

**SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE ECONOMICS REFERENCES COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO INNOVATION;
ALSO ANSWERING QUESTIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT COMPETITION POLICY REVIEW**

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This is the interpretation Freud naturally intended. (Joke, Joyce). God's preference looks grim. Kisses to Santa and the boys. Call in Frank and Tony.

This submission is to the Senate Economics References Committee Inquiry into Australia's Innovation System and also to the Australian Government Competition Policy Review in answer to some of its related questions. The Senate Committee calls for submissions into '**challenges to Australian industries and jobs posed by increasing global competition in innovation, science, engineering, research and education**'. (Strange categories indeed.) 'Innovation' is a vague, deracinated and comparatively meaningless concept like 'social change'. To make sensible decisions about the ideal or real nature and quality of any proposed or actual practice, consideration must also be given to the aims and effects of actions in historically related environments and social contexts. Thanks to all reliable communications, these can increasingly be made visible and addressed globally and locally. (Say good-bye first to rich, secretive, confusing, lying persons, especially if they are old.)

The Senate Committee apparently also seeks policy options to: '**attract, train and retain a research and innovation workforce; develop research pathways; ensure strategic international engagement; and support emerging industries**'. This requires support for regional and strategic planning approaches based on ideal national, UN and related local directions which are not narrowly and professionally closed and led. Let open regional planning and competition serve the people. This is the global planning path begun with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which Australia has tried to follow through considering a range of Conventions for legal implementation.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has said that reform will hurt vested interests but the interests of the vast population are the top priority of the government. He states he is ready to cut through the vested interests to carry out the much needed changes. (Australian Financial Review (AFR) 2.5.14, 5R). Why wouldn't you always seek help in the open trusting it is the cheapest way to do it? (This is a Pascalian wager with or without openly hedging your bets.)

From this ideal planning perspective which has been globally, nationally and regionally led in Australian states, the Senate Committee should not only '**consider the need to attract investment in innovation to secure high skill, high wage, jobs and industries**,' when there are so many old, disabled, unemployed and underemployed people who would appreciate more assistance. These include artists, writers, musicians, former or current business people, academics, teachers, journalists or others who may welcome simpler, less stressful, cheaper and more effective service. This is also why many people cohabit or marry. Find those who may be seeking and put them together more effectively so that trust may be based on broader, better organized evidence. Ways of doing this are discussed later, using the example of Sydney University in recent budget contexts.

And so to the first Competition Policy Review Question, which is:

Q. What should be the priorities for a competition policy reform agenda to ensure that efficient businesses, large or small, can compete effectively and drive growth in productivity and living standards?

A. Think of Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, keynote speaker at the last Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), who pointed out reform of local government must begin with the recognition that the ‘three Rs’ of *roads, rates, and rubbish* are a limited aspect of the fundamental council role *which is about creating attractive, prosperous, healthy and safe communities; places where people want to live, work and do business*’. Consider the related state and local planning directions beyond which universities and business reach.

Relationships between urban and rural planning are ideally seen in openly related global, regional and local planning contexts. Think globally and plan regionally, strategically and openly to improve quality of life in the light of shared UN direction. Living standards are ideally conceptualised more openly and broadly as quality of life, which is social and environmental, as well as measured on price and some apparently unrealistic expectations of comparatively short term economic return. This is a global economy. Follow the lead of Barack Obama and investigate Veterans Affairs and Defence Housing Australia. Ideally we are over only caring about what happened to soldiers. If they were neglected when they came home from the Vietnam War they were lucky in my case. Rightly or wrongly, it is offensive to many to rewrite a partial history. If you glorify the return of soldiers what do you think of the people and lands they destroyed?

The professions, on the other hand, would have us believe the only way is up, until we are all amazed, apparently, by the sudden trip to the bottom of financial cycles. Australians have historically been shown to be an inquisitive, fun loving, honest, capable and risk averse people who also value their security and wellbeing for themselves and for future generations highly. Give them a go and stop making them pretend they believe in a lot of US crap for a good living.

Design funds openly, clearly and rationally in the interests of the key stakeholders, who are also the fund beneficiaries. These are the people for whom the fund has been established and the people who fund its purpose. Let others compete if they will on an open level playing field. (Play up, play up and play the game, etc.) Poets Corner Medical Centre at Redfern along with Alfred Imaging and Slater and Gordon, who seek to maximise your compensation, are addressed in related contexts later. What do you think they are doing? Any idea if it all makes any sense?

This submission and the budget discussions attached argue for support of regional and strategic planning before collegiate cultures, in openly multicultural approaches based on global and national directions. This is also the answer to Chief Scientist, Professor Chubb, who lamented the lack of a policy or strategy setting out the vision for the future, and how science and innovation could help achieve that. According to the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH 3.6.14, p. 9) he said:

You don't go out and buy your bricks before you know what kind of house you're going to build.

