

NOT KNIGHTS OF A ROUND TABLE BUT HANDS OF A NANNY STATE: A SUBMISSION TO THE REVIEW OF HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS AND OUTCOMES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

From increasingly democratic perspectives, best practice is ideally open to all

This submission and attachments to the Review of Higher Education Access and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People primarily addresses best practice and opportunities for change inside universities and other higher education providers by first outlining the general UN and Australian community directions necessary for more effective, stable and fair development. From all democratic perspectives, best practice can only be open for all to be able to comparatively judge, learn from and improve upon past performance; so all can learn from past generations to meet the needs and interests of current and future ones. What else is there to it? Education is something unpredictable that in the end is right. I hope you had the time of your life. (As Gadget, I speak for Elia Kazan).

For effective national workforce development the performance of teachers and all related competencies are ideally conducted and assessed openly, in practice, and as research into the comparative quality and cost of performance. This may also be seen as anchoring more truthfully productive communication in more truly open markets, as distinct from pursuing more secretive, adversarial and exclusive professional or commercial action. One can accept the reality that everything is connected to everything else and try to deal with it openly and reasonably, or favour a version of normal behaviour that requires blinding oneself and others by pretending legitimate life always remains in a narrow bunch of professional silos properly divided by ironically named Chinese walls. These people have a habit of turning truth into their lies, which they then ram down our necks from many podia. What reason could you have for trusting any of them unless they were part of your family and its close connexions to those in the more expensively credentialed and highly connected know outside your ken? These people are primitives by the more broadly honest and open standards of behaviour, documentation and teaching we expect. We are the stewards of our country. (I am a bit like Dirk Bogarde in Daddy Nostalgie.)

Partly because all heritage is often mixed and clouded in mystery even when researched, it is hard to define an Australian aboriginal or other person, their culture or their heritage effectively. Ideally, however, our common and diverse international heritage should be honestly explored, protected and/or demonstrated for future generations, whether we or others are valued mainly as part of historical and geographic communities, or as people who travelled to see them. In Europe, for example, stately homes may be preserved for future generations and foreigners to enjoy, even when those aristocratic families who once owned them, now do not. All ideally now consider how common global heritage can be better managed by innovative practice. Bureaucratic and community practice must open and direct greener development more fairly for current and future generations. This depends on more honest and open communication and debate, as distinct from censorship and narrow rules which have become increasingly restrictive, costly and reality distorting.

Access to higher education and the outcomes of such access for aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or other people are ideally addressed in related regional, historical, cultural, investigative and developmental projects to protect and enhance our common heritage. For example see attached discussions of ideal project development principles and related directions and accountabilities in Broken Hill, Sydney and beyond. Democracies need high quality news and related media, or people are intellectually lost and manipulated whatever their pretensions to democratic development.

From the religious perspective, the idea of the public and related community and individual interest, naturally including that of future generations, may be like God's Word made Flesh. The world is ideally His or Their Estate, so managed to ensure life flourishes. Feudal, tribal and related family life, which many love, is naturally a big part of that life. Its history is ideally protected and/or demonstrated with current and future generations while its clerics, philosophers, entertainers and scientists, ideally debate and recruit many enlightening followers on TV, radio, the internet, and in community development ventures of interest to many, whether believers or not.

Rights may be theorized as forged in democratic struggle or as 'inalienable' (given by God and embodied in law), which is feudally rather than scientifically constructed, protected and practiced. 'Feudal' describes pre-capitalist modes of production primarily based on conquest and exploitation of land and its product rather than on the increasingly evolved transformation of raw materials for sale as complex products and services. Capitalist production, which followed feudalism, is ideally based on the primary appreciation of science and its increasingly productive capacities, as a result of the application of an increasing supply of new technologies which are also increasingly adapted to broadening markets. These may also support many more niche producers. The earliest, most entrenched feudal powers are armies, trade and their related effort.

In Australian trading relations, banking, insurance, taxation, superannuation, sovereign and other investment funds are ideally financial drivers which should also offer protection for better production designed to serve broader groups of people. This protective funding approach ideally includes support for injury prevention and rehabilitation strategies. However, secret legal and financial expectations which arise from earlier feudal practice constantly drive all better production back. Risk is traditionally conceptualised as purely commercial and then packaged and repeatedly sold on to many others as investment opportunities. This practice in US housing was a primary driver of global financial crisis.

Gary Banks, the chairman of the Productivity Commission (PC) stated the evidence suggests that for productivity growth in future, Australia requires the following most:

1. Removal or reform of unproductive industry assistance
2. Removal of regulatory burdens and the avoidance of adding new ones and
3. Rethinking infrastructure

One could hardly disagree with the above. It will be interesting to see what may make industry assistance productive or unproductive, when working beyond the confines of the

normal organizational model of profit and loss. For example, how important should one rate having a voice of comparatively informed and diverse reason, such as the Australian Financial Review, being available to every intelligent Australian at home and at work? Like having the ABC and SBS TV and related radio opportunities, I'd rate it very highly. I have just come back from the US. It does not have a strong, free, reliable information core, which scares me. Whatever economists say on productive or unproductive labour, it seems idiotic to prefer employment of thousands of narrowly driven policy-advising semi-morons, to broad and increasingly informed, linked and independent voices like SBS and related news, etc. (Did I say how sad I was when Peter Ruehl passed over? How unkind.)

