



AUSTRALIA 2020 YOUTH SUMMIT COMMUNIQUÉ

Introduction

This communiqué captures the ideas and proposals developed by the 100 engaged, passionate, and diverse young Australians who attended the 2020 Youth Summit on 12th and 13th April 2008.

Amongst the 100 delegates were Indigenous Australians, refugees, migrants, and second, third, fourth or more generation Australians. There were young mothers, people with disabilities, exceptionally gifted students and young carers. The young people were of various faiths and cultures. They were from the country; they were from the city. They brought their voices, experiences and energy to the task of formulating a national vision for 2020.

The Summit itself was an historic step, allowing young people to shape our national agenda. We hope it marks the beginning of an ongoing dialogue between young Australians and their government and the continuing engagement of youth in meaningful and high-level decision-making.

This communiqué is a catalyst for discussion for delegates to the Australia 2020 Summit. It draws their attention to an 'agenda of priorities' determined by the Youth Summit. The proposals contained in the agenda are practical, tangible, and achievable. Appendix A contains the leading proposals as determined by the Youth Summit delegation. Appendix B contains another 30 well-developed ideas and proposals. Appendix C, which will be released at a later date, contains a list of other ideas submitted by delegates prior to and during the Youth Summit. As a whole, they testify to the potential and capacity of Australia's young people to shape our nation's future.

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Call to action

We call upon the youth of Australia to join us in meeting the challenges of our generation.

We recognise that to effectively deal with these challenges requires creative thinking and new ideas.

We have proposed a range of ideas that paint a picture of the future for all Australians.

Above all else we recognize that this is the start of a broader process, a process that will require the great ideas and input of all 2.8 million young Australians.

Vision for Australia in 2020 – Leading Proposals

Productivity Agenda - *education, skills, training, science and innovation*

Our vision is for a highly educated workforce, trained by skilled educators. A strong emphasis on equitable wealth distribution through facilitating employment opportunities will produce just outcomes and a strong economy. The efficient allocation of resources in a diverse economy and support for the up-skilling of all Australians, especially young people, will provide a strong foundation for the future.

Infrastructure – *economic infrastructure, the digital economy and the future of our cities*

Our vision is that technology is sustainable and accessible. Investment in new and innovative infrastructure, particularly data, will ensure equitable access for all Australians. Efficient transport and infrastructure across states that encompasses movements of goods and commuters will ensure a mobile workforce. Technology will encourage society to make connections between communities and individuals.

Australian Governance - *the future of Australian governance: renewed democracy, a more open government (including the role of the media), the structure of the Federation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens*

Our vision is for Australian leaders that not only reflect the diversity of our society, but are accessible, responsive and respected as positive role models. An engaged and informed citizenry will understand the political process and its relevance to their place in Australian society. The media will play a pivotal role in democratic governance through fair representation and our rights as citizens will be protected and paramount.



Australia's Future in the World - *Australia's future security and prosperity in a rapidly changing region and world*

Our vision is for a globally active and responsible nation. International relations will be informed by recognising the contributions we can make to other nations and the reciprocal benefits we may gain. Australia will contribute to global human rights protection by assisting other countries in developing a rights culture. Foreign aid will be revolutionised and broadened to encompass emerging global issues, embracing refugees and immigration as part of our international citizenship.

Communities and Families - *strengthening communities, supporting families and social inclusion*

Our vision is to create safe environments for and in our families and communities. This will be achieved through policies founded on prevention and early intervention rather than simply short-term policies. There will be a multifaceted approach to the problems experienced in our families and communities. We know that healthy families and safe communities are important to the development of young people. Our communities will engage in increased and effective dialogue between urban, rural and remote, between communities, between cultures and between each other. Australia will begin to value different family structures. Meaningful dialogue will ensure continued community engagement and enhance social cohesion.

Indigenous Australia - *options for the future of Indigenous Australia*

Our vision is to create meaningful and lasting change in Indigenous Australia by committing ourselves, as all Australians, to reframe the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia. There is a sense of urgency in creating solutions for Indigenous Australia, but we will not panic. As a nation, we will reconceptualise our national identity and embrace the Indigenous spirit and culture as a central part of the Australian story. The negotiation of a treaty or similar document and the protection of Indigenous rights will provide the principles on which we create effective policies and programs. We will use these changes as a foundation for building practical policies and programs, particularly in education, health and housing, in negotiation with Indigenous people, particularly the young that make up a majority of that community.

