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STRENGTHENING  
COMMUNITIES,  
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AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

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# STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES, SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Australians value fairness and equality of opportunity. However a significant number of Australians lack the opportunities that many take for granted. Many suffer from a range of problems such as unemployment, low incomes, poor housing, crime, poor health and family breakdown. In difficult economic times, governments need to be more vigilant than ever in supporting families and communities and promoting social inclusion.

The Government recognises that to be a socially inclusive nation, all Australians must have the opportunity to secure a job, access services, connect with family, friends and the community, deal with personal crises, be free from discrimination and have their voice heard. The Government is committed to achieving these aims through partnerships with state, territory and local governments and the not-for-profit and private sectors, and by delivering targeted and tailored interventions that address localised systemic disadvantage.

A number of key themes emerged from the Communities Stream discussions at the 2020 Summit. Participants at the Summit considered that social inclusion is a 'first order issue' that is vital to the health of Australian society and recommended that a national plan or framework be prepared to address social inclusion. There was also a focus on disadvantage, violence, targeted strategies for early intervention and prevention, reviewing and redeveloping the funding of the community sector and developing a national metrics framework to measure the nation's progress on important social and community matters.

The Communities Stream developed a broad range of ambitions, themes and ideas that have influenced and guided the Government's policy in this area, including:

- **Homelessness – *The Road Home*** – In December 2008, the Government released its White Paper on addressing homelessness, *The Road Home*, which outlines a plan for reducing homelessness in Australia by 2020, with specific goals to halve overall homelessness, and provide accommodation to all rough sleepers who seek it. It provides an additional \$1.2 billion over four years – a 55% increase in investment in homelessness and a substantial down payment on a twelve year reform agenda. The plan includes prevention and early intervention measures to stop people becoming homeless, as well as improving and expanding services – in conjunction with states and territories – to break the cycle of homelessness.
- **National Action Plan for Social Inclusion** – The Government is developing a National Action Plan for Social Inclusion. The plan is expected to be available for public release in late 2009 or early 2010. The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion will include an analysis of the nature and extent of social inclusion in Australia, a discussion of emerging issues, analysis of the costs and benefits associated with improving social inclusion, a description of current policy and a map for building social inclusion over the next decade.
- **Office for Youth and Australian Youth Forum** – In September 2008, the Government established the Office for Youth, within the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, to ensure better coordination of youth policy across government. The Government also launched a new youth initiative, the Australian Youth Forum, to engage young people and the youth sector in ongoing public discussion and to facilitate their input into policy and decision making about issues that affect their lives.

The following tables provide the Government's response to the ideas raised by the Communities Stream at the 2020 Summit.

## Key ideas being taken forward by the Government

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<b>Housing – Homelessness White Paper</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a national housing fund or foundation so that a proportion of every house sale is contributed to the fund (through stamp duty). This would be an endowment fund in perpetuity to address homelessness.</li> <li>Develop a matrix of problems when working with the homeless to better fund services, leading to integrated solutions.</li> </ul>	<p>In December 2008, the Government released its White Paper on addressing homelessness. The White Paper outlines a plan for reducing homelessness in Australia by 2020, with specific goals to halve overall homelessness, and provide accommodation to all rough sleepers who seek it. It provides an additional \$1.2 billion over four years – a 55 per cent increase in investment in homelessness and a substantial down payment on a twelve year reform agenda. The plan includes prevention and early intervention measures to stop people becoming homeless, as well as improving and expanding services – in conjunction with states and territories – to break the cycle of homelessness.</p> <p>This plan is supported by the Homelessness National Partnership with states and territories.</p> <p>The Government’s Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan includes funding of \$6.4 billion to fund the construction of around 20,000 new public and community housing dwellings and repairs and maintenance, to around 2,500 existing public housing dwellings. The construction of new dwellings will be largely completed by December 2010.</p> <p>The Government also provided \$252 million to Defence Housing Australia (DHA) to construct 802 new dwellings in metropolitan and regional centres. The 802 new dwellings are additional to DHA’s existing three year capital expenditure program (2008–09 to 2010–11) of \$1.2 billion.</p>

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<b>Tackling Disadvantage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop early intervention strategies at key transition points including adolescence and early childhood and increase the budget for this by 2020.</li> <li>• Develop early intervention, which is cost neutral in the long term.</li> <li>• Develop an early intervention scheme, not just focused on childcare but focused on engaging the community.</li> <li>• Target 5 per cent of the most disadvantaged communities with a range of interventions that can be skilfully managed within the community and in consultation with the community to build social and economic development.</li> <li>• Empower single mothers. This will reduce pressure and child abuse. Develop mentoring programs – for example, grandparent programs.</li> <li>• Create a ‘day in the life of ... being disabled/disadvantaged/Indigenous’ to allow others to understand the reality of social exclusion.</li> <li>• Replace the language of disadvantage with positive words.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government has a strong commitment to tackling disadvantage. Groups that have been identified as early priorities for Government action include: homeless people; Indigenous people; people with a disability or mental illness; children at risk of long term disadvantage; jobless families; and people living in areas of concentrated disadvantage.</p> <p>The Government’s Social Inclusion Principles have been developed to guide social inclusion approaches to addressing disadvantage. They include long term aspirations – such as reducing disadvantage and increasing social, civic and economic participation – and approaches to help reach those goals, such as building on individual and community strengths and giving a high priority to early intervention and prevention. These Principles will underpin the Government’s approach and include a focus on key transition points through different life stages.</p> <p>The Government will be working closely with individuals, communities, state, territory and local government, business and third sector organisations to foster community engagement and participation and enhance service delivery to tackle disadvantage.</p> <p>The Australian Social Inclusion Board, established in May 2008, also provides advice to the Government on ways to achieve better outcomes for the most disadvantaged. To date the Board has undertaken work relating to children at greatest risk of long term disadvantage, jobless families, and locations of concentrated disadvantage.</p>
<b>Measuring Social Inclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social inclusion in government agencies – to be included in reporting, with all organisations to be open, accountable and transparent.</li> <li>• Require the government to lodge an independently audited annual social responsibility report.</li> <li>• Hold the Government accountable against corporate social responsibility standards in the same way the private sector is – Government to do triple-bottom-line reporting.</li> </ul>	<p>The terms of reference for the Australian Social Inclusion Board include a requirement to prepare an Annual Report on progress in social inclusion. This will include considering how to best measure progress in social inclusion and describing Australia’s progress using a range of indicators.</p>

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<b>National Action Plan for Social Inclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Action Plan for Social Inclusion to increase social inclusion and combat poverty. It should be developed in consultation with the community and include evidence-based goals and measurable targets. The ambition and scope of the plan should reflect economic analysis of the return on investment produced by improving social inclusion. Issues of social inclusion should be considered in a wide range of policy areas.</li> <li>• Develop a social inclusion framework to guide work by all levels of government on issues such as income, housing, environment, education and workforce strategies. Have a matrix of issues that are affected by social inclusion and develop strategies for each.</li> <li>• Develop a national poverty strategy, including an Accommodation Guarantee, with clear targets and goals, to be overseen by an independent Poverty Commission. Government should model good practice in social inclusion and diversity. Apply a social inclusion test to all policy.</li> <li>• Recognise the long term economic value of social inclusion and costs of exclusion. Long term investment in eliminating discrimination and disadvantage offers economic benefits.</li> <li>• Undertake economic analysis of community interventions to demonstrate economic benefits of social inclusion through economic modelling of returns on investment. This is the way to make it a first-order issue.</li> <li>• Understand the metrics of investment: introduce the language of investment to policies that address disadvantage. One dollar investment equals an eight dollar pay-off. Long term returns.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government is currently developing a National Action Plan for Social Inclusion. The plan is expected to be publicly released in late 2009 or early 2010.</p> <p>The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion will include an analysis of the nature and extent of social inclusion in Australia, a discussion of emerging issues, analysis of the costs and benefits associated with improving social inclusion, a description of current policy and a map for building social inclusion over the next decade.</p> <p>The Social Inclusion Unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, with advice from the Australian Social Inclusion Board, is building a body of evidence on successful government policy and programs for disadvantaged groups and communities, and models to engage these communities in the development of solutions. This evidence base will inform the development of the Plan.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<b>Indigenous Australians – Closing the Gap</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring all Indigenous Australians out of disadvantage from early childhood through to old age and address current service gaps for Indigenous Australians.</li> </ul>	<p>Agree. The Government is committed to addressing Indigenous disadvantage and is using the Closing the Gap strategy to achieve this.</p> <p>COAG has agreed to six ambitious targets to closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage recognising that this will require a long-term, generational commitment that sees major effort directed across a range of strategic platforms.</p> <p>As outlined in the Government's response to ideas from the Summit's Indigenous Stream, COAG has agreed to the following National Partnership agreements: Indigenous Early Childhood Development; Remote Service Delivery, Indigenous Health and Indigenous Economic Participation. The partnerships will deliver strategies and policies to meet COAG's targets and close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.</p>
<b>Children and Young People – Office of Youth</b>  <b>Also raised by: Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a child and young person's commission (or similar body) to allow education, social and health issues to be coordinated.</li> <li>Create a Commissioner for Children and Youth and establish a cohesive national youth policy that includes all departments and covers all areas, including health, education, participation and the rights of children.</li> </ul>	<p>The Office for Youth was established in September 2008 to lead the Australian Government's youth affairs reform agenda and to create and promote opportunities for the engagement and greater participation of young people in Australian society.</p> <p>In addition, the Government has launched the Australian Youth Forum, which aims to engage young people and the youth sector in ongoing public discussion and facilitate their input into policy and decision making about issues that affect their lives.</p>