According to Robert Guy (AFR 13.9.11, p.14), Beijing's plan is to transform the economy over the course of the 12th Five-Year Plan from a reliance on fixed-asset investments and exports to one based on consumption. Suggested policies for growth of China's middle-class consumers include an expansion of social welfare – ('to mitigate precautionary savings', according to Guy) and higher taxes on the rich and state-owned enterprises. On the assumption that what is good for China should be good for everybody, and if it isn't then we all want to know why, Australia should approach the Chinese government and seek to openly mesh our directions to global mutual advantage - this time with the monkeys and their furry friends openly in on the deals, big-time. Stiglitz (2010) and our apparently necessary response to problems he outlines is discussed in this context later.

Necessary change for more productive and greener direction and jobs can be partly supported through open dissemination of information about jobs and quality curricula to achieve planned new greener directions locally, regionally and globally. As well as development of skills to meet specific shortages, many open education models to assist community and industry management to achieve sustainable development are necessary. This submission therefore primarily addresses:

1. The planned investment directions necessary for more jobs and greener futures
2. The need for more on the job training and certification of competency to practice
3. The need for more clear, reliable, information, news, education, advertising and entertainment for open delivery by mass media to assist regional development
4. The need to ask regional employers what their job and skill requirements are in the light of commitments to regional development plans and to assist many greener project management directions and projects
5. The need for higher education institutions to support these directions better instead of being driven by older feudal associations which are mainly either market or government driven, but never effectively coordinated in the broader public interest

When the global financial crisis happened in 2008 the Australian government acted very quickly to give a lot of people a useful monetary hand-out to spend at Christmas and to subsidize school building and home roof insulation. The media did an audit. We learned

a bit. As a former public servant I bet the loss of life, fires and instances of corruption in the home insulation scheme partly occurred because the industry successfully urged that fast job protection was the paramount concern and that training for safety, etc. should be left to the usual slow, narrow and opaque classroom channels. A clear video on key issues, given away by any newspaper, might have upset teachers throughout Australia. The public might easily want to connect many more such skill demonstrations, inconveniently from teaching perspectives. How long will it take to produce the requisite green skills at normal teaching rates - forever? People working at Lake Cargelligo or environs should not have to go to Orange to learn green skills. It is too hard and costly.

Unless the multiple, closed academic, teaching and related professional and bureaucratic strangleholds on education delivery are broken by inviting current or past teachers and suitably qualified others to contribute to relevant curriculum which is openly accessible to all, Australia will remain far less fair and competitive than it would otherwise be. In races which depend upon delivering economies of scale, the US and Asia will flatten Australian production in many areas of English speaking services and manufacturing.

Australia's economic hope appears to lie mainly in continuing to do what Australians have done well, which includes initiating and assisting many more fairly paternalistic forms of democracy through related jobs and projects aimed at public interest based goals. Many European or Asian nations and organizations also appear well placed to be tugs to turn larger interests around which have historically served feudal, pre-scientific and anti-democratic ends. Superannuation and related investments are discussed later.

The PC noted the decision in 2009 to abolish the Land and Water Australia research and development corporation (RDC). It sought a new RDC entitled Rural Research Australia intended to sponsor non-industry specific research and development to promote more productive, sustainable resource use by the Australian rural sector. In 2009, the total operating revenues of 39 Australian universities were \$20.5 billion yet they only had one million students. Academics may like their secret research processes but the key stakeholders who pay for it should ask for the cross-subsidised books to be opened to assist planned regional development which includes more access to education and related service via internet, radio or TV and in other suitable forms, which support work better.

The planned investment directions necessary for more jobs and greener futures

Stiglitz (2010), one of a huge number of Nobel prize-winning US economists, argued there has been so much success in labour saving production in much of the world that there is a problem of persistent unemployment and insufficient demand, dealt with poorly through encouraging personal or government debt until a new crisis. A new global vision ideally puts less emphasis on generating demand for more material goods by those already over consuming and spending. It requires shift in the collective direction of investment towards saving natural resources and protecting environments – the factors of production and quality of life the market does not value or undervalues. Better cooperation between Australia, China, the US and other nations, organizations and individuals should deliver projects to achieve better quality of life, ideally designed in many related regional contexts,

starting with the poorest. Past regulation makes this very difficult to do and getting over this problem openly is very important for educating and offering people better options.

China may become a more democratic world leader, or could become much more like the US or India – increasingly unequal and driven by international markets, while consumers are driven by rubbish on foreign or home grown TV, to become fatter and more disabled and violent and/or more obsessed about their health, appearance and status. Chinese government may ‘seek to mitigate precautionary savings’ or assist their more effective management in broader public and individual interests also serving future generations. JK Galbraith hated seeing private affluence and public squalor. It seems the US people’s abhorrence of the latter is a key factor driving them into always deeper debt. Australian planning direction is discussed later in this broader regional and international context in which all land, water and production are ideally better managed in the public interest. As a historic desert mining town, which may draw support from many Australian and overseas directions in mines safety, health, transport and education, Broken Hill appears well positioned as a potential research trial to assist project ventures locally and globally.

For example, take the Broken Hill Community Foundation (BHCF), which received seed funding from Pasminco, with the funds to be capital protected, expanded and invested to provide financial support for local development projects. The core values which drive the BHCF are that at all times it strives to be:

Open and transparent; Independent; Apolitical; Responsible; Non-bureaucratic;
Proactive and passionate; Community spirited.

This direction is hard, where those who ideally have no wrongdoing to hide are happy to have their matters discussed clearly in the open, in the knowledge that criticism and self-criticism are the leadership duty we bear in the search for truth, so all life may flourish. However, as we must depend on the US, the Chinese, and other muscle it seems by far the safest option. (One was not born female to live in this era and country for nothing.)