Sustainability and Climate Change - *population, sustainability, climate change and water*

Our vision is for Australia to be a world leader in addressing climate change, environmental sustainability and innovation. Australia will become carbon neutral and address all sources of carbon output. The economy, society and the environment will be considered equally in all decisions made and the new economy will be based on renewable energy. A positive and future-orientated citizenry are rewarded for their contributions to the environment and in the development of innovative strategies to tackling climate change. Australians will be mobilised to respond through an increased awareness of climate change and its effects. We will hold ourselves accountable for decisions made and respond efficiently, effectively and in a timely manner to climate change.



Rural Australia - *future directions for rural industries and rural communities*

Our vision is for a changed perception of rural Australia and its importance to the national economy and society and of all the opportunities in rural cities. All rural Australians will have equitable access to human rights and opportunities in health and education. Rural communities are creative, innovative and are well supported in research and development. Rural Australia will be a cultural melting pot and will be a place of choice for all Australians.

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

Our vision is for equity of health for all Australians. We believe there needs to be a structural and practical reorientation of the healthcare system from one that cures illness to one that promotes wellness through actively empowering individuals and communities towards healthy lifestyles. The main causes of our chronic disease burden are societal. Social determinants of health need to be addressed for mental illness, obesity, and drug and alcohol abuse, among many others. The future lies within the expansion of primary healthcare with an approach that involves all health care professionals. It is with this focus that we must act to amend the shortages in healthcare services in rural and marginalised communities.

Creative Australia - *towards a creative Australia: the future of the arts, film and design*

Our vision is a creative nation which provides long-term funding programs that support artists, arts workers, arts organisations and supplementary organisations while they investigate options for long-term financial sustainability. In being sustainable, artists will have access to a diverse range of living, working and exhibition spaces. They also need support in broadening their skill base, including financial literacy, administrative skills, legal compliance and promotional skills. Increased opportunities to engage in artistic and creative fields will arise through both formal and informal modes of education and mentorship. A creative Australia will foster free and open public access to creative products, process and spaces.



Conclusion

It is often said that young people are the leaders of tomorrow. The dynamic visions articulated at the Youth Summit and embodied in this document confirm that they will be *inspirational* leaders in 2020. The creative and practical policy proposals developed by the 100 Summit delegates confirm they will be able to achieve those visions. In 2020, Australia will be in extremely capable hands.

But young people are also the leaders of today. If you give them half a chance they will astound you with their energy and idealism. More importantly, they will impress you with their maturity and willingness to engage constructively in the process of improving our local communities, states, this nation, and our world.

At the Youth Summit, Australia's youth embraced the opportunity to convey their ideas and proposals to their government. They hope that their government listen. For no-one has more at stake in ensuring Australia's future than its young Australians.



APPENDIX A – TOP 10 IDEAS

Top 10 Ideas

Productivity Agenda - education, skills, training, science and innovation

Paid Parental Leave Program

A national paid parental leave program for both working men and women, which includes incentives that promote affordability and accessibility of childcare, will help to address the challenges of workplace participation for all Australians. This scheme will increase productivity at work, provide incentives for employers to accommodate a healthy work/life balance, and help to address gender imbalances in the workplace.

Infrastructure – economic infrastructure, the digital economy and the future of our cities

By youth for youth community infrastructure for tomorrow and today

The creation of amalgamated business and community centres for youth will encourage entrepreneurship and community-building activities. Readily available information to aid the professional development of youth and opportunities to network with other “change-makers” will help to break down barriers to participation. Young artists, entrepreneurs and those active in community service will be provided with the physical infrastructure to implement their ideas. A focus on the inclusion of disadvantaged youth will serve to increase the number of joint projects run by young Australians as well as community participation.