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<p data-bbox="240 344 416 405"><b>Early Childhood Reform</b></p> <p data-bbox="240 439 400 499">Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul data-bbox="456 344 890 1391" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support children’s development through increased investment in early intervention and childhood education.</li> <li>• Ensure universal free access to early childhood education.</li> <li>• Increase training and support for those who care for and educate children, including the ability to deal with child protection and abuse.</li> <li>• Make early childhood care and education centres integrated and more community-based to identify the most disadvantaged, but at the same time relevant for the community, all children and all parents.</li> <li>• Facilitate more extensive use of school infrastructure to provide care for pre-school children.</li> <li>• Develop stronger links between early childcare centres. Recognise that bilingual education is very important in Indigenous communities.</li> <li>• Increase the status, training and support for those who care for and educate children, including parents, foster parents, care workers, teachers, childcare providers. Recognise children as people so that they will become happy, healthy adults.</li> <li>• By 2020 every Australian should be in a position to believe that every child has the same capacity and talent to lead a fulfilling life.</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="914 344 1356 786">In July 2008 COAG agreed to develop a broad national strategy for early childhood developments during 2009. As a first step towards a national strategy, in November 2008 COAG agreed a National Partnership on Early Childhood Education which will provide \$970 million over five years. This includes \$955 million to achieve access to 15 hours a week early childhood education for all children in the year before school by 2013, to be delivered by four-year trained teachers and at a cost that is not a barrier to participation. An additional \$15 million will be provided for data development and evaluation.</p> <p data-bbox="914 797 1348 1205">Through the National Partnership on Indigenous Early Childhood Development, joint funding of \$564.6 million over six years has been committed, including funding for 35 Children and Family Centres which will be established across Australia. The centres will deliver integrated services including early learning, child care and family support. The funding will also increase access to ante-natal care, teenage reproductive and sexual health services and child and maternal health services tailored to the needs of Indigenous Australians.</p> <p data-bbox="914 1216 1356 1599">The Australian Government is also investing \$114.5 million over the next four years to establish, as a first phase, early learning and care centres, including six-autism specific centres. Where states and territories are interested in partnering with the Australian Government to create integrated service models, the Government will pursue opportunities to deliver a broader range of services within these centres. The Government will also work in partnership with other private providers to establish these centres.</p>

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<p><b>Low SES School Communities</b></p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide one-on-one support and special education for students who fall behind.</li> <li>• Overcome the public–private divide by funding students according to need and encouraging more private investment in public and private schools through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Student-centred funding</li> <li>– Funding according to need, where disadvantaged students attract more funding and support to ensure that they become a productive participant in Australian society</li> <li>– Further cross-sector collaboration</li> <li>– Integrated sources of funding attached to students and/or institutions. One option would be to rationalise the use of private investment and then use public investment to make up the shortfall.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provide education assistance for young people at risk or from disadvantaged backgrounds.</li> <li>• Provide case conferencing with school teachers and health professionals to meet the needs of children with conditions that impair their learning (rural).</li> <li>• Develop a school ‘twinning’ program—for example, pairing schools from different regions.</li> </ul>	<p>The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has agreed to a number of National Partnerships in relation to low socio-economic status school communities. The Australian Government will provide \$1.5 billion over seven years to address the needs of disadvantaged schools, to be matched by states and territories. The Government will work with the states and territories on a range of reforms that will support the educational and wellbeing needs of students and schools in low socio-economic status communities.</p> <p>COAG has also agreed to a National Partnership on Literacy and Numeracy that will aim to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students, especially those who are falling behind. The Commonwealth will invest \$540 million in this National Partnership, which will be complemented by state and territory investment. Research and data collection will be supported by funding of \$40 million. This includes an additional \$13 million for the collection and reporting of data through the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority for which funding of \$17.2 million was announced in the last Budget.</p> <p>The Dare to Lead Project, funded by the Government, drives change in schools through a coalition of school leaders who influence improvements in Indigenous education. The project’s Partnerships Building Success direction for 2009–2012 has been supported by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and through the inclusion of colloquial reviews in sister school arrangements expect to increase the achievements in Indigenous student outcomes.</p>
<p><b>Asylum Seekers – Detention</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rethink refugee and asylum seeker policy to recognise our shared humanity as well as Australia’s international obligations.</li> </ul>	<p>Agree. While maintaining strong border protection arrangements, the Government has abolished temporary protection visas, and has shut down off-shore processing centres in Nauru and Papua New Guinea. The Government has also committed to detention as a last resort; to detention for the shortest practicable period and to the rejection of indefinite or otherwise arbitrary detention.</p>

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<b>Promoting Non-Violence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a coordinating body to address violence against women and children and a national plan of action to combat violence against women and children.</li> <li>• Designating male role models to address violence in families.</li> <li>• Developing an early intervention and prevention strategy against family violence.</li> <li>• Developing a whole of government approach to capture Australian values of non-violence. We must work with all to regain respect and value, including male victims, as this is a whole-of-family issue.</li> <li>• Create a national violence prevention plan that will enable consistency across the nation. The plan will also acknowledge impacts on children, rather than focusing only on women.</li> <li>• Promotion of non-violence as a value, sponsored by the Prime Minister.</li> <li>• Eliminate violence by 2020 with a national strategy on sexual assault.</li> </ul>	<p>Agree. The Government is committed to addressing family violence. In May 2008, the Government established the National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children. On 19 March the council released their National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, Time for Action. The Government is considering the plan before releasing it publicly.</p> <p>The Government is also working with states and territories to develop a National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.</p>



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<p data-bbox="240 349 344 439"><b>National Disability Strategy</b></p> <p data-bbox="240 468 400 524">Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul data-bbox="451 349 879 562" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="451 349 879 461">• Ensure that people with disabilities have the same opportunities and supports as everyone else in the community.</li> <li data-bbox="451 477 879 562">• Universal access principles for people with disabilities should pervade all social policy planning.</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="917 349 1359 461">The Government is undertaking a range of activities in this area, including developing a National Disability Strategy with the states and territories.</p> <p data-bbox="917 477 1359 943">The Government agrees that people with disabilities must have access to the same rights as the broader community. In November 2008 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) committed to a new National Disability Agreement, under which the Commonwealth will provide \$5.3 billion to state and territory governments for specialist disability services. Under the agreement, all governments are committed to helping people with a disability achieve economic and social inclusion, have the opportunity to live as independently as possible, and to support their families and carers.</p> <p data-bbox="917 958 1359 1279">On 18 July 2008, the Government ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force on 16 August 2008 and in December 2008, tabled a National Interest Analysis proposing that Australia accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention. The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties reported its views on 12 March 2009 and recommended that Australia accede to the Optional Protocol.</p> <p data-bbox="917 1294 1359 1700">The Government is also developing a National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy to help people with disability and mental illness to participate in the economy by finding and retaining jobs. The Setting the Direction paper for the strategy was released jointly by the Minister for Employment Participation and the Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services on 22 December 2008. It outlines the directions the Government is taking, and will take, to increase employment for people with disability</p>

