in unique fields of study. From Sydney's cosmopolitan feel to Perth's open views, each state also offers a unique living environment and a whole load of experiences to them.

Australia's VET providers offer a wide range of training options in the fields of computing, business studies, marketing, tourism and hospitality. The VET courses provide students with skills, called national industry competency standards, that employers have identified as critical to their work needs. These standards form the basis of assessment and students graduate as soon as they demonstrate their achievement. Commencement dates can vary for these courses.

Almost all Australian secondary schools also offer vocational education programmes in addition to the standard school curriculum. Vocational education and training programs are also provided by Technical and Further Education (TAFE) Institutes.



Youth Allowance reforms benefits more

MORE people are receiving Youth Allowance support than ever before in Australia today.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard said there had been an increase of 21,000 university students receiving Youth Allowance in just one year, up to May 2011, as a result of the reform to the system made by the government last year.

These changes mean more students from lower socio-economic backgrounds and rural and regional areas can afford to attend university and get a degree. As a result, hundreds of students are becoming the first members of their families to attend university.

In April last year, the Gillard government implemented reforms to Youth Allowance payments to give more students the opportunity to go to university by targeting financial assistance to those with the greatest need.

In just 12 months there reform to Youth Allowance have seen a:

- 15% increase in the total number of university students receiving Youth Allowance - 135,000 students in March 2010 compared to 156,000 this year
- 108% increase in the number of dependent university students from disadvantaged backgrounds receiving the maximum Youth Allowance rate
- 22% increase in the number of rural and regional university students receiving Youth Allowance.

The reforms are driven by the Labor government's bid to ensure that the opportunity of a high quality university education is available to all Australians, regardless of their background or where they live.

A key element of the reform

package was to significantly increase the Parental Income Test threshold from \$33,300 to \$45,114 (indexed annually) to better target the assistance to those who need it most.

This has significantly increased the number of students from low income families who are now eligible for the maximum rate of Youth Allowance.

The cumulative effect of the government's changes is that more than 107,000 young people are eligible for Youth Allowance for the first time or are receiving more money than before. More than 36,000 of these young people are from rural and regional areas.

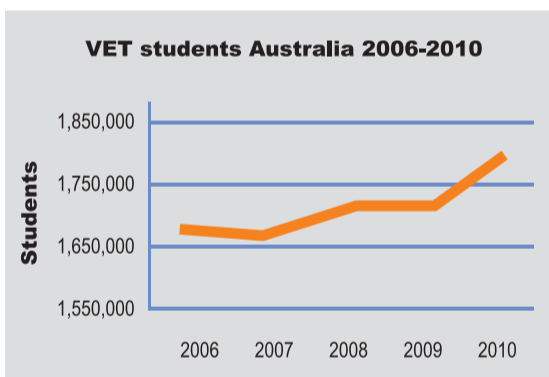
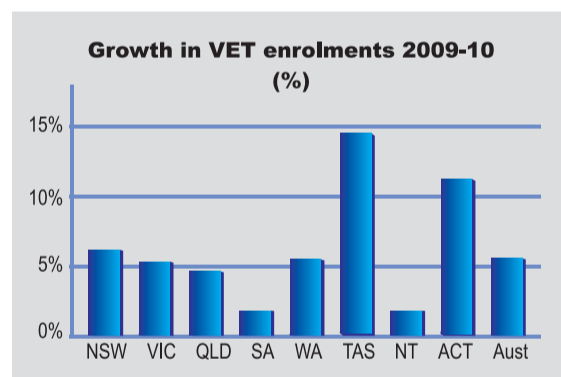
The government's new scholarship programme is also proving to be successful in helping more students overcome financial barriers to attending university. More than 240,000 university students have received Student Start-Up Scholarships towards their education costs over the last 12 months - each worth \$2,194 in 2011.