This is true. The proposed biosecurity Framework of the Department of Primary Industries seeks to be a basis for the NSW Biosecurity Act which will apparently seek to protect our economy, environment and community better from animal and plant pests and diseases, weeds and contaminants. I guess they will need to be told this planning, fund management and competition story and so will do a submission later in the light of reading 'Stress Test' by former US Secretary of the Treasury, Timothy Geithner. (It's great to be an expert.)

Student and industrial matters at Sydney University are addressed here as models in related global, regional and local planning and development contexts. From the government and community perspectives, including students and those looking for work, learning, exercise, entertainment, or help, this advice is on how to save huge amounts of common anxiety and money. This can occur through more broadly informed, clear and open communication instead of dealing with growing multitudes of legal, financial, academic, bureaucratic and other professionally closed shops. This is the context in which regional and strategic plans should now align to fix the comparative lack of any clear and open regional planning focus, by greater cooperative openness to achieve key regional planning aims and better practice. Harness the potential of media and information technology to serve the people because it is being totally trashed by financial, commercial and voting interests in the US. Here is how.

Students currently pay for a particular qualification, supposedly related to a professional registration of competence, yet their future working life appears unknown and likely to be below their expectations. (When I left high school at 14 anybody could get a job and change it at will – not any more.) Students should at least be able to do more of the subjects that they or others who pay for them want them to do. This would be better conducted broadly and openly under the strategic planning direction, rather than having multiple academic or professional interests ruling in order to design more closed shops and lengthening queues.

Rather than demonstrating any understanding of regional planning, the Senate Committee appears blindly to be embarked on the US ideal that the only way is up at a time when many people hate risk and can probably think of nothing worse than trying to commercialise their research by betting their house on it, only to see the results taken completely out of their hands by the markets. From where I sat at Sydney University for eleven years, the waste of research capacity and its potential social and environmental benefits was huge because of the costs and risks of a patent and commercialisation. Academics are not gamblers. Many just want their research, a cut lunch and a nice banana.

As Barry Thomas of Cook Medical in Queensland pointed out (AFR 4.6.14 p. 43) there is also nothing to stop Australian discoveries heading offshore to markets with more advantageous manufacturing climates. Rather than a direct subsidy, he claims the Australian Innovation and Manufacturing Incentive is a sustainable solution that would provide tax relief where domestic intellectual property ownership and associated commercialisation is retained in Australia. He states this would help keep findings alive from medical research as well as for discoveries from across the full spectrum of Australian industries. This is ideally discussed later in the light of The NSW Government Crown Lands Legislation White Paper by NSW Government Trade and Investment and in related rural industries to provide scientists with more openly applied direction in regional plans.

It is great to have a developed welfare state. However, it is important to avoid incentives to entrench the sick roles which appear related to avoidance of anxiety and stress and which may easily lead to further breakdown combined with excessively high fat, high sugar diets and lack of exercise. What can the general practitioner do, one wonders, for the person suffering the accumulated bodily stresses of age, generalised anxiety, bad diet, smoking and lack of exercise, other than prescribe drugs or visits to more complex diagnostic specialists? The answer appears to lie mainly in adoption of better organized regional help towards more appropriate **work, exercise and entertainment combinations in related travel, education, entertainment and built or natural environment services**. The promise of information technology is ideally to assist this in organized ways beyond the social media.

The attached budget analysis argues, for example, that Sydney Uni. students, alumni and others should demand cheaper, more openly available subjects and back the Strategic Plan direction as their key focus. To improve job, housing, transport, entertainment and exercise performance through practice, and so serve students and related communities better, there should be better integration of student union information services and those of Sydney University, the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) and other groups. This is ideally to make better use of the Student Services Amenities Fee and other funds, so as to openly serve regional planning and related strategic directions more effectively and flexibly. Reveal the management structures of Sydney Uni. Sport and Fitness. Are they fitted to be leaders?

A key aim is to attract broader ranges of students and potential employers by facilitating the production of more transparent, useful and cheaper work and learning outcomes, as a result of opening the student assessment and related product and research to a wider range of work and learning placements, for the benefit of all concerned. Get free of the multitudes of narrow professional controls and costs so as to build and film a better mouse trap.

Further questions from the Australian Government Policy Review are addressed in related personal and budget contexts later. Discussion of key elements of the recent budget by the Treasurer, Joe Hockey, are attached. The budget is condemned for mainly supporting rich professional

interests, apparently against warning advice from the Business Council of Australia (BCA), key research institutions, state Premiers, and the majority of Australians, as discussed attached.