Political leaders ideally assist many broadly informed and protective decisions by key regional groups and related communities about development and distribution of wealth which depends on its creation and spread through work and related exchanges like borrowing and investment. Australians should use many funds to develop Australia and plan with many globally and locally to develop in greener, more sustainable regional directions through creating jobs to improve the quality of life as broadly as possible. The alternative is to continue seeking increasingly unstable profits in opaque and costly markets, before experiencing losses of the kind which led to the global financial crisis in late 2008. This will inevitably happen again if Americans cannot understand what to do about much wrong direction, let alone muster the muscle to do it. In ‘World crisis requires global solution’, former British PM Gordon Brown sensibly called on the world to establish a new financial regime and on the G20 to deliver it. (AFR, 13.9.11, p.63)

According to the AFR (12.10.11), the day the Clean Energy Future bill was passed was Magic Pudding Day (my un-birthday). The Sydney Morning Herald (SHM 13.10.11, p

1) states a carbon price will start mid 2012, rising by 5% per year until converting to a price set by an emissions trading market three years later. The carbon tax starts at \$23 per tonne and will be paid by 500 biggest polluters. I have not read the bill but we should. Whenever the moneyed or injured are unhappy about something, the *law* will be all that is left to lead lawyers and their multiple courts, to which public servants also defer on a daily basis, while politicians come and go, their debates forgotten. People need to understand more about how the system operates on us, not merely keep mouthing many comparatively narrow and ignorant views from more narrowly particular interests. (Come back Australia Post. All is forgiven. I was a fool. We can do this thing together.)

Anyhow, according to the AFR, the Business Council of Australia wants infrastructure addressed. Government and regional communities should identify clear, openly applied regional development directions and related projects, jobs and skills to support regional telecommunication directions. Current government review seeks to address opportunities that the National Broadband Network (NBN) creates for the emerging digital economy to improve the delivery of health and education outcomes; growth in local economies; business efficiencies and opportunities; and government services and programs, including local government services. Related directions are addressed later and in the attached.

In this regional development context attention is also drawn to the current Inquiry into Workforce and Education Participation undertaken by the Economic and Finance Committee of the Parliament of South Australia. Among other things, it seeks 'ways to enhance access to and participation in education, training and employment, including through improved collaboration between government, health, community, education, training, employment and other services'. It also seeks strategies to respond to the needs of people with limited experience of participation in education and/or the workforce.

In his new role leading an emerging infrastructure research group, former treasurer, Ken Henry, apparently plans to push for 'authoritative work' with the University of Wollongong's Simulation, Modelling, Analysis, Research and Teaching (SMART) group in regard to project financing for big ticket items like high speed rail. Ideally we can all learn a lot from an open exercise. Henry said it is important to make at least some of these investments more attractive to superannuation funds. He said he took on the SMART job because he finds the challenge of developing Australia's infrastructure deeply fascinating. I do too. History repeatedly shows it is vital to understand how to structure investments in order to avoid being wiped out by them a little down the track.

Henry thinks there is an enormous need to build 'more of just about everything'. Some men tend to have comparatively one track minds. If they are not building things they are blowing them up. I strongly share Lord Mayor Clover Moore's view that ideally we are over plonking buildings in parks. MP Bob Katter said on the 'Insiders' on ABC TV that he feared plans for systems that are supposed to reduce carbon pollution would involve 'complex rubbish that is going to distress everybody in Australia'. The memory and effects of the global financial crisis and of the Americans who mainly brought it to us, has not dimmed, at least for him and me, in spite of the view of life peddled by Paul Sheard, global chief economist at Nomura, etc. In a line-up of Europe, Russia, China

and Mongolia, I rate Australian trains by far the most likely to be running late and the taxi costs also as highest. I sure wouldn't ever want to visit here without a cheap group package. Transport around Broken Hill appears a related unrealised opportunity. What about solar powered transport? China has a lot for tourists. Why not try some out?

Many global communities find it hard to emerge from the most recent financial crisis. It will also be hard to avoid repetition of old cycles where the next crash is bigger and much more rare life and beauty have been trashed. People everywhere love water but are faced with increasing desert and have to buy water in plastic which then destroys marine life and clogs the earth. The Menindee Wetlands Project, near Broken Hill, is ideally a laboratory with wider influences, like a sanctuary or zoo. Wetlands provide habitat for animals and plants and may contain a wide diversity of life, supporting plants and animals found nowhere else. Wetlands provide an important range of environmental, social and economic services. Many are areas of great natural beauty and many are important to Aboriginal people. Wetlands also provide many benefits for industry. They form nurseries for fish and other freshwater and marine life and are critical to Australia's commercial and recreational fishing industries. Wetlands are the vital link between land and water. Many birds of all kinds also love them, along with trees. You get the picture.

The Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at Sydney Uni. recently held a Research Symposium entitled Resilience: Can our Environment keep bouncing back? Michael Harris referred to a simple investment framework for environmental resources and a related tool for planning and prioritizing public investments in natural resources and the environment called INFFER. This requires decision makers to be explicit in their assumptions and to start planning with regional maps in which significant public assets are ideally identified and simply graded in terms of their high or low significance and related threat, prior to making recommendations for action to improve their nature and resilience. Harris used the regional framework to address benefits and threats to private activity, as well as public benefits and threats, related to natural environments.