This year, the government will fund more than 480,000 undergraduate places at public universities. With the uncapping of student places in 2012, that is likely to rise to more than half a million places - a 20% increase since 2008. Commonwealth expenditure on higher education is projected to increase to \$13 billion in 2012. That is an additional \$5 billion, up from \$8 billion in 2007 - to support more research and even better teaching and learning.

That's a profound investment in Australia's future.

Helping young people achieve a university qualification is vital to ensuring Australia meets the employment needs of a productive economy.

More students enrol in VET courses across Australia



MORE THAN 240,000 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HAVE RECEIVED STUDENT START-UP SCHOLARSHIPS TOWARDS THEIR EDUCATION COSTS OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS - EACH WORTH \$2,194

increase in VET students at 14.6%, while in New South Wales an additional 33,300 VET students enrolled in courses.

Victoria also recorded a high number of additional VET students, with 25,700 more students in VET studies in 2010. "This is the third consecutive year that VET student numbers have increased," Evans said.

"The Gillard government is investing up to \$8.75 billion over the next five years to reach new benchmarks with the States and Territories for better quality, transparency and outcomes in vocational education and training.

"The reform of the VET sector is a major priority for the Gillard government as we take action to deliver more skilled workers for the Australian economy."

Tasmania recorded the largest rate of increase in VET students at 14.6%

Research, minister for tertiary education and skills, Senator Chris Evans said: "The Gillard government has invested \$4 billion more in Vocational Education and Training in the three years to 2010 than the previous government did in its last three years. This report shows we

are getting results with the numbers of students signing up for quality vocational education and training increasing in every jurisdiction.

"This training is the basis of a skilled and productive Australian workforce, which will be able to meet the skills needs of the future. The vast majority of VET students attend TAFE's (Technical and Further Education), which have played a central role in training Australians for over 100 years", Evans said.

The report reveals that between 2009 and 2010, the island state of Tasmania recorded the largest rate of

ANEW report has shown that the Gillard government's record investments in education and training is delivering positive results with 1.8 million students now enrolled in the public Vocational Education and Training system in 2010, up 5.4% from 2009.

Commenting on the report, 'Australian Vocational Education And Training Statistics: Students And Courses 2010 - Preliminary Data', released last May by the National Centre for Vocational Education

Teenage parents get help to finish school

PRIME MINISTER Julia Gillard has in May this year announced a proposal to force teenage mothers back into secondary education on or before their child turns one. If the mothers refused to return to their appropriate schooling, their social security payments would be cut. The Prime Minister defended the policy by saying that those recipients are at a lifetime of disadvantage if they do not return to school by the required time.

Gillard's said the measures would make sure teenage parents and their children aren't left behind "as we benefit from our strong economy." The new approach will see teenage parents get the support they need to get a good education, finish year 12 and build life skills so

they can go on to get a good job.

It will also help these young parents get the parenting skills they need to look after their children so they can also benefit from a better start in life. The government will invest \$47.1 million over four years to trial this new initiative in ten disadvantaged communities across Australia.

From January 1, 2012 teenage parents living in these trial communities who have not finished Year 12 or equivalent and are receiving Parenting Payment from the Federal Government will need to meet an individually crafted participation plan. These teen parents will also be given support to help them meet these extra responsibilities and milestones, including:

- Support to access quality child care while they are studying with close to

THE NEW APPROACH WILL SEE TEENAGE PARENTS GET THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO GET A GOOD EDUCATION, FINISH YEAR 12 AND BUILD LIFE SKILLS SO THEY CAN GO ON TO GET A GOOD JOB

- 100% of their child care costs covered.
- Support from the Youth Connections services through individualised case management to help them enrol and at-

tend school, TAFE (Technical and Further Education) or other training.

- Support from Communities for Children services to help teens with their parenting responsibilities through playgroups, parenting education classes, mentoring and support groups as well as early learning programmes.

Many teenage parents leave school early without year 12 qualifications, meaning they are more likely to end up as long term welfare recipients, with negative long term consequences for them and their children. This new package will help them get a better job so they can provide for their kids as they grow older.