Sustainability and Climate Change - population, sustainability, climate change and water

Australian Sustainability Challenge

Climate change is a global problem that has many local solutions. The Australian Sustainability Challenge (‘Challenge’) would create an incentive for local governments to improve their sustainability through constructive competition. Local government areas would be awarded points for various activities like: increasing % renewable energy being used, increasing % of constituents traveling via public transport/foot/bicycle, increasing % of water being heated via solar hot water/gas, increasing % of native vegetation through tree planting programs, % improvement in sustainability of building codes to name a few.

The local governments that achieve the highest number of points would be rewarded by ‘winning’ a substantial federal grant. Communities that demonstrate the most innovative approach to becoming more sustainable would also be rewarded. The award money could be spent on a local community priority (like a public wind farm, new health care facilities, a public swimming pool, etc). The local governments will be judged annually with the results being publicly announced across all states so local climate change achievements are proudly acknowledged and celebrated.



The Challenge would empower local communities to work together, educate each other and think outside the square. By combining the Challenge with meaningful national schemes that encourage sustainable practices (eg: feed-in-tariffs for renewable energy, funding for local energy/water cooperatives, investment in public transport/bicycle lanes, etc) all Australians would be encouraged to engage in our 'sustainability' agenda.

Rural Australia - future directions for rural industries and rural communities

Rural Futures Development Bank

The rural fund development bank is a funding strategy aimed at supporting research and development activities into new agricultural technologies. Specifically, the research and development will be directed towards innovative methods of agriculture including the cultivation of new cropping varieties. Essentially the research and development will produce ways in which traditional agricultural practices can be adapted to maximise the new conditions brought upon Australia by climate change such as changing temperatures and decreased water availability. Further to this, the initiative will include the extension of existing programs designed to educate growers on sustainable technologies and additional assistance for growers in the take up of these new technologies and the development of more efficient irrigation and water management techniques. Potentially, new innovations in Australian agriculture will be shared with our neighbours and Australia will remain the global leader in combating climate change.

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

Primary Healthcare Project Committee

We propose a federally-funded peak body incorporating members of non-governmental organisations and government departments that provides a systematic approach to expanding existing preventative health strategies that have proven successful. We will need to identify best practice models, both locally and abroad, and support these programs to be implemented in like communities on a national level

Communities and Families - strengthening communities, supporting families and social inclusion

National Migrant and Refugees Settlement Strategy

Managing and accommodating the influx of migrants and refugees into our country requires a multifaceted approach. There is a need to develop a national migrant and refugee settlement strategy to provide essential services aimed at settling and including newly-arrived migrants and refugees into Australian society. The outcomes of this strategy are to measure the proportion of migrants and refugees who access available health, language and capacity building services. The strategy will also evaluate the literacy levels of migrant and refugee communities and measure the employment rate and length of unemployment. Moreover this holistic approach will help wider Australian communities accommodate migrant and refugee settlement. This will be done through a process of widespread consultation with local migrants and refugee service providers, state governments and relevant stakeholders.



Indigenous Australia - *options for the future of Indigenous Australia*

National Dialogue Towards a Treaty

The political and legal recognition of Indigenous Australia should be pursued through the signing of a treaty or similar document between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia. The process of negotiation will ensure all Australians can participate in a national dialogue that promotes understanding between individuals and communities. Negotiation can only occur with a strong and united national Indigenous voice and with the participation of young people. A treaty will create a foundation for a new relationship between all Australians, which allows us to make meaningful change in practical policies and programs.

Creative Australia - *towards a creative Australia: the future of the arts, film and design*

New Funding Opportunities for the Arts

We need to extend funding beyond project-based-funding. This means providing funding to allow artists and arts organisations to be sustainable. It is proposed that a cohort-based supplementary income grants scheme be established. This pool of funds would allow artists to draw on income funding as they develop their practice and to engage with emerging and established artists in their fields. Moreover, funding to support arts workers and support and auxiliary organizations needs to be made available to allow for long term planning and collaboration. This approach represents a genuine commitment to supporting artists to develop their creative and professional practice.

Australian Governance - *the future of Australian governance: renewed democracy, a more open government (including the role of the media), the structure of the Federation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens*

Vote for a Better Vote: Our Democracy Depends on it

Enhancing the participation of civic society in electoral processes is vital to ensuring our political representatives reflect the aspirations of the Australian people. Particularly important is ensuring greater engagement in electoral processes by disadvantaged and marginalized people.