This is ideally a clear, simple and flexible process, based on gathering evidence, and debating it, rather than a rigidly rule driven one. However, clear distinctions between stakeholders and *key* stakeholders are crucial for good project management. The former are all those who have an interest of any kind in the project. The *key* stakeholders are those for whom the proposed project benefits are ideally designed on one hand and those who fund the project on the other. A stakeholder management model contrasts with a stockholder management model. The latter traditional market model addresses only the financial interests of investors in a project, (assuming they happen to be lucky). It does not address whether any other social or environmental goals of the project are achieved.

Getting investment clearly directed to achieving social and environmental goals sought by the key stakeholders is important for designing and thus comparing the outcomes of stakeholder services to meet goals better for current and future generations. Project management requires:

1. Consultative development of clear program and related project aims and objectives (with or without numerical targets)
2. Clear strategies to achieve the program aims and the related project objectives, including those for clear management accountability and dispute resolution
3. The provision of the budgets necessary to undertake the program and its project/s
4. Monitoring of project performance and evaluation of the outcomes
5. Clear accountabilities for program and project management and expenditure

In this openly partnered development context, the NSW Office of Fair Trading Home Building Contract is a clear, informative and helpful product which is easily copied or adapted for teaching basic principles of quality management on the job. The contract ideally has clear key aims and must be clearly filled in for quality management. Ideally it ensures work quality generates periodic work payments. Related accreditation of skills developed on the job may be openly recorded and signed-off clearly.

In Australia, industry superannuation funds are non-profit retirement funds ideally managed for the benefit of members. The contributions put into superannuation funds throughout working life are ideally augmented by other savings, insurance, taxation or related investment pools which support ventures managed as openly and effectively as possible. As Jeremy Cooper, the chief architect of a new stage of this investment regime designed to protect retirement funds and reduce their costs pointed out, Australia and many OECD nations, like the US and the UK, unfortunately tend to view superannuation as being another part of the financial services industry. The Australian superannuation system is very good by international comparisons, but Cooper said Denmark and the Netherlands have better models (AFR, 10.10.11, p. 1). Guys in the know are apt to forget their job is to make the problems more explicit so we can understand and deal with them. (In the US I find I am driven into constant frenzy by their obscuring financial metaphors.)

As an earlier Australian superannuation architect, Garry Weaven, pointed out in the recent AFR Magazine, The Power Issue:

Superannuation, essentially, is a means to administer and invest savings to allow ordinary working people to emulate the advantages of the very wealthy; they don't have to sell when markets are bad, no deal is too big, the best advice is affordable, unit costs are minimised.

Weaven attacked the financial services industry, which underpins nearly all other industry, as being one that can be paid for matching benchmarks while actual retirement savings decline; for taking commissions without adding value; and for undermining not enhancing the savings needs of the country. The financial or legal 'service providers' are actually the controllers, who take money from pools by managing them for themselves on a daily basis. Many in Britain and the European Union suggested a Tobin Tax to discourage the constant

activities of money managers who clip the funds each time they move the investments.

Weaven states reform of the system of advice and distribution of superannuation and other financial schemes depends on grasping the simple idea that, if advice is only in the best interests of the client, that would also be likely to be in the interests of maximising long term national savings. On the other hand, if advice is based on sales commissions, it will be conflicted and result in the promotion of underperforming funds. With a perspicacity which has surely been shared by many ignorant girls everywhere, at least before the age of puberty, Weaven states:

‘If one can align one’s ambitions and commercial aspirations with the long-term public interest that is not only an extremely potent business strategy but a personally satisfying lifestyle’

The ideal management and work practices for ‘democracy’ or ‘liberal democracy’ require consideration in many contexts where practice is typically feudal or tribal. Could the US, for example, be considered as an enviable democracy when the rich can secretly provide the major funds for the campaigns of all politicians and the people are not strongly discouraged from the belief that guns keep them safe, although the nation has by far the highest murder rate in the OECD and major injuries and deaths from constant war? US TV is ubiquitous, not like college education, and promotes more ignorant consumption.

The global financial crisis showed that many ruling financial, legal and political assumptions, which also require and privilege commercial in confidence behaviour, serve citizens poorly. For example, compared with many other OECD countries, US citizens now have poorer health, inadequate and more expensive health care, huge and widening income differentials, lower minimum wages, fewer paid holidays, higher education costs, more unstable employment, lost jobs, lost savings, huge government and personal debts, major homelessness and deaths and injuries from constant violence. Wherever it counts most, their principles appear feudal, not more scientific or democratic. One assumes this naturally also determines what is considered profitable expenditure and who decides it.

The horror of the 20th century and its constant global and regional hot and cold wars and their aftermath can be seen as the utter failure of feudal diplomacy and market logic, which are now indisputably global. The idea that many male leaders protected civilians, especially women and children, is a bitter joke. On behalf of many who lived or studied in the 20th century and beyond, one cannot strongly enough express one’s contempt for many stupid values and directions expressed in male, feudal leadership. We came to Australia in the 1950s as my father wanted us to get as far away as possible from this global and regional leadership by lunatics, before their next atomic war. He was happy he was not dead from the TB the last had given him. This story matters. Will it be told? Not by many and not widely, especially in Asia, I guess. Will most now get only the view suitable for Mickey Mouse? Educating people is ideally preferred to forcing them into competitive educational debt. The latter is one of many US fashions shipped to us.