HOW THE PROGRAMME WILL WORK
From January 1, 2012, teenage parents in trial communities receiving Parenting Payment, with a child aged six months or

older will be required to attend compulsory support and engagement interviews with Centrelink until they complete Year 12 or equivalent or until their youngest child turns six.

Through this service parents will work with Centrelink to develop a participation plan that includes compulsory activities designed to support them in their parenting role or help them gain a good education.

Teen parents will be required to undertake compulsory activities from when their child is one year old, to give teen parents time to settle into life with their new baby.

The types of activities will be tailored to the parent's needs as well as the needs and age of the child, so for a teen parent with a young child activities might include attending baby play groups or at-

tending preschool for older children.

Teenage parents will be supported by their Centrelink case worker to ensure they receive the necessary support to meet their obligations. If they do not engage with Centrelink when required, without a reasonable excuse, they will have their income support payment suspended until they re-engage.

The government will work with community organisations and specialist service providers over the next six months to prepare for implementation of this new initiative. The communities will be announced in the budget and will be chosen based on a range of factors that measure disadvantage including jobless families, youth unemployment, the level of welfare dependence, and the length of time recipients have been on welfare. This trial in ten communities will be evaluated over two years in consultation with service providers.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows that teenage birth rates are eight times higher in the most disadvantaged areas than the least ones.

INTERVIEW: PRIME MINISTER JULIA GILLARD

'My life is explained by a great quality education'



JULIA GILLARD was sworn in as the 27th Prime Minister of Australia on June 24, 2010 and re-sworn in as Prime Minister on 14 September 2010 following the 2010 Federal Election. Gillard was born in Barry, Wales in 1961. She is the daughter of a nurse and aged care worker. Her family migrated to Australia in 1966 and she grew up in Adelaide. Ms Gillard became an Australian citizen in 1974 along with the rest of her family, and renounced her British citizenship before entering Parliament. Gillard first contested the Federal seat of Labor for the Australian Labor Party in 1998. Gillard lives at The Lodge in Canberra with her partner, Tim Mathieson.

In an interview with Matthew Winkler, editor-in-chief of Bloomberg, Gillard speaks

about the economy, media scene and education. Excerpts from the transcript:

About Minerals Resource Rent Tax:

We've got to understand where our economy is now. We have record terms of trade at 140-year high, we have a resources sector that is turbocharged by the growth in our region, we've got more than \$400 billion of investment in the pipeline. That does mean that our currency is very strong, very strong against the US dollar, I mean we first hit parity against the US dollar in November last year and now as far as the eye can see in terms of predictions we will be very strong against the US dollar. That is putting pressure on other parts of the economy -- manu-

facturing, tourism -- and so the Minerals Resource Rent Tax is really about taking a fair share of taxation from the highly profitable companies in this sector of the economy that is turbocharged and using some of that to bolster growth in other sections of the economy.

About inquiry into the Australian media:

Our ways of getting information, the media industry is changing, and like any major industry in a phase of change it's appropriate to look at how regulation best works as the industry changes.

On probability of UK-like hacking scandals happening in Australia:

No I think things are different

here, there is no evidence available to me or indeed to any Australian to suggest that we have had telephone hacking by journalists in the country or by newspaper organisations, so I don't believe we're seeing any of that kind of problem here. What I do believe is happening here and is comparable to what is happening in the rest of the world, whether it be the UK, the US or anywhere else, is that the economic model which has supported newspapers is changing.

About (Rupert Murdoch's) News Ltd's 70% ownership of Australian newspapers:

I think it is something that people have talked about over a long period of time now; media concentration, media ownership, but the truth is we can't go back

in time and re-engineer the ownership of newspapers in this country today. So we're not in the business of trying to unpack media ownership.

On what she would wish to be remembered for:

If I had to pick one thing, I would hope, it would be the work in Australian education, because my life is explained, how I got here, is explained by a strong, loving family but a great quality education, and if you don't have access to that, whether you come from the most humble of origins or the most privileged of origins then everything else about your life will be different and will be poorer, and we can change those things and make sure everybody gets that opportunity.