The budget presents the same partial and losing US view of competition, which Hilmer and all states rejected in 1993, when his independent report 'National Competition Policy' was delivered and accepted. All would be better off locally, for example, if Sydney University supported regional and strategic planning before collegiate cultures, in multicultural planning approaches to open fund development, openly based on global and national directions. This is discussed in regard to the budget attached and on www.Carolodonnell.com.au .

Fred Hilmer of National Competition Policy fame is now Vice Chancellor (VC) of the Uni. of NSW. Australia should grow the tertiary education institution and related operations broadly and regionally, in openly strategic and related planning and job links beyond the commonly driving professional and academic placement silos, globally and locally. Students should demand much cheaper, better education that is better administered and more widely available. This is the institutional promise media and information technology make possible but which is resisted by those unwilling to see their practice tested in the light of its universal open revelation. Sport doesn't run races in the dark. Neither should academics.

Stephen Schwartz, former VC of Macquarie University has also pointed out that academic teaching practice appears unable to recognize key economic and social benefits of the social division of labour. In spite of the advent of radio, TV, computers, etc. it is still based on the medieval model of a man standing in a room with a book, to which students come to listen and take notes at a time not of their own choosing. Today's teacher writes and presents her own curriculum content in the classroom and on line, while taking on personal and computer based contact with all her students, advising them on any of their difficulties with the curriculum, the computer contact and examinations, before marking and presenting the results. (It was the computers that killed me. See my World Health Organization (WHO) and Australian risk management lectures and assessments at www.Carolodonnell.com.au under the *Learning* side bar. This site is about better project management and policy.)

Unless a learner's student peers are prepared to do it, which often appears unlikely, the teacher often does the production, contact and evaluation lot. The result of pre-dating Adam Smith and the chance of economies of scale, with specialisation to maximise the benefits of the production gifts of all, is that teaching is often unnecessarily costly, closed and stupid. Students with jobs and family responsibilities travel to lectures very inconveniently indeed.

Separating tertiary teaching and research is asking for more commercial and academic closure. This increases partial, complex and secret distortion of more broadly practical

messages while also increasing cost. The capacities of media and new information technology to improve all research and learning are huge, and should never be discounted. This was also recognized early in the design of the Open University in Britain and in related publishing ventures, then lost. The more facility anyone has with computer technology the better. However, to reduce all teaching to those who can use their computer related technology to what others regard as best effect is wrong. It is like refusing to recognize Karl Marx or the modern barrister, solicitor or judge because these men either would not or could not type their cases themselves or find a woman to do it for them for free.

RESPONSES TO THREE MORE QUESTIONS PUT BY THE COMPETITION POLICY REVIEW

Some questions of the Competition Policy Review are answered briefly below and justified in discussion of the collegiate and budget contexts later and attached.

Q, Do you think there are laws or regulations that stop you from getting into business or running your business the way you need to?

A.Yes. I am a retired academic who has seen the financial value of her work decline to zero, in spite of having been at the forefront of introducing material change that Australian governments demanded in the light of their adoption of UN Conventions. How could this happen to me? Dead generations of the past weigh like a nightmare on the minds of the living, along with the new kids.

There are many outdated and powerful laws that drive professional rather than regional approaches to competition and the measurement of its outcomes. This also prevents planning that is ideally carried out in the interests of key stakeholder and in related community interests. Key stakeholders are those for whose benefit a programme or project has been established and funded. From this perspective one wonders how the Biosecurity Framework for protecting NSW envisaged by the Department of Primary Industries conceptualises 'industry and stakeholders'. (Like reading about Crown lands I guess it isn't pretty but will look at it at a future date.)

Before retirement in 2007 at sixty, when I was offered a retirement package, I taught at Sydney University for eleven years. As a former NSW public servant in the Department of Industrial Relations and Employment and the WorkCover Authority, I was also an active member of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU).

As a sociologist in the Faculty of Health Sciences, I tried to develop a teaching approach to assist the university develop the UN and World Health Organization (WHO) national and regional planning directions to which Australian governments had been committed through legislation and ideally via enterprise bargaining. I met with frustration from collegiate cultures which did not understand or seek the approach as they had modelled themselves on medicine, whereas they delivered questionnaires. Health information management, on

the other hand, was at the bottom of a long professional and student pecking order, with many physiotherapists who would rather have been doctors at the top. This is not healthy.

Anyhow, the NTEU would not recognize or assist my enterprise bargaining efforts purely for myself, so as to grow the business on the work I was already doing, without affecting others. The NTEU instead wanted to drive everybody in a one size fits all agreement. Theirs is an unclear and losing direction. Guide the institution by regional and related strategic plans.