Australian experience has shown that insurance underwriting for illness and disability which is provided in the private sector, typically leads to repeated disaster and loss for many, as insurers compete for business on premium price. At the same time as undertaking fierce premium price competition, insurers may suffer losses through disasters in parts of the world over which they have no direct control, which eventually may bring down the business. This occurs after years spent with lawyers and courts, which provide in-effective risk management but take huge amounts of money.

Competition in the regional insurance system is best achieved when industry and government openly own the funds and use private sector insurers or others to administer injury prevention, rehabilitation and investment services and provide top-up insurance.

For example, Australian Medicare is a monopoly pricing system designed to ensure that insurance companies, hospitals and doctors cannot drive the cost of health care services as high as they would otherwise drive them if the Australian population had no guaranteed access to free or lower cost services under Medicare. In the US people die earlier and US health care services are more expensive and less equitable than those here. Many with chronic illnesses are denied treatment on the basis of having 'pre-existing conditions' and more than 40 million have no insurance coverage. Think of the cost-shifting paper work.

Australia should not stand by and watch the Chinese revolutionary experience and related understanding wasted. Chinese energy is astounding and its capacity for planning and implementing greener and fairer direction globally would be enhanced by more open associations with all who seek more open, green and fairer direction. What exactly is Chevron doing about this direction which it claims on TV to lead? Ministers like Martin Ferguson, Greg Combet, Kevin Rudd and other key communications organizations like the US PBS News Hour, SBS, ABC, etc. should bring and seek more open and clearer leadership more broadly, as recommended in later and attached discussion. Support the PC on rural research and development directions as this can lead in new Australian and international government and community directions which ideally attempt to gain more sustainable regional development through better related investment and risk management.

Recently, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kevin Rudd, (*wild cheering*), said to departmental officers:

We must never content ourselves with being the world's best describers of unfolding challenges. We are at our best when we go to the next and necessary step of determining what we must then do in anticipation of the challenges.

This is also the vital first part of any quality management process. It involves being able to understand environments so as to identify and prioritize the risks or challenges arising from them, in order to give advice to selected decision makers on the steps towards better management in the service of the people, including any of us who may be a bit special.

The Minister addressed the importance of aid effectiveness with the Australian Council for International Development. He pointed to the centrality of Millennium Development Goals in the government mission and to the fact that that their focus is poverty reduction. He also said part of the government mission is 'giving voice to the voiceless'. Openly

planned development relationships, undertaken by high quality news and entertainment media owners, education and research institutions and governments are vital for effective community developments which value and protect heritage as well as directing related investment towards greener and more protectively democratic futures. Many exquisite Japanese temples, shrines and gardens, supported by UNESCO, may also show the way.

Throughout the world, 'corruption' may often be most easily understood as carriage of the duty to older tribal and feudal ties, where men are typically expected to care for their brethren and all the related family expansions first and foremost. Confusions between earlier feudal or tribal duties to brethren and newer scientific and democratic duties to broader regional communities are embedded in many unjustified secret practices. These have also been driven by generations of ruling financial, legal and bureaucratic interests, ideally cheered on at home by wives and kids. Many global developments also led to increasing recognition in the dominant regional kinship networks and their bankers, of the existence of hopes and struggles by many outside their collegiate and marital associations. In this context all ideally focus on open demonstration and attempted resolution of many related problems on the ground, not just on reporting political contest as an exciting sport.

The concept of aggregative democracy may be compared with deliberative democracy. List argues the latter assumes the combination of belief and the desire to make rational decisions ideally drives development directions, rather than the aggregation of particular numbers being the main driver. Deliberative democracy is necessary to protect the interests of future generations from destruction at the financial hands of past and current powerfully driving sectional interests. List's distinction between these two democratic forms also provides the capacity for all belief and more broadly scientific approaches to evidence to drive development regionally or universally. The rights and duties of individuals in regard to self-determination are also jealously preserved in this ideal process in which greater individual freedom is also a more logically possible goal.

Ideally, regional directions seek more jobs and innovation on the job to assist protection of the cultural and environmental heritage for future generations. Carbon pollution reduction and related regional planning directions ideally underpin project investment to improve many related rural and urban regions. Effective land and water management and related community transport, housing, health and education services ideally support greener services which also drive manufacturing and which ideally are also planned, established and tested in Australian/Chinese/US/European or related open partnerships.

The best way to identify the skill needs of any Australian industry sector and to create the situation that allows for the best match between skills and job opportunities is to tailor more opportunities for key on-the-job learning and for related curriculum and accreditation which is provided as openly, flexibly and cheaply as possible to ensure its relevance and quality for associated business and community actions, which also lead to greener futures. This is ideally a global opportunity for as many people as possible who want to understand more about good management and/or to learn related skills.

The potential to save and develop in useful ways often seems huge to me. Invite me on a razor gang. For example, Tokyo residents, who appear to have few green spaces to enjoy other than Ueno Park, also live in a city coloured green on the map by vast expanses of expensive real estate where foreign diplomatic staff live in luxury. Ueno Park appears to have been increasingly concreted over to keep the construction industry in work. Large groups of unemployed men also spend each night in Ueno Park under blue plastic sheeting. One wonders if African or other leaders of poor countries know or care how expensive their Tokyo diplomatic service is. The money would seem better spent if diplomatic staff were located closer to each other, preferably living in the same building, like a university college, where they could also talk to each other more easily and cheaply like productive colleagues on a daily basis in a tearoom – photograph and film events. (There is nothing worse than seeing journalists talking to each other?)