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<p><b>Same-Sex Couples – Removing Legal Discrimination</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give same-sex relationships equal legal recognition across Australia.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government is of the view that couples who have a mutual commitment to a shared life, but who are not married, should not be discriminated against.</p> <p>The Government is already addressing discrimination issues faced by same-sex couples with legislative reform to provide for equality of treatment under a wide range of Commonwealth laws.</p> <p>One further step towards eliminating discrimination against same-sex couples is for their relationships to be legally recognised. The most appropriate way to achieve this is by the development of nationally consistent, state-based relationship recognition that will include the opportunity for committed couples to have their relationships registered. As part of the Government's same-sex law reforms, registered relationships will also be recognised in many Commonwealth laws to provide a more consistent approach to the recognition of relationships.</p>
<p><b>Human Rights Reform Package</b></p> <p>Also raised by: Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embed a non-discriminatory clause in the Constitution (not the preamble).</li> </ul>	<p>On 10 December 2008, the Commonwealth Attorney-General announced a national consultation process on human rights and responsibilities in Australia. The consultation will be conducted in the first half of 2009 by a committee comprised of Father Frank Brennan SJ AO (Chair), Ms Tammy Williams, Ms Mary Kostakidis and Mr Mick Palmer AO APM. The consultation delivers a key election commitment made by the Government and provides an opportunity for all Australians to share their views on how human rights and responsibilities can be better recognised and protected.</p> <p>The consultation will encourage broad community debate on a range of human rights issues, not only on whether a Charter or Bill of Rights is necessary. The consultation does not presuppose any outcome, although the Government has made it clear that any proposals must preserve the sovereignty of Parliament.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Governance Stream.</i></p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p data-bbox="240 349 421 495"><b>National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP)</b></p> <p data-bbox="240 528 395 611">Also raised by: Productivity Security</p>	<p data-bbox="451 349 887 495">Incorporate Asia literacy into Australian society to increase the knowledge of Asian and regional languages and societies to enhance Australia's global engagement and intelligence. This could be done by:</p> <ul data-bbox="451 506 887 1429" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="451 506 799 589">• Boosting the teaching of Asian languages in primary and secondary schools</li> <li data-bbox="451 607 847 636">• Mainstreaming language education</li> <li data-bbox="451 651 866 703">• Recruiting foreign language teachers from local communities and overseas</li> <li data-bbox="451 719 871 801">• Reinvigorating professional teacher training, including for native speakers and our ethnic communities</li> <li data-bbox="451 817 887 1016">• Developing a comprehensive national Asia literacy strategy at all levels of the education system by 2020. This should be backed by funding at least equivalent to the former National Asian Languages and Studies Strategy for Australian Schools</li> <li data-bbox="451 1032 879 1205">• Ensuring by 2020 that Australia will no longer be the worst-ranked OECD country for second-language skills and that it is positioned to benefit from the economic reality of an increasingly Asia-centric world</li> <li data-bbox="451 1220 866 1361">• Ensuring by 2020 every child in Australia can speak a language other than English and will learn about the contribution of other cultures to Australia</li> <li data-bbox="451 1377 823 1429">• Ensuring that Australians directly experience Asia.</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="922 349 1350 611">Agree in-principle. The Government has committed \$62.4 million to implement the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP) over 2008–09 to 2010–11, in recognition of the importance of Asian languages and studies in equipping young Australians with the skills to compete in the globalised economy of the future.</p> <p data-bbox="922 629 1318 824">The NALSSP commenced on 1 January 2009 and provides opportunities for school student to become familiar with the languages and cultures of four of Australia's Asian neighbours, namely China, Indonesia, Japan and Korea.</p> <p data-bbox="922 842 1350 1104">Through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) processes, all governments have committed to the NALSSP and an aspirational target that, by 2020, at least 12 per cent of all students exit Year 12 with a fluency in one of the target Asian languages. NALSSP focuses on increasing both student demand and teacher supply.</p> <p data-bbox="922 1122 1337 1263">In addition, the Government's recent Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan includes \$1 billion to build up to 500 science laboratories or language learning centres in secondary schools.</p> <p data-bbox="922 1281 1302 1364">The second phase of the National Curriculum will also include language education.</p>
<p data-bbox="240 1456 421 1514"><b>Student Services Funding</b></p>	<ul data-bbox="451 1456 852 1570" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="451 1456 852 1570">• Repeal voluntary student unionism and fund student organisations that build up skills and development for non-government organisations.</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="922 1456 1326 1657">The Minister for Youth has proposed a new approach to voluntary student unionism which allows universities to charge students a compulsory fee of up to \$250 per year with students being given the option of deferring the fee to a HELP-style loan scheme.</p>

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<p><b>Mentors for Our Students</b></p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create mentoring programs for young people to address gaps in education. Volunteer mentoring programs are beneficial to both young people and older people.</li> <li>• Extend the 'Golden Guru' mentoring concept beyond business by engaging experienced retired members of the community in schools.</li> <li>• Build a male mentoring program into schools to educate young men.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government has committed \$5 million over four years to establish a pilot volunteer mentoring program. This program will give recently retired professionals and tradespeople the chance to pass on their knowledge and skills to secondary students in Australian schools. Grants of up to \$50,000 each year will be available to 25 communities on a competitive basis to establish the pilot program through existing Local Community Partnerships. Funding will meet training and associated costs for mentors.</p> <p>The states and territories also have a range of programs in this area.</p>
<p><b>Skills Development</b></p> <p>Also raised by: Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide free access to vocational education and training programs for every unemployed person.</li> <li>• Expand scholarship schemes to cover further education and other accredited training for remote, rural and regional students, trainees and apprentices.</li> <li>• Provide a well-trained and well-resourced workforce. Address ageing workforce, lack of skills, lack of parity in wages – for example, mining versus community sector.</li> </ul>	<p>Agree in-principle. As part of its Skilling Australia for the Future initiative, the Government is funding an additional 711,000 training places over five years, including 85,000 apprenticeship places and 309,000 training places for jobseekers who need training to assist them in participating in the labour force. The most recent expansion, announced 24 February 2009, provides 10,000 additional places to assist newly retrenched workers to access training.</p> <p>The Government's Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan included a \$511 million Training and Learning Bonus. The Bonus has two components. First, it provides a one-off bonus of \$950 to students and to certain other income support recipients to assist with education costs for the 2009 academic year. Second, it provides a temporary additional incentive for eligible social security recipients to return to education and training. This incentive is in the form of a \$950 temporary supplement to the Education Entry Payment, which provides financial assistance to commence approved training and education courses.</p> <p>In addition from 1 July 2009, an additional 3,650 pre-vocational training and support places will be provided to young people aged 19–24 years through the Australian Apprenticeships Access Program. The \$30.2 million expansion of the program will support at-risk jobseekers to pursue apprenticeships or training.</p>