We envision an Australia where citizens are automatically enrolled to vote, a process crucial to removing existing barriers to electoral participation. Automatic enrolment would necessitate co-operation between the Australian Electoral Commission and national agencies such as the Australian Tax Office, Centrelink and Medicare. There also needs to be significant investment in engaging electorally disadvantaged Australians – specifically those who are homeless or without a fixed address – by the Australian Electoral Commission.

Further, to build a more participatory 2020, the age at which people are eligible to vote must be lowered to 16. 16 year olds work, pay income tax, pay GST, drive, and can join the army. They must be enfranchised so they can have a say in Government policies that affect them.

At polling places, we also believe there should be the ability to vote via computer, to save paper and speed up vote counting. We believe this aspect of our proposed electoral reform for a stronger, more democratic 2020 should be optional.



Australia's Future in the World - *Australia's future security and prosperity in a rapidly changing region and world*

Track2 for Access to Essential Medicines

As a complement to the current drug patent systems, this mechanism rewards innovators in proportion to the global health impact of their interventions. To access this payment stream, stakeholders would allow the open manufacture, distribution and sale of their products. Consequently, diseases which disproportionately affect the poor become profitable targets of research and development.

By making this option available for specific medicines, it will become immediately available for competitive manufacturers. The price of drugs will subsequently be driven down to near production cost. As the price is based on actual health impact, pharmaceutical companies also have an incentive to upgrade health services in disadvantaged areas, furthering their contribution to their corporate social responsibilities in our global community.



APPENDIX B – ADDITIONAL 30 IDEAS

Productivity Agenda and Economy - *education, skills, training, science and innovation*

1. National Education Network

The creation of a national curriculum and syllabus for primary and secondary education applicable throughout Australia. This would include a single university admission system, an adapted national VET framework, and measures to increase access to quality education in rural areas. The new curriculum would adopt a global focus, including an emphasis on the study of foreign languages, global studies, and international exchanges.

2. Paid Parental Leave – Affordability and Accessibility

The introduction of a Universal and national paid parental leave scheme for both working men and women, along with initiatives that promote affordability and accessibility of childcare, will help to address the challenges of workplace participation for all Australians.

3. Science and Incentives and a High Tech Sustainable Economy

To move towards a high tech sustainable economy, financial incentives should encourage businesses to invest in science and technology, education, research and development. Such a move would include making science a part of the national secondary curriculum, providing incentives for universities to undertake research and development on issues such as clean energy, and promoting a culture of science-based dialogue in Australian society.

4. Better Education – Better Teachers

The quality of an education system is only as good as the quality of its teachers. We need to promote the professional development and training of teachers including encouraging further studies and ongoing training. In keeping with the National Reform Agenda, this aims to offset the potential loss in productivity caused by the aging population by increasing the quality of Australia's human capital resources (the quality and quantity of our workforce). This is most efficiently done by increasing the quality and retention-rates of our teachers at schools.

Infrastructure

1. Youth Run Youth Community Infrastructure for Tomorrow, Today.

The creation of amalgamated business and community centres for youth will encourage entrepreneurship and community building activities. Readily available information to aid the professional development of youth and opportunities to network with other 'change makers' will help to break down barriers to participation. Productivity will be improved and output maximised as young artists, entrepreneurs and those active in community service are provided with the physical infrastructure to implement their ideas. A focus on disadvantaged youth will serve to increase the number of joint projects run by young Australians as well as community participation.



2. Seamless and Integrated Transport Infrastructure

A national and streamlined network of transport encompassing roads, rail, sea and airports will reduce congestion and reliance on relatively inefficient road transport. Integrated ticketing and timetables on all forms of public transport implemented by State Authorities will more efficiently carry commuters and reduce bottlenecks in city areas. Significant improvements in the quality of regional road networks will serve to connect all Australians and an emphasis on moving road freight to rail will improve our capacity to move goods.