Regional planning is discussed in the attached response to the recent Hockey budget. This is the context in which competition is ideally designed, as God and His ideal natural order intended, unless we can escape the court through the devil of arbitration. I doubt it. Much legally privileged (secret) information necessary to settle is often only available in court. Will they even take themselves out of the court to look at the place in dispute to judge? I doubt it, although they may debate endlessly and at great cost about proper jurisdiction.

The preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights also states that rights are 'inalienable', which I presume means given by God as distinct from historically forged in regional democratic struggles which also entail social duties to the collective and others.

A Law School lecture I heard last week, entitled 'No Invalidities', also suggested courts are determined always to strike them down. The lecturer indicated that no law could ever be interpreted by the judges so as to deny a person their day in court in spite of any will of the legislature to put into law its inherent hatred of these confusing, feudal, wrong, adversarial principles. The lecturer did not use these adjectives, of course, he quoted the triumph of jurisdiction without suggesting why any government might not rightly want to avoid it. (This feudal crew should not put themselves above the law like this, although they always do and universities are churning them out like rabbits. They think ignoring reality is their duty.)

In an international economy, if anybody is serious about a competition policy review, it is worth remembering that the cheapest thing any government could ever do would be to get rid of courts and move on to more openly, broadly and clearly informed processes which are also less adversarial. These could rely on the use of common dictionaries for a start. The lawyer usually has none but the legal interpretations. This hinders effective practice and research, not to mention preventing common understanding and wasting public money.

When academics talk of peers they usually mean people of an apparently similar status in the discipline or in its part of an institution, often working in collusion. This also wastes time and money. It is usually more important for learning, as distinct from status enjoyment, to be put

with informed or uninformed people **not** like oneself, than to meet ones who think similarly. The great thing about being in the public service was working with engineers, statisticians, financial and legal specialists, and the lot, as one learned so much about other expert views and experiences on the ground. In academia, a virtue is more often made of those with narrowly shared professional jargon and assumptions working together. This is comparatively stupid and hopeless because the usual answer to any question is the need for more funds for research. Open matters up to broader judgment in placement and teaching as this offers a product better tailored to meet community needs and problems in the light of open action.

Competition is ideally constructed in related regional contents through openly administered projects to achieve social and environmental goals and through comparatively low risk financial management strategies which necessarily should also be more open. This is the learning strategy that is most consistent with the attainment of higher quality of life for all.

Collegiate decision making, on the other hand, ensures that the disciplines with the greatest numbers of academics will also be calling the shots for students and others. One notes a former PM's view, expressed in the SMH article 'Merger with ABC means the death of SBS, warns Fraser'. He said '*For those of us in business, we know there is a very simple law that applies to mergers: the larger culture smothers the smaller*' (SMH May 31-June 1 2014). It is exactly the same with collegiate cultures. The more a type grow, the more they take over. This is dangerous because it replicates the failed US approach to providing health care.

For example, in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Sydney Uni. where I worked for eleven years, psychologists and related information technology performers smothered statisticians and sociologists while turning research into US junk which often equates perception delivered via closed questionnaires with reality. Although those working in the Faculty wouldn't worry about it, one assumes this is in conformity with price being seen elsewhere as the only true indicator of quality, as defined in market herds. Future commerce and research may then also be constructed on many related but closed and ultimately flawed questionnaire bases, without any reference at all to any associated historical, environmental or practical realities. This approach does not know or make use of the home strengths the students bring, which are often considerable and totally unlike the academic cultures with which they now comply.

This US direction has made sociology into a form of psychology for dummies, based on the accumulation of data about individuals, without noticing the broader comparative history, environment or institutional forces of their construction. There is a comparatively new but strongly held idea, for example, that research consists in talking to a dozen subjects, typing every single word into a computer as if it is precious, and torturing the lot with Nudist. This is not only a potential cause of occupational overuse syndrome and an unnecessary expense of

time and money, it reduces potential product value. (New information technology is often wonderful but can also be misused and our American friends are always asking us to follow.)

The key antidote to professional domination by the many of the few is open planning to improve the potential for more free and sensible choice by current and future generations. At Sydney University this potential can only be achieved through strategic planning because collegiate cultures often resist moves to open up their closed product to public scrutiny.

In regard to publishing, on the other hand, it is socially dysfunctional and foolishly expensive, if universities employ people but buy back their product in the form of expensively closed journals or books which students will also have to buy at great additional cost to the giant fees they are forced to pay for a course which is constructed primarily to mirror the interests of the teachers, rather than their students or others. Better open planning and budget directions are suggested to students, alumni, the NSW Writers Centre, etc. in the attached.