The need for more on the job training and certification of competency to practice

The attached submissions on the PC draft research report ‘Vocational Education and Training (VET) Workforce (2010)’ argue that aboriginal people and many others from lower socio-economic backgrounds will only gain more equal higher education access and outcomes if there is also more recognised training on the job and related certification of competency to practice, delivered and recorded in regional fields. Ideally, all assessments are related to clearly specified project outcomes and environments and to the openly related aims and concrete outcomes of openly coordinated practice. As Gunter Pauli pointed out, greener practice is often much cheaper and people have long been taught to associate more sustainable practice with poverty – learn more about wood and bamboo.

More education delivered on the job and clear recording and accreditation of the concrete outcomes of performance are necessary for more productive and fairer education but universities increasingly travel in the opposite direction. They are often set up to lengthen the student’s costly and theoretical engagement with academic subjects, on the promise they will find a good job more easily than the person who did not hand over the money. This rots the capacity of societies to use the strengths of all to best and fairest advantage.

While testing comparative competence in reading and mathematics at school appears very important, the charge of rote ‘teaching to the test’ is far more relevant in higher education, as so much testing is by multiple-choice examination. Computers often do the marking and so release academics from an enormous amount of work in marking, commenting on and debating student projects. The world of work often requires people who work well with machines and related key technologies on one hand, and people who write and communicate clearly and analytically well on the other. Those of us better on one hand, are seldom better on another. The multiple choice test reveals few such competencies. The content is often trivially general and soon forgotten. Students and academics do not complain as most seek delivery of the relevant certificate with as little input as possible.

From the broader community perspective, open educational content to achieve clear course aims is ideally accompanied by more productive projects and related open assessments, so many more in related communities learn better at work. See some key

examples of assessments to achieve such goals on www.Carolodonnell.com.au. In this way more project marking jobs ideally are also provided for post-graduate students who would also get a better education from students and their diverse real life employers, as I did.

Communication technologies should support better operational methods of giving good quality services. This is different from the constant repetition of long and often dubious questionnaires to students and other community members, posing as consultation, research or evaluation. It is very quick and cheap to put thousands of questionnaires through a computer. However, in the absence of the potential for open consideration of academic or other work product in practice rather than theory, by all with an interest in gaining from it, such opinion seeking may be unproductive garbage in and out. The judgment of anything is likely to be fairest and also most productive when undertaken consultatively in the open, especially in areas where the quality of the judgment must reasonably be in the eyes of the beholder, as distinct from tested in expert practice to lead to improved technological development. In education this is ideally developed on screen and through related journalistic, pictorial and technological effort.

It appears axiomatic to teachers and in construction that money spent in students travelling to nest near well endowed or refurbished educational institutions with many huge and small lecture rooms, libraries and offices is money well spent, especially in bigger cities. To benefit many more, however, the clear and inviting presence of paid work, on the job skills development, cheap housing and cheap transport must also be designed and delivered in ways that are organized and attractive enough to improve the chances of many more green and productive exchanges than currently occur. Better coordinated work, training, housing, communication and transport are also necessary to enable the broad, close and critical relationships between theory and practice that are vital for greener and more inclusive forms of production.

Broadly planned regional rather than professional development approaches are necessary to benefit all regional communities. Access to higher education, work and all their related outcomes should not be theoretically constructed as if education is ideally a particular course of competitively blinkered races, where all eventually have a right to the professional tops of many narrowly and theoretically designed and professionally driven education, job, career and income silos. Cutting a broader regional reality up to avoid or drive it narrowly through many professionally distant glasses appears fraudulent and stupid from many broader regional interests in better and fairer development. Australia needs more open, practical workers, not more lawyers and their feudally, commercially and bureaucratically related theoretical peddlers and boundary keepers, aboriginal or not. A lot of things that seem clear quite quickly to Blind Freddy may seem subjects of great mystery after costly economic experts. Never pay for what you cannot explain clearly.

Advance health, which ideally depends on exercises for play or work or good preparation for death and on greener and healthier regions. Start internationally with the poorest. In comparative terms the poor are increasingly disadvantaged in global and local races driven by the financial and theoretical interests of the traditional professional and academic service providers. The comparatively few individuals from poorer backgrounds

who gain access to and ‘make it’ in their research and education institutions often join a brain drain away from where new skills are most needed and also increase the problems of regional inequality which were supposed to be reduced. Academics do not complain.

The more one thinks and learns about one’s practice, the more notions of skill and education become more similar. However, the term ‘skill’ is usually applied to comparatively repeated engagement with specific technologies, to achieve some expected concrete results, as distinct from living in broader theoretical realms, related or not. From this perspective, the logical person to become a dentist would be the woman who stands by his chair and helps him out all day, every day with every different patient. She could get knowledge to deepen her understanding and capacity in tooth-craft from others, while earning a living to care for her children. However, professionals often resist the obvious. This was the case, for example, when academics organized a recent Sydney Teaching Colloquium at Sydney Uni. Having read their poster on the future of dentistry, I have no idea what they want to do and how, but you can bet they don’t want it to hurt them.

Instead of requiring Certificate IV in Training and Assessment for the VET workforce, the capacity to openly demonstrate specified industry skills and related key quality and risk management requirements of law and contract are ideally demonstrated in practice. The submission from TVET Australia states practitioners require three sets of skills in VET – *‘currency of industry knowledge, adult learning capabilities and integration of technology into learning’*. However, there is very good reason to be highly sceptical that the Certificate IV sets good practical direction for effective and cheap skill development. Instead it appears to sharply narrow the field of available teachers, as discussed in the attached. This is the old and true construction industry complaint at a higher level – the youth who may work hardest and best in the field are often not very good with books and written examinations. The reverse is often also true but hidden to maintain social status.