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<b>Workforce Participation – Employment Services Arrangements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop compact agreements, underpinned by goals and targets, between employers, government and community enterprises to support the unemployed into jobs and housing.</li> </ul>	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government will introduce simpler and more effective employment services arrangements from July 2009. The new services will provide opportunities for job seekers to train in areas of skill shortage. There will also be a greater emphasis on helping employers find work-ready job seekers.</p> <p>In addition, the Australian Employment Covenant (AEC) is an example of a commitment between employers and government to assist Indigenous Australians into jobs. The Prime Minister pledged the Government's support to the AEC, a private sector initiative announced by the CEO of Fortescue Metals Group, Mr Andrew Forrest.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p><b>Workforce Participation – National Employment Standards</b></p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulate the labour market for all workers, without artificial concepts of master-servant. Industrial relations regulation is based on legal concepts that are no longer relevant and does not fit the shape of the labour market of today (e.g., independent contractors).</li> <li>Rostered-day-off time should be banked for parents to take a day off when the family needs it.</li> </ul>	<p>The Parliament has passed legislation introduced by the Government to create a new workplace relations system. The Fair Work Act 2009 broadly deals with the proposed ideas. Legislation preventing the making of new Australian Workplace Agreements commenced in March 2008. The Fair Work Act provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A safety net of ten legislated National Employment Standards for all employees in the national system including the facilitation of flexible working arrangements by providing parents with right to request a change to working arrangements where they have a child under school age or child with a disability under the age of 18</li> <li>A simple modern award system that provides flexibility and stability and industry specific terms and conditions. Modern awards also include a provision which enables the tailoring of working arrangements to meet the needs of employers and employees through individual flexibility agreements</li> <li>An enterprise-level collective bargaining system focused on promoting productivity</li> <li>Unfair dismissal laws, which balance the rights of employees to be protected from unfair dismissal with the need for employers, particularly small business, to fairly and efficiently manage their workforces</li> <li>A new institutional framework comprising, Fair Work Australia, (the new independent umpire to oversee the new workplace relations system) and the Fair Work Ombudsman to provide practical information and advice and ensure compliance with workplace laws</li> </ul>
<p><b>Workforce Participation – Older People</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage older people to rejoin the workforce, particularly to address skill shortages and gaps.</li> </ul>	<p>Agree. Australians who retire after a lifetime of work have earned the right to spend the remainder of their lives in leisure should they wish to do so. However, many retirees do not want to give up working completely.</p> <p>The Government has established a Participation Taskforce to look at ways to increase workforce participation and training opportunities for people over 55 years and for parents.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<b>Migrants and Asylum Seekers – Resettlement Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resettlement strategies for refugees should be comprehensive, long term and integrated, should include delivery of services from local communities and should recognise our shared humanity and international obligations.</li> </ul>	<p>There are three Government resettlement strategies in place – the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy, a Complex Case Support program (commenced nationally in October 2008) and a Settlement Grants Program. The Government will ensure that these programs provide the best possible settlement experience for migrants, particularly refugee and humanitarian entrants.</p>
<b>Sustainable Cities</b>  Also raised by: Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead a nationally consistent approach to urban and regional planning which drives water efficiency and reductions in emissions; i.e. a National Sustainable Cities Program .This could be supported by the implementation of tax and other policies that encourage the use of public transport relative to other modes of transport.</li> <li>Development of an urban design strategy for all towns and cities, including physical infrastructure, that would encourage social connectedness.</li> <li>Rethink urban design to encourage social connectedness.</li> <li>National Sustainable Cities Program – water efficiency.</li> <li>Undertake a national agenda to plan for cities and population through establishment of a planning commission type organisation that sets goals and targets for cities.</li> </ul>	<p>Agree in-principle. The Government is providing urban planning policy leadership through the creation of the Major Cities Unit within the Infrastructure portfolio, announced on 30 April 2008. This Unit's task is to identify opportunities where federal leadership can make a difference to the prosperity and sustainability of our cities and the wellbeing of their residents.</p> <p>The Water for the Future initiative and COAG's further work on urban water, water efficiency and sustainable buildings are also addressing this issue. In November 2008, COAG agreed to the adoption of the enhanced national urban water reform framework to improve the security of urban water supplies.</p> <p>Australia's Future Tax System Review will also consider the issues of fuel, roads and transport, including the efficiency of existing taxes. It will explore possible opportunities to move to more targeted taxes and user charges that promote the efficient use of transport networks.</p>
<b>Community Safety – CyberSmart</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teach 'cybersafety' to families, to ensure that children are safe when online. Have a CyberSmart program in schools.</li> </ul>	<p>Agree. The Government is committed to combating online threats and protecting children from inappropriate material, and is providing \$125.8 million over four years to establish the Cyber Safety Plan.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p><b>Community Engagement</b></p> <p>Also raised by: Governance Economy Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define social citizenship and promote it – active, responsible social citizens, including organisations, not just individuals.</li> <li>• Establish a Charter of Community Engagement (similar to a Charter of Human Rights).</li> <li>• Establish an Office of Social Innovation and a Charter of Community Engagement. The office would have equal government, corporate and non-profit funding, and its first task would be to develop a Charter of Community Engagement to outline how the government goes about engaging with the community in the process of developing and delivering public policy. This would include an agreement to take a national approach to community facilitation.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government agrees with the idea of enhancing community engagement. The Government's approach is to trial different and innovative mechanisms and draw on specific suggestions across several streams in that context.</p> <p>For example the Government is committed to developing practical initiatives in e-governance that increase the communities' ability to interact with the parliament and the policy development processes of government.</p> <p>The Government is also considering holding a set of forums that will bring together experts, business and community representatives and others.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Governance Stream.</i></p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p><b>Values and Civic Education</b></p> <p>Also raised by: Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modify curricula from kindergarten to postgraduate education to include civic and moral education and engagement, social values and social inclusion in the education system which will ensure children are exposed to diverse value systems, other cultures and levels of disadvantage, with a specific focus on Indigenous issues.</li> <li>• Develop greater inclusion strategies at school to reduce exclusion and racism.</li> <li>• Provide active citizenship training as a universal component of primary and secondary school curricula and available to the broader community.</li> <li>• Incorporate active citizenship education as part of the school curriculum.</li> <li>• Develop and implement a national civics curriculum.</li> <li>• Establish a forum or audit to identify good practices and programs on values in Australia and internationally, using these to develop national programs.</li> <li>• Hold a national ethics and values convention every ten years or so to converse about our national key values.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government agrees with the importance of informed community discussion and education regarding Australian values.</p> <p>Through the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians (released on 5 December 2008), the Government – along with state and territory governments – has agreed to work in collaboration with all school sectors to support all young Australians to become active and informed citizens.</p> <p>The development of a national history curriculum will also provide significant opportunities for Australian students to access civics and citizenship education. The national history curriculum is being progressed by the Interim National Curriculum Board. Once operational, the national history curriculum will be developed by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority.</p> <p>The annual National Values Education Forum allows governments and the education community to engage in discussion about and develop best practices for values education.</p> <p>The Australian Human Rights Commission plays an important role in educating and raising awareness about racism, racial vilification and harassment. The Commission delivers a range of educational programs that are specifically developed for young people.</p> <p>The Government indicated in its November 2008 response to an independent review of the Australian Citizenship Test that work is underway on a whole-of-government approach to the promotion of civics and citizenship in the general community.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p data-bbox="240 349 414 495"><b>Urban Sustainability – National Energy Efficiency Strategy</b></p> <p data-bbox="240 528 414 584">Also raised by: Sustainability</p>	<ul data-bbox="451 349 895 1055" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce an energy efficiency strategy for every sector (leveraging our natural advantages – at low cost).</li> <li>• Climate-proof low-income households – for example using compact fluorescent light globes, low-flow shower roses, and home energy audits.</li> <li>• Include specific measures in climate change strategies to support low-income households to adjust (for example, funding for household modifications). Take a methodical approach to rolling this out locally (for example, house-to-house approach, tradespeople going street by street) and increase local employment and opportunities for community enterprises to implement this.</li> <li>• Include the agriculture and energy sectors (high-emission sectors), with all buildings to be green by 2020 and flow-ons to all other parts of the economy.</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="917 349 1353 667">In October 2008, COAG agreed to develop a National Strategy for Energy Efficiency to help households and businesses prepare for the introduction of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. The strategy includes options for the development of national legislation for appliance energy performance standards to reduce transaction costs for business. The Government is considering further action in this area.</p> <p data-bbox="917 685 1334 853">The Government’s Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme White Paper sets out a new package of financial assistance for Australian households worth around \$6 billion a year to be funded from the sale of carbon pollution permits</p> <p data-bbox="917 871 1331 1099">In addition, the \$3.9 billion Energy Efficient Homes Package will provide up to \$1,600 for installing ceiling insulation for Australian home owner occupiers and \$1,000 for installing insulation in private rental properties. This package will result in ceiling insulation for around 2.7 million homes.</p>