Q. Do you think that there are laws or regulations that stop you getting into business or running your businesses the way you need to. A. Yes. The different treatment of economic and social regulations is dysfunctional for most businesses seeking to perform better

According to the Productivity Commission (PC), economic regulations 'intervene directly in market decisions such as pricing, competition, market entry or exit'. Social regulations 'protect public interests such as health, safety, the environment and social cohesion.' (PC 2008, p.5). This division into two forms of legislation with different assumptions and related rules is wrong because economic activity is undertaken with the social aim of supporting life and its associations.

Australia is a single land and economy which supports many interrelated communities and environments. The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979) was ground-breaking as it recognised the importance of an integrated understanding of relevant environmental, social and economic issues when making land use planning decisions. Hilmer's report to Australian Heads of Government after his independent inquiry into a national competition policy was also ground-breaking in defining competition as, 'striving or potential striving of two or more persons or organizations against one another for the same or related objects' (1993, p.2).

Such developments have usually been ignored because the basic assumption still driving government economic and 'free trade' policy is that competition is always for money and social and environmental benefits for all flow naturally and best from this. Supporters of this 'efficient market theory' think all available information about a commodity (a share or other investment) is reflected in its price. This 'free market' paradigm is outdated and leads to repeated cycles of boom and bust, increasing social inequality as the market globalises and to major destruction of the most vulnerable

forms of life. It has therefore also led away from its supposed goal of perfectly informed and perfectly clearing markets. The paradigm protects secret operations, not the kind of transparency which would assist open comparison and planning by producers in the consumer or related interest.

A related critique of the article 'Decentralised energy: What does it mean?' by David Green, CEO of the Clean Energy Council is at www.Carolodonnell.com.au. Green appears to ignore the reality of an Australian history and its policy achievements of comparative wellbeing and stability, to erect a borrowed, theoretical financial edifice based on obviously untrue 'facts' about the origins of power. Compared with other OECD nations, the US provides health care poorly and expensively through its reliance on private sector price competition. There is no reason to assume that market based solutions will reduce global warming any better. One assumes that this is what the development of clean energy is ideally partly about. We should not need to hide the truth and confuse people to get ahead. Doing so increases ignorance and expense.

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity describes the '**ecosystem**' approach as 'a strategy for the integrated management of **land, water and living resources** that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way'. However, in 'Stocking Up: Securing our marine economy' (2011) Eadie and Hoisington, for the Centre for Policy Development at Sydney University, define **ecosystem services**, as '**the non-market benefits we derive from nature**'. This suggests humans are in a trading relationship with nature and the latter will serve us in many untapped ways which can and should be given a value, purely as price. To see untapped nature as providing services to people is anthropomorphic, confused and confusing. It encourages a view that 'invisible hands' of markets have nobody attached and '**eco-system services**' and their measurement then appear as a wildly speculative number which becomes a trading price. Numbers are not science because they wish it. (On the other hand, these free lectures put on at Sydney University are always greatly appreciated.)

However, the above direction is likely to be a claim for state support for over-fishing not for scientific practice to rehabilitate an environment for future generations. This approach to fishing clarified an earlier experience I had at the Research Symposium 2011 entitled 'Resilience: Can our Environment keep bouncing back?' organized by the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at Sydney Uni. – (also free and great.) A Professor of Economics at the ANU, who is also the ANU-UNESCO Chair holder in Water Economics and Transboundary Water Governance and Director for the Centre for Water Economics, Environment and Policy spoke about fishing. I couldn't understand a word he said and his website did little to help. Governments and others are ill advised to spend money on what cannot be reasonably clearly put. These people who apparently only speak and care about money are the ideological front runners for many of those who take it from you in order to finally lose the lot (i.e. both fish and money – the same way the illustrious professor talked about 'stock').

Associate Professor Michael Harris, on the other hand, referred to an approach called INFFER, which is a simple investment framework for environmental resources and a related tool for planning and prioritizing public investments in natural resources and the environment. INFFER requires decision makers to be explicit in their assumptions and start planning with regional maps in which the significant public assets are identified and simply graded in terms of their high or low significance

and related threat, prior to making related recommendations for action to improve their nature and resilience. This is more in keeping with the 'ecosystem' approach required by the Convention on Biological Diversity (UN 1992), as discussed attached and on www.Carolodonnell.com.au

When Harris discussed the INFFER system he appeared to use the regional framework to address benefits and threats to private activity, as well as public benefits and threats related to the natural environment. He pointed out that the resilience of an environment should ideally be judged in the context of prior directions to achieve the broader ideal aims for that environment, which one assumes may be related to public and private partnerships to achieving common environmental, social and economic goals. He strongly supported the earlier view of Dr Jane Belnap, a scientist with the US Department of Interior in Utah, that the management goals for any natural environment need to be clearly understood before 'resilience', which she defined as 'how easily the system bounces back', can be effectively studied or achieved. Land use ideally supports strategic planning.