Instead of requiring the Certificate IV, openly, honestly and directly appraise the performance of people claiming they have current industry knowledge to teach and an ability to communicate the related information (directly via computer if this is ideally the best form of curriculum delivery, discussed attached). The NSW Office of Fair Trading Home Building Contract is a clear and helpful product which is easily copied or adapted for teaching principles of quality management on the job and for testing and accrediting related capacities in practice. The alternative route of requiring teachers to have the Certificate IV is merely to narrow the available pool of teachers, using very poor criteria to do it. It is the complete reverse of the ideally required practical direction – yet again.

The need for more clear, reliable, information, news, education, advertising and entertainment for open delivery by mass media to assist regional development

Australians should take and foster more openly and broadly planned and coordinated organizational approaches to news, education and all related product and service delivery, as they appear suited to particular or broader regional industry and community contexts and interests. The ideal of the media as the ‘fourth estate’, which ideally shows and represents the interests of all the people, is contrasted with earlier feudal and legal views

of justice as necessarily being delivered in wars of words, conducted expensively by lawyers and all who increasingly hang on legally driving commercial, bureaucratic and professional force. If broadly and openly planned service directions which are regionally, rather than professionally driven are allowed to occur, Australians and others can also benefit from the necessary reconnection of practice and theory which professionals have increasingly undermined due to their narrower theoretical and related financial interests.

There was an almost total lack of prediction of global financial crisis in 2008, especially in the US, where one might reasonably have expected it. I have come from a holiday in New York, where nearly all 'news' is daily market and comparatively personal trivia, linked by food, drug, financial product and other advertising, if one can judge by more than 27 stations in my hotel. Aside from PBS News Hour, hardly anyone on US TV appeared to take any interest in or know anything much about anywhere outside the US. They appear to like to fly blind while praising prices and their soldiers' actions. They think their guns keep them safe but have by far the highest murder rate in the OECD. When they speak about elsewhere they usually are shrilly making the primary point, which is the US market system is best, even if US government naturally stinks on all sides but mostly in Washington which should fix the mess. How could they not just repeat it?

By selling food, entertainment and drugs, mass media is a key part of the learning upon which we embark to enrich ourselves or to be destroyed by war and all related disorders. Ideally, media provides for the safe expression of emotion so broader learning and judgment are achieved increasingly by all, as distinct from by the gun or lawyers following narrow dictates unsuitable to the particular situation. From the consumer and related community perspectives, including in relation to media services, the primary issue of concern appears not to be how many providers operate in markets but the quality of their product or service and its outcomes. Service proliferation of itself is not necessarily helpful and may generally undermine the quality of service, rather than improving it. This was a lesson learned in Australian workers compensation when it was shown that too many insurers in a market led to repeated failures as insurers competed on premium price, while feuding lawyers generated increasing court costs upon the premium pool.

As an English speaking country with a small population unable to deliver comparative economies of production scale, Australia is always in danger of being totally swamped by US-following suit. This is scary as our news media is far better than theirs, with the exception of the great PBS News Hour, which has to rely on public donation. All communities need more clear and reliable information and news, education, advertising and entertainment, or are more likely to be intellectually lost and easily manipulated by narrower commercial or professional interests. Since clans and societies have progressed from killing each other towards duelling lawyers and beyond, one sees peace and all qualities that may go with it increasingly rest on good communication and that all are primitive communicators in one way or another. Try to make it better instead of worse.

There must be more planning and execution for personal and other product and service development, by more open collaboration outside, rather than inside circles full of comparatively like-minded professional colleagues, where disciplines may delight in

complicating many narrowly distorted, legally and theoretically driven views. One gain of working in the public service rather than a university is at least being in daily work contact with those with skills unlike, rather than like oneself. This is usually more useful.

Historically, the 'vocational education' sector has been built around manufacturing and related job apprenticeship but universities have been built around the higher professional interests of service providers in medicine, law, engineering, architecture, etc. Those most concerned about the importance of manufacturing industry development use assumptions and economic models which ignore the vital potential power in services such as health and community care or land and water management to drive manufacturing development.

Instead the growth of many new service institutions also appear increasingly to be driven by encouragement of comparatively unproductive paper work which offers itself as consultation, potential funding application, research, fund-raising or charitable begging. Surely stable public and private sector development can be planned more effectively than this. (My South American World Vision child, one of six kids, also looks fat – so what?)

As economist Steve Keen pointed out in the article 'It's time to put money into the equation', orthodox economic models of how the economy works do not incorporate money and debt (SMH 26.9.11, Business p. 3.) The George Soros Institute for New Economic Thinking has kindly given Steve \$125,000 to make a model to fix this starting with bank loans. However, Steve is also the man who predicted Australian house prices would lose 40% in value in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis. At the time I was still ringing my hands with glee that I'd put some pre-retirement money into helping my daughter buy a flat, instead of into superannuation or anywhere else stupid the experts advised. We must understand what men are doing with money and we definitely do not.

I speak as a comparatively wealthy retiree with nothing better to do than complain that institutions are not set up to deliver more stable, green investment and jobs but just the expensive lawyer driven same, assisted in the names of education, research and charity. UniSuper lost \$70,000 of mine when the 2008 financial crash occurred soon after I retired. The most opaque and high risk of investments are often the 'ethical' ones. On our body corporate I then experienced the lesser fear and costs engendered by some in the construction industry whose lawyers, supposedly concerned about safety, were perhaps trying to solve their clients much worse financial problems, including slow payment and severe debt default by bigger market players. The direction normally led by US markets is comparatively easily entrenched in Australian universities as they aspire to be global institutions and often do so by hanging on many related US research coattails.