## Ideas the Government will consider further

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<b>Social Inclusion – Communication Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide government funding for independent organisations to monitor and promote media coverage of positive community and social issues and strong images of diversity in Australia.</li> <li>• Establish media awards to recognise responsible reporting – an existing example is the Eva awards around preventing violence through the media – particularly in promoting responsible reporting for children and in children’s programs.</li> <li>• Engage with the media to profile socially inclusive values and diversity.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government has established the Australian Social Inclusion Board which is currently considering this issue in the context of promoting social inclusion throughout Australia. A broader communications strategy for social inclusion is currently under development.</p> <p>The Australian Communications and Media Authority oversees broadcasting codes of practice to ensure these reflect community standards and contain appropriate safeguards.</p>
<b>National Diversity Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a National Diversity Plan that is supported by the National Development Index and is influenced by the results of the index. The plan should focus on workforce shortages and challenges.</li> <li>• Develop a National Diversity Plan, supported by a National Development Index. The Australian government would be held accountable to and report against this index.</li> <li>• Government has to model encouragement of diversity. Politicians and the media should speak responsibly about minority communities and the positive contributions of minority communities (not integration), and children need to learn other languages and about the contribution of other cultures to Australia.</li> <li>• Government should model good practice in social inclusion and diversity. Apply a social inclusion test to all policy.</li> </ul>	<p>The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion will address some of the objectives of a National Diversity Plan.</p> <p>The Government delivers a range of initiatives that focus specifically on languages and cultural education, including the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP). The Government will continue to consider the potential of further programs aimed at improving wider cultural understanding.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p><b>Community Corps – Support for Volunteer Work</b></p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity Rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a new form of national service for young people to travel through the country, visiting a variety of places and performing some sort of community service while in that location.</li> <li>Allow community service to reduce a person's HECS/HELP debt.</li> <li>Allow tertiary graduates to have their higher education loan debts reduced by seeking voluntary or paid employment in remote, rural and regional areas.</li> </ul>	<p>The Australian volunteering spirit is one of our biggest strengths and we need to foster, promote and recognise it.</p> <p>The government is not currently proposing either a new form of national service or reductions in higher education debts and notes that both proposals would be likely to have significant resource implications for government. That said, it considers that these options do have merit and will take them into account when further developing proposals to boost the volunteer sector.</p> <p>Job Services Australia (which will replace Job Network from 1 July 2009) has a work experience stream and will encourage job seekers to participate in volunteer and other community work to build their work skills.</p>
<p><b>Children and Young People – Children at Risk</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop early intervention strategies at key transition points, including adolescence and early childhood. Focus on engaging the community in these strategies.</li> <li>Conduct an early intervention policy drive.</li> <li>Ensure that young people have appropriate representation so that they don't fall behind.</li> <li>Sponsor interventions and assistance from an education viewpoint for young people at risk or of disadvantaged background. Use aged and retired workforce as mentors to support this.</li> </ul>	<p>Children at greatest risk of long-term disadvantage have been identified as an early priority group under the Government's social inclusion agenda. Measures to address and prevent the disadvantages experienced by these children are being developed through a number of strategies, including the Government's National Early Childhood Development Strategy, National Child Protection Framework for Protecting Australia's Children and its National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children.</p>
<p><b>Families – Health and Learning Passport</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create an 'education passport' or 'health and learning passport' for parents, outlining what children need from a developmental perspective at each milestone. This could be similar to the current Immunisation Passport but provide more detailed information covering broader issues facing parents with young children, including practical, tangible advice for parents.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government is investigating a range of support tools for parents, including a Health and Learning Passport to support parents in identifying early any issues with their child's development.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p><b>Indigenous Languages in School</b></p> <p>Also raised by: Indigenous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teach Indigenous languages in schools, including in the early school years.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government provides funding to the government school sector through the National Education Agreement and the non-government school sector through the Schools Assistance Act 2008 to support languages education, including Indigenous language learning, at all levels of schooling from kindergarten to Year 12. The teaching of Indigenous languages in schools is included in some state and territory programs. Further review of the success of different local approaches to Indigenous language programs may be considered in the future.</p> <p>The Government also recognises the importance of fluency and proficiency in English for Indigenous children and is pursuing basic literacy objectives as a first step.</p>
<p><b>Parents Skills Training</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide training for parents. The current focus of programs is on birth, not on parenting. The training should be post-natal: ante-natal does not work. Also, develop a mentoring system, rather than just mothers' groups, especially since the extended family is generally not around.</li> </ul>	<p>All Australian governments provide a range of services to assist parents in bringing up children, from birth to early childhood to adolescence. The type of support available ranges from interactive web materials and DVDs to face-to-face services and education.</p> <p>Parenting support is central to early childhood development, one of the Government's priorities, and the issue will be considered in developing the National Strategy on Early Childhood Development for COAG consideration.</p> <p>Other initiatives include 35 Children and Family Centres to be established with states and territories across Australia to deliver integrated services that offer early learning, child care and family support programs in areas with a substantial Indigenous populations and high disadvantage. These form part of the Council of Australian Governments' Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership, agreed in October 2008.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<b>Family – Family Law Reform</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review family law legislation on 50–50 shared care because this is too philosophical.</li> <li>Parents and children should be given back the boundaries of the family unit, to be able to work through family problems without the ‘law’ being used as ammunition.</li> <li>Recognise all families and their diversity, not privilege one type over another, change the <i>Family Law Act</i>, and recognise the rights of children.</li> <li>Develop an alternative to the Family Court system for children’s issues.</li> </ul>	<p>The Australian Institute of Family Studies is conducting an extensive evaluation to assess the legal aspects of the recent family law reforms, the role of new services in achieving the objectives of the reforms, and the impact of the reforms on Australian families.</p> <p>The Inaugural Family Law System Conference was held on 19–20 February 2009. One of the conference’s agenda items was research into priorities for the family law system.</p> <p>Further, on 20 November 2008, the Attorney-General released a report and discussion paper for public consultation on improvements to the delivery of family law services by Australia’s federal courts.</p>
<b>Families – Baby Bonus Incentives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The baby bonus to be targeted to the outcome government is trying to address – for example, providing the bonus as assistance with education expenses.</li> </ul>	<p>The Baby Bonus will be considered in the context of the review of the taxation system, Australia’s Future Tax System.</p>
<b>National Indigenous Cultural Education Scheme</b>  <b>Also raised by: Indigenous Creativity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a mentor system based on the role elders play in Indigenous communities.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government supports developing cultural understanding and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, as well as the important role that elders play in Indigenous education.</p> <p>In consultation with the Indigenous community, the Government will further consider how to best progress the role of Indigenous cultural education as a future phase of the Closing the Gap strategy – once the first phase of policy priorities in health, education and economic development has been completed.</p> <p><i>The full list of related ideas can be found in the Indigenous Stream.</i></p>
<b>Older Australians</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop age-friendly communities.</li> <li>Recognise that the ageing of the population by 2020 has been overlooked.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government recognises the challenges posed by Australia’s ageing population and examines the economic and social implications of an ageing population every five years in an Intergenerational Report.</p> <p>The <i>Age Discrimination Act 2004</i> also promotes age friendly communities by making it clear that discrimination on the basis of a person’s age is unlawful. The Australian Human Rights Commission also plays a role in raising awareness and educating the community about age discrimination, and assisting in fostering age-friendly communities.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<b>Support for Carers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carers should be given additional support, including economic and social supports.</li> <li>• Provide scholarships for principal carers to obtain a management qualification after having children.</li> <li>• People who have multiple caring responsibilities are often not recognised and should gain added support.</li> <li>• Families who care for family members should not be isolated economically and socially because they care.</li> </ul>	<p>The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth is conducting an inquiry into better support for carers. The ideas raised in the 2020 Summit relating to carers fall within the scope of the matters being considered as part of the inquiry.</p>
<b>Disability – Life Long Care Catastrophic Insurance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a National Disability Insurance Scheme, similar to a superannuation scheme, to support the families of people with brain injury from birth or from non-insured accidents.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government will consider the development of an insurance model to meet the costs of long term care for people with disabilities in conjunction with the development of the National Disability Strategy.</p>
<b>Productivity Commission Inquiry into Gambling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the damage caused by problem gambling.</li> </ul>	<p>The Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministerial Council on Gambling is developing a national approach to address problem gambling.</p> <p>COAG has requested the Productivity Commission to update its inquiry into problem gambling carried out in 1999. The Productivity Commission inquiry commenced on 24 November 2008.</p>
<b>Centralised Service Delivery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Services Australia – a street-level one-stop shop with integrated governance.</li> <li>• A single national office for the third sector – a regulatory regime to create a single entry point for all organisations.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government is considering service delivery reforms, including whether there is merit to developing a centralised website or single coordinating body to facilitate a one-stop-shop for information on government services.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<b>Service Delivery – Community Hubs/Centres</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish community hubs as one-stop shops for all services and establish networks of hubs.</li> <li>• Establish services hubs which are well-funded, holistic and integrated, building on existing services, supporting local community actions and providing a possible role for philanthropy.</li> <li>• Invest in local community initiatives including: creating social infrastructure in local communities, building local community capacity, and establishing a network of community hubs in the most disadvantaged communities.</li> <li>• Provide community infrastructure to create centres for community life.</li> <li>• A community hub could be provided for older people in community; for example, cook extra meal in the family for an older person; establishing a neighbourhood framework. Communities begin to care for self and all in it. This could be staffed by volunteers.</li> <li>• Support the Prime Minister’s idea of children’s one-stop centres, such as those in South Australia. These are hubs of education and care and can include mentoring as well as both acute and secondary services and preventive programs.</li> </ul>	<p>There are a number of existing examples of community hubs that have had some success and that could be used as a model for service delivery, volunteering and engagement. The Government is considering undertaking a review of community hubs and whether additional pilot projects should be considered.</p>