A Global Ambassador for Women & Girls



Penny Williams is Australia's Ambassador for promoting the role of women and girls

AUSTRALIA will be at the forefront of global efforts to promote the role of women and girls with the creation of an Ambassador to advocate on their behalf.

The government has on September 13 announced that career diplomat Penny Williams will be Australia's first Global Ambassador for Women and Girls.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard said that in the role, Ms Williams will ensure the needs of women and girls are properly represented in Australia's overseas development programme and in foreign policy more broadly. Women and girls make up two-thirds of the one billion people in the world who lack basic literacy skills, with almost 35 million girls worldwide not getting even basic primary-level education.

By improving access to educa-



PENNY WILLIAMS

tion and health services for women and girls, we are able to lift families and communities out of poverty.

Foreign minister Kevin Rudd said that the evidence shows that aid spending is more effective when women are central to our investment. The Ambassador's priorities include co-ordinating and promoting Australia's work to eradicate violence against women, improving access to services for women, the protection of women and girls in conflict zones and increasing the representation of women in leadership roles. Minister for the status of women, Kate Ellis, said as a prosperous and wealthy nation, Australia has a responsibility to work for the safety and opportunity of women and girls across the world.

The gender equality initiatives the Australian government has driven over the past few years are significant, most particularly the

ON THE WORLD STAGE, SHE WILL BE A GLOBAL ADVOCATE FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S WORK

National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children which is being used by UN Women internationally as a model for other countries.

Ms Williams will focus particularly on the Asia-Pacific region, which was ranked lowest in the world by the United Nations Development Programme on a range of gender indicators, including access to education, employment and political participation.

At home, Ms Williams will champion the needs of women and girls in Australia's foreign policy thinking. On the world stage, she will be an international advocate for the Australian government's work.

Advertorial

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA: DEPARTMENT OF STATE DEVELOPMENT

Establishing Common Ground

IN 1996, Western Australia was the first Australian state to establish a trade office in India. The Indian Government has recently granted permission to open a Consul General office in Perth to cater for the growing need for services to Indians living and working in Western Australia as well as Australian travelling to India.

The strength of bilateral relations has grown tremendously in recent years and the Western Australian offices in Mumbai and Chennai actively assist the State's businesses access export opportunities in India.

Energy

India imports 70% of its petroleum requirements. In 2010, India's crude oil imports rose by 41% to \$82.1 billion and accounts for 42% of its domestic energy needs. The growing energy needs for India's industrial development and domestic needs present huge opportunities for WA as an energy supplier.

ExxonMobil signed a deal with Petronet LNG in 2009 to supply 1.5 MTA of LNG over 20 years from the Gorgon project off the coast of WA. Petronet is looking for another 3-4 MTPA of LNG for the next 20 years as well as expanding its pipeline and regasification facility at Kochi, putting in a new jetty and proposing to build a major power plant to meet the future power needs of the region. India became the first country in 2007 to buy WA coal.

Resources

Western Australia (WA) is one of the world's most productive and diversified mineral regions, ac-

India is progressively becoming an important market for Western Australia across many fields

counting for a considerable proportion of the global production of gold (6%), alumina (23%), rutile (17%), iron ore (22%), nickel (13%), diamonds (7%), zircon (19%), tantalum (15%) and many others. More than 75% of the Indian exports are gold and diamonds.

Mining, oil & gas services

Western Australia excels globally in mining and oil and gas services. A number of these companies operate successfully in India including Oil Immersive Technologies, Micromine, CEPO systems, Mine Map, Neptune Marine, Trident Australia Pty, Swire Oil Field Services, Snowden, Woodside Energy, Logic Services, Stainless Pipes & Fittings, GMA Garnet, OKA Motor and India Resources Ltd.

Investment

As India's industrial production capabilities diversify, there will be opportunities for direct investment into WA's mining sector. WA has welcomed Hindalco's investment and purchase of the Nifty Copper Mine, an investment of about A\$80 million. Western Australia has great potential for gas processing projects such as petrochemicals and is developing a large gas processing precinct to the north of the state.