The NSW Government Crown Lands Legislation White Paper by NSW Government Trade and Investment appears, however, interested only in selling land and never in buying it, although the Foreword of the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment and Minister for Regional and Infrastructure and Services clearly recognises that Crown Lands serve the people of NSW in ways related to protection of their health and wellbeing. Tourism also depends on beautifully kept lands and native animals. Does government intend to sell the lot? This is not the way our fathers encouraged us to perform with land, which is an excellent store of value. They are not making any more land without an enormous amount of expensive trouble and demand for it is growing. The White Paper states in regard to any conversion of Western Land leases granted for agriculture/cultivation, that the current interpretation of 'ecological sustainability' requirements is that at least 75% of the area of the lease has been cleared and developed. Lessees have expressed concern about the current interpretation (p. 26), as they certainly should. It is noted that the main compliance issue in the Western Division is overstocking and overgrazing. Give rare native flora and fauna a better go. Broken Hill is a fantastic and comparatively underutilised tourist and business destination.

The term 'resilience' was previously only familiar to me in relation to practices to achieve good human health management, rehabilitation after injury, and related risk management and premium setting. These principles are ideally used in management of occupational health and safety, rehabilitation and related compensation systems under state legislation. This approach appears consistent with Harris's regional approach to risks to the environment. Consistency and variation in treatment, according to the particular case are both important for judging better treatment outcomes and for related system clarity and cost containment. Production chains and individuals typically work, consume and live in related regional communities, which they affect and should help.

Under an insurance approach to maintaining or achieving greater 'resilience', managers appear advised to undertake the steps likely to reduce the major burdens of injury (in acute and chronic situations). Ideally, attempts are made to prevent injury, to rehabilitate the injured and to

compensate more fairly. This is discussed later and attached to make the point that it is important to avoid providing any family or individual with substantial economic incentives for unsustainable reproduction or disability. Government, industry and related community design and support for paid work, education, exercise, travel and entertainment are ideally addressed in related contents.

The PC recently stated: *Defining 'public' infrastructure is challenging, but the essential elements are that it encompasses infrastructure where government has a primary role and responsibility for deciding on whether infrastructure is provided, and/or the source of the revenue streams to pay for the infrastructure.* The definition is great as it exists and also appears holistic and true, because governments have key influence over all construction and use of product on land and sea. This interest is currently exercised through outdated and narrowly prescriptive laws, rather than in planning principles which recognize that regional interests are ideally contained within the global interest in quality of life for all.

In this context the Westpac Bicentennial Foundation, described as the largest private education scholarship program in Australia's history (AFR 3.4.14, p.1), is ideally supported and followed by others. This appears to be a design to lead many others to the strategic plan with \$100 million put in a charitable trust. For example, the PC report entitled 'Rural Research and Development Corporations'(RDC) recommended establishment of a new RDC entitled **Rural Research Australia (RRA), intended to sponsor non-industry specific research and development (R&D) to promote more productive and sustainable resource use by Australia's rural sector.** RRA's remit was expected to broadly **encompass land, water and energy use.** One wonders what happened to this ideally shared direction because it seems ideally related openly to regional and strategic planning as well as to the concerns of Chief Scientist, Professor Chubb, who lamented the lack of a policy or strategy setting out the vision for the future, and how science and innovation could help achieve it.

The PC noted the paucity of reliable data on spending across the rural R&D framework. Consistent with the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification System (ANZSIC) the report covers R&D investments in agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries which are defined as being *'mainly engaged in growing crops, raising animals, growing and harvesting timber and harvesting fish and other animals from farms or their natural habitat'* (p.1). The PC finds there is an absence of good information on funding and spending flows within the framework and as a result it is hard to be certain about how much is spent, with whom it is being spent, and which parties are ultimately providing the funding. Fix this by openly pursuing strategic planning before all the related collegiate and cultural drivers who wrongly seek to justify more closed operations beginning with contract laws and lawyers. (Should one assume politicians know what is going on in their regions for a start? I guess so.)

This PC report pointed to better research and business directions to support international, Australian and related government and community planning. This direction also lends itself to gaining more sustainable development by being better designed and more broadly and openly informed, so as to gain more stable investment and risk management. The report made recommendations for better and fairer management and data capture by governments and business sectors, to clarify their respective research funding sources, aims, performance outcomes and accountabilities. This is to judge all performance better and to improve research partnerships further in the light of key regional, national and international goals.

Q. In areas where the government provides goods and services, do you have enough choice and are you able to access quality services?