<b>Strengthening Local Government – Code of Practice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local government should be strengthened as the closest tier of government to the community, to act on ideas to strengthen community participation.</li> <li>• Develop a code of practice for local governments: the grass roots are reliant on how local government community engagement happens.</li> <li>• Develop national codes of practice, so that local government organisations can share best practice and overcome inconsistencies.</li> </ul>	<p>Local Government is being strengthened in Australia. The first meeting of the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) was held in November 2008. The Government has announced that an ongoing ACLG will meet several times a year as a forum for direct contact between the Commonwealth and local governments. An all-mayors meeting of the ACLG will occur annually and a combined meeting of the ACLG and the Local Government and Planning Ministers’ Council will also take place once a year.</p> <p>At the ACLG meeting the Australian Government also committed to the establishment of the Local Government Centre of Excellence. The Centre will improve workforce capability in local government, facilitate the sharing of good practice and promote innovation. The Centre will complement other training initiatives aimed at enhancing the professionalism and capability of this tier of government.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p data-bbox="240 349 384 434"><b>National Development Index</b></p> <p data-bbox="240 465 395 524">Also raised by: Economy</p>	<p data-bbox="451 349 852 434">There were a range of ideas to create a national development index or national balanced score card that:</p> <ul data-bbox="451 450 884 1312" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="451 450 858 535">• Focuses on the economy, people, the environment, culture, innovation and governance</li> <li data-bbox="451 551 874 689">• Measures progress against social inclusion based on economic, social and environmental measures. Federal budget papers should report annually on progress</li> <li data-bbox="451 705 879 1025">• Contains social inclusion indicators – with social, economic and environmental measures and the publication of a government report with the budget each year to measure progress. Consider voluntary reporting by other organisations on the index as well. Government should model good practice in social inclusion and diversity. Apply a social inclusion test to all policy</li> <li data-bbox="451 1041 884 1155">• Has three streams – economic, social and environmental development – as measures of progress rather than GDP. It may include sub-indices</li> <li data-bbox="451 1171 879 1312">• Develops social inclusion performance indicators to measure progress, particularly child social inclusion indicators such as literacy and numeracy benchmarks.</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="922 349 1342 524">The Government is considering expanding the use of national indicators of development and ensuring consistency between the performance measures and indicators that are used across various levels of government.</p> <p data-bbox="922 539 1337 768">The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) already publishes a range of relevant reports, including Measures of Australia's Progress. Further work could be done to enhance areas of these reports and engage the community in discussion about what is important to Australia's progress and development.</p> <p data-bbox="922 784 1337 958">The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion will include reporting on a suite of indicators to show the nature and extent of social inclusion in Australia as well as how to best measure progress in achieving social inclusion goals.</p> <p data-bbox="922 974 1294 1113">The Government is also looking into the establishment of a set of national environmental accounts. This will need to consider existing accounting mechanisms including:</p> <ul data-bbox="922 1128 1337 1382" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="922 1128 1257 1187">• The National Greenhouse Gas inventory</li> <li data-bbox="922 1202 1289 1283">• The new National Water Account maintained by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)</li> <li data-bbox="922 1299 1294 1382">• Water, energy and emissions, and other environmental accounts developed and published by the ABS.</li> </ul>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p data-bbox="237 344 384 465"><b>Third Sector Reform / Working with Government</b></p> <p data-bbox="237 495 397 551">Also raised by: Governance</p>	<ul data-bbox="453 344 884 2033" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove constraints on community organisations and reduce regulation in funding agreements.</li> <li>• A regulatory framework for the non-profit sector.</li> <li>• Ensure money is spent according to intent.</li> <li>• Take a whole-of-organisation approach to funding.</li> <li>• Review government governance structures for the community sector. The review would examine how government works with itself, within and across departments, as well as how accountability works within government.</li> <li>• Hold a government inquiry into the needs of the sector, looking at competition policy, and so on</li> <li>• Streamline governance in the community sector.</li> <li>• Create a national standards framework, including an alignment of rules, regulations and standards on charitable organisation across the jurisdictions.</li> <li>• National Coordinating Body for the community sector to create a new way of working with government at all levels. This would not necessarily be run by one group.</li> <li>• Set up a 'social stock exchange' that allows small organisations to opt in (that is, become 'listed') and subject to the rules (for example, standards).</li> <li>• Recognising the importance of the non-government, or third, sector in public policy development and governance and protecting and promoting policy advocacy – for example, removal of taxation roadblocks and reform of charity law.</li> <li>• Tax incentives for companies to participate in social inclusion strategies – for example, employing homeless people or the long term unemployed.</li> <li>• Provide tax incentives for businesses to support the social inclusion agenda.</li> <li>• Provide tax deductions for volunteering in a mentoring program.</li> <li>• Encourage social investment funds-sharing responsibility between government, corporate and individual philanthropists (for example, through grants or tax deductions).</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="916 344 1351 580">The Government recognises the important role of the third sector within the Australian community and is committed to building a strong and sustainable sector. The Government is considering strategies to this effect, one of which is a national compact between the Australian Government and the sector.</p> <p data-bbox="916 591 1331 768">It is anticipated that a national compact would take the form of an agreement between the Australian Government and the third sector that outlines how the two will work together to improve and strengthen their relationship.</p> <p data-bbox="916 779 1347 956">The Government will work closely with the third sector to progress the development of a national compact in 2009. It is expected that key governance and structural issues will be addressed in that compact.</p> <p data-bbox="916 967 1351 1346">The Government will also consider broader reform, including reforms to the way the sector is regulated, in light of the findings of ongoing reviews. For example, the Minister for Finance and Deregulation is examining ways of reducing red tape across Commonwealth grants, which would assist the not-for-profit sector. Philanthropic tax incentives fall within the broad scope of the current review of the Australian taxation system, Australia's Future Tax System, which will report to the Government by the end of 2009.</p> <p data-bbox="916 1357 1351 1444">There are many other existing initiatives in this area under the states and territories, and philanthropic organisations.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p><b>Third Sector Reform / Innovation and Partnerships</b></p> <p>Also raised by: Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reform the way the Government funds community organisations to ensure their viability.</li> <li>• Longer term, secure funding for non-government organisations, in fewer funding streams, with greater flexibility and responsiveness, and with support from the corporate sector.</li> <li>• National coordinating body for families and communities.</li> <li>• Create incentives for organisations to create innovative ideas for community sector work: could be a research and development social investment fund.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a social investment fund by corporate and voluntary individuals, matched dollar for dollar by government, to fund innovative social inclusion programs.</li> <li>• Hold the corporate sector responsible for the community and set them up as mentors to community-based organisations.</li> <li>• Encourage partnership arrangements between private enterprise, government and the community sector to support social inclusion.</li> <li>• Promote corporate social responsibility.</li> <li>• Conduct a national promotion of Workplace Giving.</li> <li>• Encouragement of volunteering.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government is considering wider incentives and strategies for corporate philanthropy, and is considering the input provided by the Australia 2020 Summit in that context.</p> <p>The Government is also considering the development of a national volunteering strategy.</p> <p>Through the \$650 million Jobs Fund, the Government will support local jobs, build skills and improve facilities in local communities through investment in community projects and local infrastructure that will also create immediate jobs in communities affected by the global economic downturn and assist in providing start-up capital for innovative social enterprises.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p><b>Third Sector Reform / Building a Strong and Sustainable Third Sector</b></p> <p>Also raised by: Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop national workforce attraction and retention strategies for the community sector to build a sustainable sector.</li> <li>• Establish a Community Service Commission (like a Productivity Commission) that assesses and lays out plans for the community sector.</li> <li>• Provide additional support for the community sector to build capacity to deliver on the social inclusion agenda.</li> <li>• Develop a community service national attraction and retention workforce strategy.</li> <li>• A new, national approach to community facilitation, with funds to train facilitators with specialised skills in consulting and engaging with the community so that they can help extrapolate what the community is seeking.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government recognises the important role of the third sector within the Australian community and is committed to building a strong and sustainable sector. The Government is considering strategies to this effect, one of which is a national compact between the Australian Government and the sector.</p> <p>It is anticipated that one of the objectives of a national compact will be to enhance the capacity of the sector to deliver efficient and effective services, thereby increasing capacity to evolve to meet changing and complex community needs.</p> <p>On 17 March 2009, the Government commissioned the Productivity Commission to undertake a study into the contributions of the not for profit sector with a focus on improving measurement of the sector's contributions and removing obstacles to maximising contribution to society.</p> <p>In addition, a Community Response Task Force has recently been established to help the non-profit sector work directly with Government regarding the impact of the Global Financial Crisis on vulnerable Australians.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p><b>Workforce Participation – Paid Maternity Leave</b></p> <p>Also raised by: Productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce a national, paid maternity leave scheme to operate alongside expanded access to early childhood care as a whole package to promote workforce participation.</li> <li>• Consider system-wide improvements to early childhood and schooling, including paid maternity leave.</li> <li>• Provide paid leave for parents and carers.</li> <li>• Twelve months' paid parental leave, three months' quarantined for mother, one month for father. Increase the opportunity for parents to be on parental leave at the same time.</li> <li>• Provide a minimum payment for one parent to stay at home, because two incomes are needed to buy a home.</li> <li>• Provide 12 months paid parental leave for all parents. France does this for three years.</li> <li>• Provide 24 weeks of paid, universal parental leave.</li> <li>• Encourage workplace flexibility.</li> <li>• Implement flexible working strategies for families and the community sector.</li> <li>• Provide a tax incentive if parents choose to remain at home rather than work.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government asked the Productivity Commission to examine ways the Government can improve support to parents with newborn children specifically in the area of paid maternity, paternity and parental leave. The final report was provided to the Government on 2 March 2009. The Government is considering its response.</p> <p>The National Employment Standards due to commence on 1 January 2010 will entitle full-time employees to 10 days of paid personal/carer's leave each year (pro-rated for part-time employees). These standards will not limit the amount of accrued paid carer's leave that an employee may take each year as is currently the case.</p> <p>The Government will also provide \$12 million over the next three years to encourage small businesses to pursue practices that help employees to balance their work and family obligations.</p>
<p><b>Workforce Participation – Micro-finance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A micro-finance foundation to support disadvantaged groups in the establishment of their own business.</li> <li>• Establish a micro-finance scheme in the form of an investment capital fund to help disadvantaged people set up small business.</li> <li>• Encourage companies and corporations to support a micro-finance scheme to create employment opportunities for marginalised people.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government supports these initiatives through the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (DEEWR/Centrelink) and by providing \$42 million in support to community Business Enterprise Centres. The Government's 2008 Economic Security package includes an additional \$4 million in support for small business as part of the response to the financial crisis.</p> <p>A range of micro-finance products are already being supported and further developed by business.</p> <p>The Government recognises that further investigation is needed to ensure micro-finance is meeting the needs of disadvantaged groups. The Government is considering further work in this area.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p><b>Support for Philanthropy and Giving</b></p> <p>Also raised by: Rural</p>	<p><b>Change taxation laws in relation to philanthropy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change the Australian Taxation Office ruling on deductible gift recipient status. This should include prevention of poverty as well as relief of poverty to give smaller community non-profit organisations the chance to benefit from philanthropy.</li> <li>• The definition of charity should be expanded to increase access to benefits.</li> <li>• Tax incentives for companies to participate in social inclusion strategies – for example, employing homeless people or the long term unemployed.</li> <li>• Provide tax incentives for businesses to support the social inclusion agenda.</li> <li>• Provide tax deductions for volunteering in a mentoring program.</li> <li>• Encourage social investment funds-sharing responsibility between government, corporate and individual philanthropists (for example, through grants or tax deductions).</li> </ul> <p><b>Other support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a social investment fund by corporate and voluntary individuals, matched dollar for dollar by government, to fund innovative social inclusion programs.</li> <li>• Hold the corporate sector responsible for the community and set them up as mentors to community-based organisations.</li> <li>• Encourage partnership arrangements between private enterprise, government and the community sector to support social inclusion.</li> <li>• Promote corporate social responsibility.</li> <li>• Conduct a national promotion of Workplace Giving.</li> <li>• Establish a corporate community insurance scheme or ‘community chest’ strategy. This would leverage economic activity to community building, including a Life Be In It style campaign to encourage workplace giving. This would also include broadly applied tax incentives for social inclusion activities and for businesses that employ homeless people.</li> <li>• Encouragement of volunteering.</li> </ul>	<p>Philanthropic tax incentives fall within the broad scope of the current review of the Australian taxation system, Australia’s Future Tax System, which will report to the Government by the end of 2009.</p> <p>The Government is considering wider incentives and strategies for corporate philanthropy, and is considering the input provided by the Australia 2020 Summit in that context.</p> <p>The Government is also considering the development of a national volunteering strategy.</p> <p>Job Services Australia (which will replace Job Network from 1 July 2009) has a work experience stream and will encourage job seekers to participate in volunteer and other community work to build their work skills.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<b>Supporting victims of crime</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giving victims of violence and sexual abuse choice and control (court system, restorative justice, mediation, counselling).</li> <li>• Restore the value of the victims and the perpetrators of sexual abuse, so both don't get locked in denial and power.</li> <li>• Give victims choice in how they resolve their issues beyond the adversarial court model—for example, restorative justice, mediate safe resolution, counselling for male and female victims.</li> </ul>	<p>There is a role for governments in ensuring the fair treatment of victims of crime. While the states and territories have primary responsibility in this area, the Minister for Home Affairs is considering best practice approaches with respect to victims' rights with counterparts through the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General.</p>
<b>Social Inclusion – Risk Identification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively assist the many who are hidden, who think they are doing OK but in reality are not.</li> </ul>	<p>The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion may consider the issues around identification of individuals at risk.</p>