3. Data Infrastructure to Support a 2020 Economy

The construction of a national Fibre to the Premises network that can be run alongside power and telephone lines will provide all Australians with fast and cost-effective Internet access. Continual improvement to wireless Internet services ensures rural Australians are provided with equal access to high speed data transfers. Additional funding for research into communication technology for Australian environments will help to address climate change challenges.

4. Heavy Duty Renewable Power Stations

The development of heavy duty, large output power stations are created in addition to existing stations that will be progressively replaced. The nation's demand for energy will be entirely met by renewable and non-nuclear power sources. Sustainable use of resources will ensure demand will continue to be met as the load on power station continues to climb.

Australian Governance - *the future of Australian governance: renewed democracy, a more open government (including the role of the media), the structure of the Federation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens*

1. My Vote Counts

Enhancing the participation of civic society in electoral processes is vital to ensuring our political representatives further reflect the desires of the populace. Particularly important is ensuring a far greater engagement amongst disadvantaged and marginalized communities.

We'd like to imagine an Australian society where citizens are automatically enrolled to vote, a process vital to ensuring a breaking down of existing barriers to electoral participation. This would involve data transfer from national agencies like the Australian Tax Office, Centrelink and Medicare to the Australian Electoral Commission.

Importantly people who don't have addresses, like homeless people and people in remote communities, should be accessed in far greater numbers face to face by Australian Electoral Commission staff to engage them in the voting process. This needs a significant further investment. Further, to build a more participatory 2020 the age at which people must be enrolled to vote is lowered to 16.

At polling places, we also believe there should be the ability to vote via computer, to save paper and speed up vote counting. We believe this section of Electoral Reform for a stronger, more democratic 2020 should be optional.



2. Bill of Rights

To develop a national Bill of Rights that reflects the fundamental human rights of Australians and which takes into account Australia's common law tradition and constitutional structure. This would not be an absolute Bill of Rights like in the United States of America. It would be a qualified Bill of Rights modelled, as a bare minimum, on the Victorian Bill of Rights. The degree of constitutional entrenchment and the degree to which the judiciary can override inconsistent legislation must be debated and balance. Fundamental human rights including, inter alia, the right to be free from torture, genocide and slavery, should have a high level of entrenchment as they are rights from which no derogation is permissible under any circumstances.

3. Civics Education Program

Vision for Idea

A program that ensures young people see and understand the link between issues that affect their lives and opportunities to create change. This can be perpetuated through the creation of a core school subject about the political and community engagement process. It focuses on engagement, comparative political systems, debate, processes and practical interactive methods, beyond traditional political institutions.

4. Culture Change – Australia celebrates cultural diversity

To celebrate Australia Day as Harmony Day where all Australians are socially-included. Australia's symbols represent our nation's diversity. Anti-discrimination laws are in place across the nation and improved to protect the diverse communities * of Australia. Australia embraces, protects and rejoices in its diversity.

Australia's Future in the World - *Australia's future security and prosperity in a rapidly changing region and world*

1. Humanitarian Intervention

Strengthening humanitarian intervention principles is critical to Australia's interests and to those of the world. Humanitarian intervention, as a drastic re-thinking of traditional state sovereignty, represents the new frontier in international relations. Given Australia's extensive connection to the development of humanitarian intervention, particularly former Foreign Minister Gareth Evans' leadership in the field and Australia's lauded interventions in Cambodia and East Timor, Australia has the talents and the credibility to lead the world towards a codified doctrine.

2. National Linguistic and Cultural Platform

The creation of government agency parallel to "study in Australia" that stimulates collaboration between Universities enforces mandatory learning of foreign languages in secondary schools and assist businesses with linguistics retraining. This agency could also facilitate educational and business exchange, GAP years and volunteer work and linguistic support for Australians returning to Australia after practicing a language abroad.



Furthermore, this agency would encourage the passing on of the maternal tongues of new Australians, both to their family and the rest of society. It would also facilitate connections between Australians, migrants, refugees and foreign exchange students.

3. Global Health Initiative

As a complement to the current drug patent systems this would be a mechanism that rewards innovators in proportion to the global health impact of their interventions. To access this payment stream, stakeholders would allow the open manufacture distribution and sale of their products. With this option in place diseases that do great harm mainly among the poor become profitable targets of R and D. By choosing this option for a specific medicine, innovators make it immediately available for competitive manufacturers. The price of drugs would then drop to near the marginal cost of production. As the price is based on actual health impact drug companies also have an incentive to upgrade health services in disadvantaged areas.