An early investor in downstream, value adding activities was an Indian company, Burrup Fertilisers, which invested A\$630 million in a fertiliser plant. Further Indian investment in WA has been announced with Perdaman Chemicals and Fertilisers' proposed construction of a Urea plant near Collie valued at A\$3.5 billion. Indian major, Lanco Infratech, successfully bid for Griffin's mines with almost A\$750 million for the coal assets and plans to invest on upgrading rail and port access.

Education

Given that India is an English-speaking country with a democratic political system, it is a very important market. In 2010, there were close to 42,300 Indian students studying in Australia, of which 2,576 study in WA. Indian students make up the second biggest group of international students in WA after China, accounting for 10.4% of the total international student numbers.

Agriculture and food

The rapidly growing Indian economy and population presents opportunities for WA's agriculture and food producers. WA is an important player in wheat and grain exports to India. Prepared foods and specialty foods, the growth and expansion of hotel chains in India provide untapped opportunities for WA's agri-food sector. WA is home to a number of renowned agri-food businesses.

Sources: Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Department of Mines and Petroleum, Department of State Development Western Australia



Government of Western Australia
Department of State Development

A growing partnership:
Western Australia and India

Western Australia drives Australia's economy, accounting for more than 44 per cent of Australia's total export earnings and enjoys the lowest unemployment rate in the country.



The State's diverse range of minerals, petroleum and agricultural products – and expertise in resources and agricultural services – are in demand globally.



Perth is Australia's Indian Ocean capital, closer to Indonesia than to Sydney. The State shares its time zone with the Asian regions on its doorstep, and looks north-west across the Indian Ocean to India's fast growing economies.



With such a strategic location, Perth is an increasingly important regional HQ for international companies.



For information, advice and assistance about trade and investment between Western Australia and India contact:

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CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Advertorial

Offers quality courses & research

The university aims to be positioned among the top 20 in Asia by 2020

CURTIN UNIVERSITY'S main campus is located in Bentley, Western Australia. With offshore campuses in Sydney, Singapore and Malaysia, Curtin regards itself as an international university, offering quality education at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels. Curtin's long-term vision is to be positioned among the top 20 universities in Asia by 2020, and to be recognised as an international leader shaping the future through our graduates and research.

Perth offers international visitors a clean and safe environment, modern facilities and a cosmopolitan lifestyle. Home to magnificent beaches and a thriving café scene, the city has a relaxed atmosphere, uncrowded streets and beautiful parks and gardens. There is only a two and a half hour time difference between Perth and India, meaning students can easily maintain communication with home.

Curtin is ranked in the world's top 300 universities, and offers internationally recognised degrees through our Humanities, Science and Engineering, and Health Sciences faculties, as well as Curtin Business School. Curtin's courses are constantly evolving to meet the demand for industry-ready graduates, so you can be sure that the knowledge you gain from your degree will allow you to make a valuable contribution to your chosen field of work. Students can choose from a wide range of masters and other postgraduate degrees, as well as undergraduate and research programs, in engineering, accounting, finance, international business, human resources, biomedical sciences, nursing, mass communication and architecture, plus many more.

The diverse student population at Curtin consists of students from more than 115 different countries, including over 450 Indian students. With over 400 international relationships with institutions across 40 countries, students are provided with opportunities for career development, travel and further studies. 'Our strong industry links take your degree beyond the classroom and into the real world', meaning students have access to leading businesses and employer networks.

Curtin has established four areas of research strength: health, ICT and emerging technologies, minerals and energy, and sustainable development. The multidisciplinary and collaborative nature of Curtin's research programmes is made possible not only by its solid research partnerships with industry, but also by the diversity of high-impact research centres and institutes. These areas are outlined in details below.