## Ideas others may progress

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<b>Social Inclusion – Local Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage language and cultural respect programs and local inter-faith fora, especially to help new migrant groups and emerging faith groups to share their values and feel less isolated, as well as to preserve their identities.</li> <li>• Run citizenship workshops in local communities to bring alive the idea of social inclusion and citizenship in local areas.</li> <li>• Encourage communities to start work.</li> </ul>	These strategies are best led by local government or the local community, as they know most about the unique requirements of each community.
<b>Neighbourhoods and Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbourhood Buddies.</li> <li>• Instigate a campaign to ‘wipe out’ fences from suburbs and a program to bring back the neighbourhood.</li> <li>• Induct ‘community mentors’ through registered courses and set up a database.</li> </ul>	Initiatives of this kind are most effectively managed by state, territory or local governments, and by community organisations in relation to individual communities.
<b>Young people – Youth support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring young people into organisations to learn skills that can later be contributed to non-government organisations.</li> <li>• Run two-week camps for young people (aged 15+) in disadvantaged communities. (There was disagreement on this idea because some communities are not safe.)</li> <li>• Provide special support services specifically for children, including 24-hour youth centres and safe places to escape violence and sexual abuse.</li> </ul>	Initiatives of this kind are most effectively implemented by state and territory governments, local governments or community organisations based on local needs. The Australian Government plays a key role in coordinating youth strategies and initiatives through the newly established Office for Youth.
<b>Corporate Social Responsibility – Frequent Flyers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change frequent flyer programs to allow contributions to non-profit organisations (philanthropy).</li> </ul>	This is not an area for government intervention, but could be pursued by private entities providing reward schemes.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<b>Corrective System</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish programs for young offenders across a range of industries, such as the automotive industry, where cars are repaired and rebuilt by offenders and then are given to sole parents who have had their car stolen.</li> <li>Ensure that prisoners receive the education and trade skills needed to secure employment after their release from prison, as a way to reduce the number of re-offenders. A secure job needs to be available for each prisoner (with appropriate conditions), upon release from jail.</li> <li>Address institutionalised exclusion such as prisons: reinvest what is squandered in the formal justice system on inclusion programs.</li> </ul>	State and territory governments have responsibility for leading programs for the corrective system.
<b>Housing – Share Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boost share-housing as there are too many empty houses. For example, a house could be overseen by a central person but shared by a number of people.</li> </ul>	There are a range of private sector mechanisms that facilitate the sharing of houses, including online services and newspapers. State, territory and local governments that provide emergency or public housing could also consider the use of increased share housing. However, it is not clear that consumers would accept the involvement of governments in this area, which has traditionally been left to individual choice.
<b>Housing – Rent-to-Own Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce a rent-to-own scheme that will enable families to own a home.</li> </ul>	Some states already operate rent-to-buy schemes within public housing programs, which allow public housing tenants to purchase their homes.
<b>Leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a national leadership learning agenda, with certificates and diplomas in leadership to train people to harness ideas and energy in community.</li> <li>Private sector and business sector and community (plus individuals) coming together to define what leadership should look like across all sectors.</li> </ul>	There are already a significant number of leadership training programs in place in the private, community and academic sectors.
<b>Service Delivery – Mentoring in Community Organisations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish an organisation that develops and assists in mentoring across the sector.</li> </ul>	There are already a large number of mentoring programs in place within the community sector. The coordination and development of further mentoring programs could be best managed by the community. State or Local Governments may also be involved in coordinating access to the programs.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<b>Service Delivery – Provision of Community Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the Neighbourhood Watch program to run different programs and activities for households.</li> </ul>	Initiatives of this kind are currently most effectively managed by state, territory or local governments and community organisations.
<b>Service Provider Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trainers of family programs should have a competency-based framework – for example, for family violence, education.</li> </ul>	The Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council has a national competency framework.
<b>Indigenous Australians – Funeral Costs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close the gaps in Indigenous health and, until these gaps are closed, provide financial assistance to deal with funeral costs, as well as community support.</li> </ul>	The Government is committed to addressing Indigenous disadvantage and has adopted a range of strategies to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and provide more community support. State and territory governments provide support for funeral costs in certain instances.