4. A deployable public service

To train a reserve of strategic level government professionals in technical assistance in less developed countries and failed states. That this reserve be readily deployable, in whole or in part, at the request of regional governments or where Australia is required to intervene in the event of a collapsed state.

Communities and Families - *strengthening communities, supporting families and social inclusion*

1. Reform of funding models

That for every dollar invested in community service provision at the crisis end of the intervention spectrum, the government is required to invest an equivalent proportion into prevention and early intervention services, including community capacity building models.

This would involve an audit and evaluation of previous, current and or future prevention and early intervention services. The results of this evaluation would be then used to create social / economic modeling that indicates the costs / benefits of prevention and early intervention versus crisis intervention. This would inform the ratio attributed to prevention and early intervention in the new funding model.

2. National Migrant and Refugees Settlement Strategy

To develop a national migrant and refugee settlement strategy to provide essential services to include and settle newly-arrived migrants and refugees into Australian society. This will be done through a process of widespread consultation with local migrants and refugee service providers, state government and relevant stakeholders. The outcomes of this strategy are to measure the proportion of migrants and refugees who access available services, appraise the literacy levels of migrant and refugee communities and measure the employment rate and length of unemployment. And help wider Australian communities accommodate migrant and refugee settlement.



3. Paid Parental Leave

A National Paid Parental Leave legislation which works to compensate parents for the income they lose when they have a child, provide parents and children with the time necessary to form a close and enduring bond and which facilitates gender balance within the family. This paid parental leave would be available not only to biological mothers and fathers but also adoptive parents, same sex parents and legal guardians.

4. Safe Relationships: National Primary Prevention Initiative for Domestic Violence

In Australia in 2008 there exists only a superficial understanding of Domestic Violence (DV). While there is broad acceptance that physical violence within intimate relationships is not acceptable, recognition of psychological abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse and other controlling types of behavior is less prevalent. Also the gendered nature of DV has long been glossed over, if charge is to be released, the issue of gender dynamics and issues of male power need to be confronted. As such, we see the need for a National Domestic Violence Primary Prevention Initiative that addresses these issues through a national peer education strategy and media campaign.

Indigenous Australia - *options for the future of Indigenous Australia*

1. National Dialogue towards a Treaty

The political and legal recognition of Indigenous Australia should be pursued through the signing of a treaty between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia. Negotiation can only occur with a strong and united national Indigenous voice and with the participation of young people.

A treaty will create a foundation for a new relationship between all Australians, which allows us to make meaningful change in policies and programs. It will also begin an important national dialogue around our national identity and the way forward for our nation.

2. Indigenous Health

A two-pronged approach to Indigenous health is needed which would see governments make a greater investment in health infrastructure in remote communities. As well as this investment, there must exist a model of health management that would enable Indigenous people to self-regulate the lifestyle choices and impart healthy standards within their community.

3. Indigenous Community-based Education

Australia must address the disparities of educational outcomes and opportunities for Indigenous Australians we propose to implement Indigenous specific life skill programs covering drug, alcohol, violence, financial literacy, relationships and sex education. There also needs to be literacy and numeracy, culture and language programs. These will be targeted at age appropriate groupings through institutional education and also through broader community education.



4. National Indigenous Home Ownership Strategy

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should have the opportunity to own their own homes by 2020. Homes must be incorporate sustainable design and involve new opportunities for communities through apprenticeships and training programs. The strategy should involve partnerships with public and private sectors and generational mortgages. This strategy is key to improving Indigenous lifestyles and bridging the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Sustainability and Climate Change - *population, sustainability, climate change and water*

1. Australian Sustainability Challenge (ASC)

Climate change is a global problem that has many local solutions. The Australian Sustainability Challenge ('Challenge') would create an incentive for local governments to improve their sustainability through constructive competition.