A. The identification of quality service depends on identification of the comparative outcomes of choices. One knows more about the outcomes and hence quality of services delivered in the public sector than one knows about services provided in the private sector.

The question should not confine itself to government services when Australian competition policy ideally requires service provision on a level playing field of community standards. For this to occur private sector operation needs to be more prepared to open itself to synergies.

One wonders why the Competition Policy Review confines this question to the provision of goods and services by government when in the private sector one may perhaps buy a pig in a poke only to be disappointed much more often. Perfect information is necessary for perfect choice and one has better information through NSW Health, Medicare, etc. than in private sector services which appear more likely to hide mistakes through lack of good data capture.

What does anybody know, for example, about the practice and outcomes of dental specialists? One thinks, for example, of old people who are possibly still losing teeth one by one, in spite of the regular visits to dental specialists every three months for the anaesthetised deep cleaning of the teeth that is ideally expected to prevent this. A newly implanted 'tooth' is, however, recommended in the place of each one lost. I guess that this course of dentist and related specialist action and referral, like geriatric psychiatrists, may be a ticking time bomb of cost in nursing homes while perhaps also causing other problems and doing little good. Who knows?

I have always also guessed, for example, that the therapeutically designed sexual services of prostitutes might be more helpful to calm and assist aggressive men than psychiatric services which appear more costly. However, the professional and social identities are constructed so that this potential service comparison appears largely forbidden. To be overlooked is often women's lot other than as consumers who may then be valued in frontline marketing services.

Before I retired at sixty and was confronted with an avalanche of offers of 'preventive' medical tests supposed to keep me alive, I had mammograms and vaginal pap smears regularly. In recent years, one increasingly fears the increasing range of preventive medical specialists who appear, like the proverbial man with the hammer, to see in scans or tests what may look to him like a nail in urgent need of preventive attention or referral. To avoid always being at the doctor for preventive treatment, which I have also learned to regard as potentially dodgy, I have now pledged never to go to any doctor for tests in the absence of symptoms. (I guess this seems a bad idea to any health professional or to those given their diagnosis and treatment.)

In dentistry and many related fields I often can find little or nothing on the internet which looks anything like research, in comparison with an apparently shameless promotion sometimes posing as research, which also offers no potential for any consumer question. The situation in dentistry or related service provision, compared with Australian government health service, is an example. Provision of Australian health care data appears very good in comparison. I recently used it, for example, to reject having a whooping cough vaccination, as first requested by my daughter and NSW Health, when she became a new mother and this advice to both grandmothers, etc. was posted across the front of her new government birth record book.

The book generally seems excellent. I have worked with enough Australian government and related data gatherers to know that government mainstream health service providers and data gatherers try hard to provide good service and be trustworthy, as distinct from make money. I don't see much private sector research on the internet like that. However, I am frightened by the professional enthusiasm for increasing the 'preventive' test and apparently finding the life threatening disease in what was an apparently symptomless environment. I keep well away.

See the email I wrote on whooping cough later which shows the strengths of having comparatively good government health services and data. One can make an analysis in which one may feel a reasonable degree of trust which can make everyone feel less anxious and save everybody time and money. Anxiety may also be used as a medical diagnosis. Paradoxically, anxiety may increase the safer we are in comparative reality and the more we are aware of any potential risk. There are dangers in treating anxiety as a medical condition if this also increases anxious dependency and lack of awareness of alternative comparative views and situations. On the other hand, we should not have to live in a world where we have no reason to trust. Find a financial adviser I can trust? (Jesus you must be joking. Show me how it works.)

In medicine, I find that people and the public sector also continue to perform as if so-called 'preventive' medicine has no unintended consequences. The bizarre idea that many have that powerful 'medicines' have no unexpected outcomes has horrified me since the day my five

year old daughter was given an asthma inhaler by a general practitioner because I had finally taken her to him so as check out her constant colds in winter. She obviously loved the puffer. It made her feel important and gave her something to give a morning talk about at school. She was disconcerted when I took it and threw it away. We have never looked back.

I also speak as one who wonders what is so great about filling teenage boys with Ritalin at the public expense, while the same boys would be pilloried for using marihuana at their own expense. I left school and got a job at fourteen as did many boys my age. Getting work was easy then as was changing one's job at will. I can understand why many young people find it difficult to sit still and shut up for hours on end every day when they can see no benefit in what they are expected to be doing and hate doing it partly because their incapacity in it makes them feel inadequate. (I feel similar about using new technology). I think the embrace of drugs paid for by the taxpayer is a socially sanctioned means of control which is also damaging because it denies and reduces passive aggressive and hard to control behaviour to a script.