Curtin's collaborations with MNCs such as Woodside and BHP Billiton have resulted in the construction of on-campus learning facilities such as the Resources and Chemistry Precinct and the Engineering Pavilion Complex. The Resources and Chemistry Precinct accommodates the largest concentration of researchers in the southern hemisphere, and Australian Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, officially opened the Engineering Complex in March 2011.

Curtin has developed a range of services, such as health services, recreation facilities, on-campus accommodation and 24-hour security patrols, as well as programs to help the students with English



WALTER ONG, DEAN
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSIONS
CURTIN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

and academic skills.

The Curtin Student Guild offers over 60 different clubs in academic, international, religious and special interest activities. The International Students' Committee is the main representative body on campus, and helps to facilitate all clubs and societies. The Guild also provides an employment service, which offers a huge range of casual, part-time and volunteer work experience vacancies.

CURTIN'S AREAS OF RESEARCH STRENGTH

MINERALS AND ENERGY
Our involvement with the Western Australian minerals and energy industry dates back to 1902 with the establishment of the Western Australian School of Mines (WASM). Now, more than 100 years later, Western Australia's resources sector has grown phenomenally and we're taking our endeavours in the field to a new level with the new Curtin Resources and Chemistry Precinct—a facility that promises to bring the world's best researchers and teachers to Perth. This vibrant environment, with more than 200 professional scientists, engineers and support staff from academia, industry and government, creates the perfect foundation for industry-relevant research. The new Curtin Institute of Minerals and Energy offers direct responses to industry needs. The five major themes for the institute are:

- **EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGIES**
- **Planning and design**
- **Production infrastructure**
- **Processing and delivery**
- **Policy and economics.**

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Emerging Technologies (ET) is a broad area concerned with the use of technology to communicate information. It's an exciting endeavour involving the development of next-generation technologies as diverse as radio astronomy, spatial science, digital ecosystems and nanotechnology. Examples of specific research include:

New Medical Ultrasound Technology
Doctors adaptation of ultrasound technology used on the ground for mining purposes to medical ultrasound.

Renewable Energy Sources
Development of a gasification technology that converts low-rank fuels, like mallee and brown coal, into synthesis gas.

High-Precision GPS Capabilities
Invention of a resolution method that revolutionised high-precision carrier-phase GPS positioning capabilities.

Improved efficiency in Natural Gas Processing
Creation of a novel method for separating gas constituents which provides improvements to the separation process by eliminating the need to chill gas temperature, reducing energy consumption, lowering costs with less equipment.

Data integrity software
Development of a software tool which uses a holistic approach to data quality assurance, thus enabling organisations to identify sources of database pollution and eliminate re-pollution.

Atomic Collision Theory
Igor Bray and his team have resolved some major Quantum Mechanics problems which have existed since its inception in the 1920s,

by developing accurate computational methods in the field of atomic collision theory.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Curtin is placing emphasis on developing advances in the economic and social welfare of a population, without compromising the quality of the environment for current and future generations. Such a challenge is facing governments, business and communities around the world—and one which Curtin researchers are seeking to find solutions for.

The issue of sustainable development is of huge importance to nations confronting the depletion of natural resources, environmental pressures and the impacts of climate change. Sustainability is no longer just about the environment. It is about making sure the way we live today is consistent with future as well as present needs, affecting everything from the exploitation of resources and direction of investments to the orientation of technological development and institutional change. Our research effort reflects this movement towards a much broader definition.

Curtin's Centre for Advanced Energy Science and Engineering is working with a top Chinese university to find practical solutions to the threat of climate change by establishing a new laboratory for research into new energy technologies. Reducing greenhouse emissions from Australian buildings is the focus of a new two-year research project by two leading Curtin academics.

Collaborative efforts between Curtin and the Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation (CSIRO) have developed a unique and innovative tool to help plan sustainable tourism development in the Ningaloo area. The Ningaloo Tourism Destination Model can be used to determine the social, economic and environmental impacts of tourism along the Ningaloo coast, with the aim of aiding sustainable futures for Ningaloo in tourism, oil & gas and other industries.

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