Local government areas would be awarded points for various activities like: increasing % renewable energy being used, increasing % of constituents traveling via public transport/foot/bicycle, increasing % of water being heated via solar hot water/gas, increasing % of native vegetation through tree planting programs, % improvement in sustainability of building codes to name a few. The local governments that achieve the highest number of points would be rewarded by 'winning' a substantial federal grant. Communities that demonstrate the most innovative approach to becoming more sustainable would also be rewarded. The award money could be spent on a local community priority (like a public wind farm, new health care facilities, a public swimming pool, etc). The local governments will be judged annually with the results being publicly announced across all states so local climate change achievements are proudly acknowledged and celebrated.

The Challenge would empower local communities to work together, educate each other and think outside the square. By combining the Challenge with meaningful national schemes that encourage sustainable practices (eg: feed-in-tariffs for renewable energy, funding for local energy/water cooperatives, investment in public transport/bicycle lanes, etc) all Australians would be encouraged to engage in our 'sustainability' agenda.

2. Setting a national framework to tackle climate change

Federal Government will set up a wide scale national framework for climate change to cover the issues currently within all levels of government that dictate minimum action, not just benchmarks. Introduce incentives to encourage interstate competition to exceed those minimum action requirements. Implement a bold accountability scheme through various avenues that do not allow any level of government to postpone action. Pass laws to cut emissions in accordance with strong science-based targets.



3. Climate Change Curriculum in Schools: Eco-Ed

Implement programs to ensure compulsory climate change and sustainability education are part of the mainstream curriculum in primary and secondary education. Develop a different blue print, which is Communicate the message of sustainability in all subject areas and implement programs to encourage teachers to raise the impacts of climate change in all key learning and subject areas.

4. Public Transport for all- 2KGo

To ensure that every Australian in urban areas lives *within 2km* of a train station, light rail corridor or high-frequency bus route by 2020. Implement a London-style congestion tax with associated funding injected into further public transport infrastructure to encourage the movement towards car-free CBDs.

Cease any Federal road funding of projects that only encourage increased car use* and where public transport is a better option than road infrastructure. Divert these funds into assisting the States to expand their public transport networks. Current projects will be permitted to finish.

* This does not indicate Black Spot, Roads for Recovery, Strategic Regional or freight rail funding.

Rural Australia - future directions for rural industries and rural communities

1. Strengthening rural skills

Rural and regional Australia will become a place of choice for skilled workers. A phased program coordinated by State and Local Governments will increase the communication between rural and metropolitan regions, draw attention to specific rural industries (particularly those with skills shortages), encourage students to rural industries and areas through funded work experience programs and provide mentoring support for newly-arrived residents.

2. Rural Fund Development Bank

The Rural Fund Development Bank is a funding strategy supported by Industry, all levels of Government and grower cooperatives. This strategy will support research and development of agricultural technologies that will minimise the impacts of climate change, sustainability and the water crisis.

The investment strategy will specifically fund research and development in the areas of innovative cropping varieties cultivated to withstand altered temperatures and decreased water availability, extension of existing programs designed to educate growers on sustainable agricultural technologies, assistance for growers in the take-up of new agricultural technologies and the development of more efficient irrigation and water management techniques.



3. Discovering rural Australia

Rural and regional areas of Australia will be promoted across the nation as a place of choice. The media campaign will dispel the many common misconceptions of rural and regional Australia and promote understanding and awareness of our country areas, the communities, industries, people and lifestyles. Promotion will be focused around positive media campaigns designed to create awareness and attraction. Discovering rural Australia is not a tourism initiative it is a call for Australians to relocate to rural and regional areas.

4. Equitable rural access to education

All young people in rural and regional areas will have access to have financial support for access to tertiary education. The initiative will seek to amend legislative amendments to youth allowance with the view to increase funding for rural and regional youth. In addition to this, financial allowances will be made available to rural and regional youth to assist with the financial burden of undertaking tertiary education outside of their residential area. Furthermore, there will be an increase to the number and value of Commonwealth learning scholarships and substantial funding for the Australian Rural Education Alliance, complimented by a national rural education strategy.