One cannot and should not wipe out aggression or domination by denying its existence either in speech or professional action. To treat all behaviour as if it has physiological rather than environmental roots is to hand over control to those who depend on the diagnosis for a living. This professional domination is the convenient but costly US route which denies the effects of the environment other than price and also seeks to strangle the cheaper and better producer. The collegiate cultures of universities reflect this growing devil's bargain. To go to the US is to see around forty TV channels awash with lying rubbish from morning till night. The budget is discussed in related contexts attached to show that more open regional and strategic planning may be antidotes to related problems. Let a broader range of services then openly compete.

Pain is a symptom which appears to be increasingly turned into a medical diagnosis at a time when diagnostic testing is increasingly also assumed to show the real deal and symptoms are comparatively glossed over in most medical discussion. However, pain is not a diagnosis and neither is stress. Pain appears to be a symptom of some stress which is known (e.g. trauma or tissue damage) or unknown. Janssen's free promotional booklet in chemist shops 'Coping with persistent pain: A guide for patients, partners, family and carers' appears wrongly to treat pain as a diagnosis, just as medicine appears increasingly to gloss over the nature and importance of related symptoms in preference for major increases in routine medical testing. This is an immediate invitation to more ignorantly thoughtless and expensive routine use of drugs by all.

As a result of being employed for a decade in the WorkCover Authority I have little confidence in clear relationships between the particular test, diagnosis and experience of pain, (especially when a general practitioner asks me to get a cholesterol test and then misreads the results. One the other hand, one is always grateful for the informative government websites). Others, however, may be grateful for an apparent diagnosis which can be treated. It would be good to

know how Alfred Medical Imaging and Slater and Gordon operate together at Poet's Corner Medical Centre at Redfern in relation to motor vehicle claims, insurance claims, compensation and negligence claims and wage loss and workplace disputes. Slater and Gordon in particular promote themselves as champions of change so should be happy enough to prove it.

The sick role and its related clinical approaches now replace religious authority as the dominant handling approaches to all pain and stress, with diagnostic responses towards anxiety, depression (and less commonly anger), supported by legally sanctioned drugs or surgery. This is not empowering for many who may be better off placed in new environments to support more useful exercise, work, learning and entertainment. One wonders what kind of health people expect when they eat so much rubbish and exercise so little. In the Sydney Uni. gym I heard somebody state an exercise program was designed to increase strength, flexibility and endurance, which promotes balance. If one sees mental health in a linked relationship for quality of life rather than for social and occupational status and success, one ideally will also see many as more normal rather than sick, with some of us being more normal than others.

See related discussion below, attached and on www.Carolodonnell.com.au .

WHOOPIING COUGH, GRANDMAS, ETC: A RISK MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Hi

I'm writing this because it is what I truly think at this stage about what seem to me a related range of issues for all families. I'd be happy to change my mind for a better view. Cheers Carol

By looking at the most reputable (mainly NSW health) data I gained the followed information.

Whooping cough is highly infectious and most serious in babies under 4 months. Dose 1 at 6 weeks; Dose 2 at 4 months. Dose 3 at 6 months. Boosters at 3 and in high school.

If the mother has had a vaccination before the baby is born this reduces the risk of infection by half. "A few weeks after birth is too late to protect vulnerable young babies". (NSW govt. promotion of free vaccine finished in 2013). The vaccine is suggested for fathers and anyone else close to the baby (grandmothers, etc). An adult booster is suggested every 10 years.

Whooping cough requires GP and hospital notification to NSW Health. It is suspected that the incidence is higher than the figures below for May 2013 – April 2014. (On the other hand, it superficially seems from the data that nobody died.)

0-4 years: M. 205 notifications; F. 165 notifications; Persons 307.

65-69 years: M. 33 notifications; F. 31 notifications; Persons 64.

Argument:

The immunized baby is presumably not at risk from anybody around him, close or not. (If he is at risk the immunization isn't working.)

The likelihood that Louis will be infected by me or anybody else with whooping cough in the time before he begins immunization himself is infinitesimal.

It does not seem much sense for me to be immunized unless I want to protect myself from whooping cough which I don't, any more than I want to protect myself through some kind of supposedly preventative screening for bowel cancer, vaginal cancer, skin cancer, breast cancer, diabetes, heart disease, osteoporosis, dementia or anything else likely to kill old people which health professionals are promoting to me already. I'll take my chances. Their enthusiasms scare me.

In regard to Louis we are presumably looking at the same set of grandma questions at least for TB, Polio, Diphtheria, Tetanus and measles. (No idea about mumps, rubella, meningococcal, etc.)

From a realistic health perspective, I guess the best thing one could do to protect Louis' health during winter would be for those close to him to wear masks if they have a cold. If I were a mother I would not personally recommend this to anyone but will wash my hands more often.