## Ideas with no further action at this time

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<b>Social Inclusion – Management System</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design, build, test and implement a coordinated social inclusion management system (borrowing ideas from the business sector to drive social sector outcomes differently).</li> </ul>	<p>Social inclusion is highly valued by the Government, which has taken action to improve social inclusion across the Australian community. These actions have included the establishment of the Social Inclusion Unit in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the creation of the Australian Social Inclusion Board and the development of a National Action Plan for Social Inclusion. A broader management system is not being considered at this stage.</p>
<b>Social Inclusion – Impact Statements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government should recognise social inclusion as a first order issue fundamental to all Cabinet decisions and Government processes.</li> <li>A social inclusion impact statement or test should be applied to all proposed policies to prevent social exclusion. A possible test would be whether the community is strengthened by the policy.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government has taken action to improve social inclusion across the Australian community. These actions have included: establishment of the Social Inclusion Unit in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the creation of the Australian Social Inclusion Board and the current development of a National Action Plan for Social Inclusion.</p> <p>At present, a Regulatory Impact Statement must be prepared for all major policy proposals to explicitly address stakeholder issues. All submissions that go before Cabinet now require a Family Impact Statement (FIS) addressing three priority areas, including the economic impact on family wellbeing, the impact on work and family balance and how proposals will affect children's health, development and general wellbeing. Adverse impacts on families in these three priority areas are addressed in the FIS.</p> <p>It is not clear that a separate statement would be beneficial and would significantly add to costs.</p>
<b>Social Inclusion Centre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a Centre for Social Inclusion.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government has taken action to improve social inclusion across the Australian community. These actions have included: establishment of the Social Inclusion Unit in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the creation of the Australian Social Inclusion Board and the current development of a National Action Plan for Social Inclusion. A Centre for Social Inclusion is not being considered at this stage.</p>
<b>Social Inclusion – Language</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change the rhetoric on 'working families'. Many non-working families are disenfranchised. The largest family type is single people.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government considers that all family types are important. The Government recognises all forms of families, including singles and same sex families.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<b>Same-Sex Couples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce same-sex civil unions.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government's policy on marriage reflects the widely held view in the community that marriage is between a man and a woman.</p> <p>The Government is also of the view that couples who have a mutual commitment to a shared life, but who are not married should not be discriminated against. One step towards eliminating discrimination against same-sex couples is for their relationships to be legally recognised. The most appropriate way to achieve this is by the development of nationally consistent, state-based relationship recognition that will include the opportunity for committed couples to have their relationships registered. As part of the Government's same-sex law reforms, registered relationships will also be recognised in many Commonwealth laws to provide a more consistent approach to the recognition of relationships.</p>
<b>Indigenous Australians – Native Title / Property Rights</b>  <b>Also raised by: Indigenous</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundamentally change property rights to allow for negotiation and establishment of structures for the recognition of prior ownership and future directions relating to native title.</li> <li>• Amend legislation to allow Indigenous communal ownership of land to be maintained.</li> <li>• Develop clear individual property rights in relation to homes and businesses.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government considers that negotiation is preferable to litigation in relation to native title matters and does not plan to fundamentally alter property rights. However, the Government has released a discussion paper which sought submissions on how to make better use of benefits that can flow to Indigenous Australians from native title agreements. The Government has also introduced a Bill into Parliament to bring about institutional changes to improve the operation of the native title system.</p>
<b>Older Australians – International Pension Arrangements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow financially disadvantaged aged-pension recipients to receive their Australian aged pension overseas, provided they are Australian citizens and have paid their taxes in Australia for a set number of years.</li> </ul>	<p>Australian citizens eligible for the aged pension are already able to receive their pensions while living overseas and more than 55,000 individuals currently claim their pensions this way. Australia also has international social security agreements in place with approximately 21 countries where pensioners could be eligible for benefits under both countries' schemes.</p>
<b>Older Australians – Levy to Support Pensioners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce a tax deductible 'fidelity levy', whereby all Australian workers pay 0.25 per cent of their incomes towards a pooled fund for financially disadvantaged pension-aged parents (assets tested.) Workers without living parents would pay a reduced levy.</li> </ul>	<p>Although the Government is not considering a levy at this time it is undertaking an investigation into measures that might be adopted to strengthen the financial security of seniors, carers and people with a disability. This forms part of the Government's wider enquiry into Australia's Future Tax System, which will consider improvements to the tax and transfer payment system.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<b>Families – National Family Action Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a National Family Action Plan, with the full breadth of services across all ages.</li> </ul>	A National Action Plan for Social Inclusion is being prepared by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments and community groups already deliver a wide range of family services. The Government has no current intention to prepare an action plan for families.
<b>Families – Family Law Reform</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents should be encouraged to stay together and share parenting duties by making divorce more difficult by law.</li> </ul>	The Government is not considering changing its current policy on no-fault divorce to make divorce more difficult.
<b>Families – Parenting Skills Training Incentives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give financial incentives to attend parenting classes, as parents will not attend if they are optional.</li> </ul>	The Government provides a number of initiatives to provide support, education and training for parents. It is not evident that there is a need for the Government to provide financial incentives for the attendance of parenting classes.
<b>Houses – First Home Owner Grant Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend the first homeowners grant. There are families in housing crisis who are a second family union. We should support families in need, even if purchasing their second house. Young people also need to be able to share ownership of housing.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government recently announced the First Home Owner Boost, under which first home buyers who purchase established homes have their grant doubled by \$7000 \$14,000. First home buyers who build a new home or purchase a newly constructed home will receive an extra \$14,000 to take their grant to \$21,000.</p> <p>The First Home Owner Grant scheme does not extend to the provision of grants to people purchasing their second house. The First Home Owners Grant is not the appropriate mechanism for addressing broader issues of families in housing crisis. Those purchasing a second home may have already been a beneficiary of the First Home Owner Grant scheme, may have made capital gains on the sale of a previous house, or may be able to leverage the equity within their first house to purchase a second house.</p>
<b>Housing – Funding for Homelessness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Withdraw from wars overseas and redirect funding to homeless people.</li> </ul>	The White Paper on homelessness sets out a ten year strategy to address homelessness in Australia. The Government's Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan includes funding of \$6.4 billion for social housing which will also contribute to achieving the targets set out in the White Paper. The Government's spending in other areas, including defence, is an unrelated issue.

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<b>Community Safety – Legalisation of Drugs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australia should legalise all drugs. This would reduce crime.</li> </ul>	<p>Legalising all drugs would be contrary to Government policy, which recognises the harmful impact of drug use on our community. It would also be inconsistent with Australia’s international obligations to combat illicit drug use, including our commitment under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.</p>
<b>Service Provision – Governance, Coordination and Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver solutions locally, and take work away from governments.</li> </ul>	<p>Government will address particular service requirements in different locations on a case by case basis.</p>
<b>Workforce Participation – Flexible Government Jobs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advertise every job in government as a flexible work arrangement to encourage conversation about why it would have to be full time for one person. Flexible work conditions for carers and parents, opportunity for re-skilling on return to workforce, encourage job sharing.</li> </ul>	<p>The Australian Government’s policy is to implement a workplace relations system, underpinned by a strong safety net, which allows employers and employees to negotiate working arrangements that best meets their individual needs.</p>
<b>Workforce Participation – Women in Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase representation of women in all management roles in society, including the not-for-profit sector.</li> </ul>	<p>This issue is already covered by the work of the Australian Human Rights Commission, which runs a number of initiatives to promote the role of women in the workforce generally and anti-discrimination. The <i>Sex Discrimination Act</i> makes it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of a person’s sex, pregnancy, potential pregnancy or family responsibilities in a wide range of employment areas. The Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency is responsible for encouraging women’s representation in the work force. There are also a range of community and private women’s leadership programs in place.</p> <p>The Australian Government Office for Women will continue to foster and support women to achieve leadership positions, including building the capacity of the non-government sector.</p>
<b>Campaign on Taxation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a campaign on what we do with tax to revive the concept of ‘the common good’, incorporating ideas such as why tax is good for the community, what we do with tax, and how it is used.</li> </ul>	<p>The Government does not plan to undertake a campaign in this area at this time.</p>

Topic	2020 proposed ideas	Government response
<p><b>Taxation – Preventative Health Taxes</b></p> <p>Also raised by: Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax hypothecation of cigarettes, alcohol and junk-food products to fund a national preventative health agency.</li> <li>• Establish a separate funding stream for prevention, funded by tax on alcohol, fat, and so on.</li> <li>• Fund a national preventative health agency through taxes on cigarettes, alcohol and junk food.</li> <li>• Volumetric tax on alcohol, with proceeds to go towards combating alcohol problems.</li> <li>• Volumetric taxation of alcohol with revenue to be used for services.</li> </ul>	<p>The ongoing review of Australia's tax system will consider taxes on consumption (except the GST) and is expected to consider the public health effects of certain taxation options, including options for the taxation of alcohol. In April 2008, the Government introduced measures to equalise taxes on spirits and spirit based products as part of its strategy to reduce binge drinking amongst young people.</p> <p>The Preventative Health Taskforce has invited comment on possible changes to taxation and excise in its discussion paper – Australia: the Healthiest Country by2020 – and will finalise its advice on these matters in the National Preventative Health Strategy, to be delivered in June 2009.</p> <p>Hypothecation of public health-related revenues to a specific agency is not under consideration as this would be unwieldy, inefficient and fail to allow for sufficient flexibility to adapt to changes in the future.</p>
<p><b>Corporate Social Responsibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce a levy on business – for example, 1 per cent of superannuation contributions and put the money into a social investment fund.</li> </ul>	<p>It is a matter for individuals and business to make contributions if they wish.</p>
<p><b>Support Households to Address Climate Change, Water, National Energy Efficiency – Universal Design</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all new buildings, houses and renovations are a universal design: retro-fit houses, including through the provision of incentives for landlords and owners for energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	<p>It is not planned to require all houses to be of universal design. Government has identified Universal Design in its public housing stock and through its new housing programs, the National Rental Affordability Scheme and the Housing Affordability Fund, as an area of priority for funding.</p> <p>Government supports work to make builders aware of Universal Design Principles and to consider them when planning new housing.</p> <p>A range of initiatives are already in place to encourage energy efficiency in homes. In particular, COAG has committed to developing a National Strategy for Energy Efficiency, to be implemented from June 2009.</p> <p>The Australian Government's new housing program, the National Rental Affordability Scheme and the Housing Affordability Fund require applicants for funding to outline the sustainability features of homes or proposals. The Government is looking to rate the sustainability features of new homes constructed with the assistance of these programs against the Housing Industry Association Greensmart checklist.</p>