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

1. Rural workforce shortage

We believe up scaling current scholarship and mentorship programs available for rural students across all health disciplines is a necessary first step in attracting and retaining health professionals to rural areas. Further to this we believe that healthcare students need to be increasingly exposed during their education with a multidisciplinary flavour. Furthermore in order to retain health practitioners involves infrastructure to increase professional support as well as job and life satisfaction.

2. Mental healthcare

Through youth focused, youth-driven education programs run in all schools, we hope to raise awareness, de-stigmatise and educate students about mental health issues. This program will use contemporary mediums such as film and multimedia will be structured in such a way that will specifically address early detection and information on how to access youth friendly services

It is our objective to help reduce drug and alcohol abuse, suicide, increase awareness of and access to pre-existing mental health services, and cause a real shift in attitudes of school students towards mental health. A key component of our strategy is that it is delivered by consumers and health care professionals.



3. National public health strategy

We propose the creation of a fund would be managed by a central body which systematically identifies and evaluates successful public health programs in communities (nationally and internationally) and expands these programs nationally to these communities which have a similar need.

Currently, public health measures comprise only six percent of national health expenditure. We promote an immediate and substantial increase in primary health funding to twenty percent. In the short-term, this would mean an overall increase in health spending. However, given the high cost of tertiary level care, the decrease in chronic lifestyle diseases in twenty to thirty years time will lead to an overall decrease in health spending.

4. Adolescent medicine scheme

Many young people seeking to health professionals do not feel comfortable discussing issues with their parents and guardians. They therefore go unaddressed.

We propose to increase accessibility of healthcare services to young people in a confidential environment where they can discuss these issues. We hope to achieve this through the automatic distribution of Medicare cards to young Australians upon turning thirteen years of age. This would not only increase accessibility but also act as a tool for prevention and early detection of health-related issues.

We feel that many issues surrounding the health of young people stem from the inability to access Medicare cards as they are in the names of parents and guardians

Creative Australia - towards a creative Australia: the future of the arts, film and design

1: New Opportunities for Arts Funding

We need to extend funding beyond project-based-funding. This means providing funding to allow artists and arts organisations to be sustainable. It is proposed that a cohort-based supplementary income grants scheme be established. This pool of funds would allow artists to draw on income funding as they develop their practice and to engage with emerging and established artists in their fields. Moreover, funding to support arts workers and support and auxiliary organisations needs to be made available to allow for long term planning and collaboration.

This approach represents a genuine commitment to supporting artists to develop their creative and professional practice.

2: Building Creative Community, Literally

Innovative town planning has the capacity to foster creativity and innovation within a community. Town planning should prioritise exhibition and performance spaces for both the visual and the performing arts. We propose that the Federal government investigate the possibility of an incentive scheme to encourage property developers to invest in housing complexes that include versatile creative spaces.



New developments should include a quota of affordable housing for artists within high density residential areas. These developments should include versatile spaces to encompass the entire creative process, including idea, conception, production, promotion, exhibition and evaluation (a creative hub). These should be located in areas with well-established and emerging artistic communities. They must be located in areas serviced by public transport infrastructure. Artists should be included in the process of town planning.

3: Educating for a creative nation

Australia's formal education system needs to facilitate and foster participation in creative arts. Secondary schools curricula should provide a variety of creative subject choices. These subjects should include many opportunities for the appreciation of art and opportunities to engage with a range of creative products and processes. They should include the breadth of creative arts and be open to enrolment for all students. In the assessment process, these subjects should not be weighted or scaled in a way that devalues creative intelligence. At a tertiary level, there should be world-renowned funded creative arts academies that are accessible to all Australians.

4. Giving artists what they need

Australian artists need infrastructure that is accessible and supports the entire artistic process, from the idea and conception to promotion and exhibition and to evaluation. Artists need more than a technical proficiency in their art practice in order to survive and thrive. They require practical skills such as accounting, administration, legal, promotion and other 'business' skills. In 2020 Australia needs a system that provides support for artists to develop these skills, including a mentorship scheme that facilitates non-artists mentors in business practice for emerging artists. Access to existing training in these identified skill sets should be available to all people undertaking training in the creative arts.



Appendix C will be released at a later date and will contain a list of other ideas submitted by delegates prior to and during the Youth Summit.

The list will be made available on www.australia2020.gov.au/youth