



Editorial comment by Peter Hendy, Chief Executive Officer, to the Australian Financial Review, Tuesday 8 April, 2003

*“Business Keen on Education Reform”*

Dear Editor

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the nation’s largest business representative organisation, does not agree with the Australian Vice Chancellors’ Committee that business is not taking an active role in the debate about the future of Australia’s higher education system (“Unis urge business to speak up”, *Weekend AFR, April 5-6, page 8*).

ACCI, for its part, has been active in the review led by the federal government, including membership on the reference group, participation in individual forums, discussions and correspondence with the review secretariat, and two lengthy, formal submissions.

Over recent years, ACCI has advocated the reform of the education and training sectors, including higher education.

The central goal of any reform should be the development of an integrated post-compulsory system that is driven by its primary customers (individuals and business) with the full spectrum of providers being supported by an incentives regime to deliver appropriate services of excellence in education, training and research. We have also advocated the need to actively debate more ambitious reforms, including the introduction of student-centred funding.

Peter Hendy  
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