In past weeks, I received six long questionnaires from organizations. The national census made most sense as it did not ask for my almost totally ignorant and disengaged theoretical opinion on anything. One of the questionnaires, from Macquarie Uni., asked my attitude to higher density development. Whether higher density development is acceptable or not must surely depend on the project, the site and related environs. I fought freeways knocking down housing in Glebe; in favour of higher development for more green public space at Harold Park; and against the construction of a 3 storey

boarding house in a poor spot in St James Lane. I want some higher density in return for more green space and low cost housing. The housing appears unlikely to happen, except for the wealthy and social security recipients. Those working but struggling appear unlikely to afford it. A questionnaire on height cannot deal with specific regional reality.

Two questionnaires from the City of Sydney Council asked what I want in Glebe (which probably has more services than anywhere in Australia). For many years, I have sought more local parks, trees and green development along with most other Glebe residents. What a very large demonstration of residents controlled by police and including trade union leaders, Commonwealth, state and local politicians, and I all want, is return of the Glebe Post Office, which always had queues to the counter, unlike nearly all shops in Glebe Pt Road. Queues at Broadway PO, where many Sydney Uni PO matters are also referred, are so long that it always takes ages to reach the counter. Customers often have very complex matters to be dealt with in Glebe as there are so many foreign students, other visitors or migrants or social security beneficiaries and related diverse businesses. We all objected mightily but the PO closed anyway. The system seems stupid but ABC Business Sunday showed that Australia Post has been comparatively good in gearing up to deliver parcels to any home cheaply, which is crucial for much retail competition.

On our body corporate we want to know how illegal dumping and related waste can be managed better so it drives greener communities and jobs. For many years, dumping has happened in our dead end street probably because those cleaning or renovating houses or getting rid of other household stuff do not want to spend the time and money to go to the dump. They dump it in parking areas near us at night instead. Nobody knows who dumps it. On my investigation for our body corporate on how rubbish dumping in our dead-end street might be avoided by greening some relevant pavement areas with planter boxes of native trees to discourage dumpers, Council public domain staff claimed such proposals could only be rejected according to regulations. What ideally happens to old mattresses? Business Sunday should turn to look at waste, as well as the NBN and Australia Post. I have a long length of copper pipe since the plumbers last came. Is it worth money?

One often feels many are increasingly being employed, either to raise expectations on one hand or to dash them on the other, rather than to enable any real understanding or effort. Academics are among an increasing number of people who appear expected to spend time applying for small grants under such circumstances. As a resident, I suggested an application to the NSW 2011 Community Building Partnership program about local parks, the proposed boarding house and rubbish in our street but one guesses from eleven years of working in academia that the money is likely to be earmarked for older unseen forces. This seems far from the most productive way for so many people to spend time.

One of the benefits of more openly planned regional approaches by Fairfax press and other information sources would be the capacity for this to place many professional and bureaucratic drivers in more clear, broad, open and rational service contexts, to better engage and practically assist communities and businesses in related greener direction.

Ask regional employers what their skill needs are in the light of commitments to regional development plans and assist many related project management directions

Ask regional employers what their key skill needs are and help develop these skills openly in the context of production plans for practical green projects and jobs to benefit many linked communities. This is discussed in relation to the implementation of the Far West NSW Regional Plan (2010-2011) in the attached. The plan seeks that information about investment barriers is 'provided to government stakeholders' as an aspect of proposing solutions for barriers to growth and facilitating the formation of trusting relationships between 'new investors and prospective partners and suppliers' (p. 7). This information is vital so that both the elected representatives and those they serve have the financial and other knowledge to address their community and business directions better in future. The information that businesses and communities give government is their collective property and in a democracy it should not be kept secretively by bureaucratic and legal forces.

Planning processes ideally begin internationally in consultation with the poorest people living in natural environments being turned into deserts or monocultures where much more biodiversity, heritage and culture may also be lost very soon. It is vital that comparative rural and socio-economic disadvantage and data driven management to address this are tackled in the light of consideration of the most effective relationships between rural and urban life and between communication, higher education and research. The problems of the legal and financial paradigms Australians have inherited are that law is driven narrowly, by many feudally closed assumptions and practices, rather than in the administration of broader community aims and directions, recorded in the light of the particular circumstances of any case and its key community and environment links.

More openly planned directions are better than trying to be 'fairer' in many environments which privilege the already privileged, whose work is comparatively costly but may be of dubious use. Devise more stable accounting and financial systems to protect and enhance diverse communities and related environments which ideally seek fair treatment. Clear, open regional development aims, directions and accounting systems also appear as best protections against corruption and related problems. Build project management, the right to expression, and all related direction in the open, so all can ideally see who provides money for any development, where it goes and why. What people think or want and why, is ideally expressed in related contexts where individual interests are ideally understood and constructed in the light of shared interests in a broadening range of communities, starting with the poorest, including aborigines. Think globally, act locally.

Institutional restructuring in universities

Universities spring from governance structures traditionally modeled on the notion that the university is a community of scholars, composed of smaller communities of scholars. These scholars often shared the traditional feudal view that pursuit of their own interests is identical with pursuit of the interests of society. Traditionally, academic management has supported 'direct democracy' rather than conceptualized the university as an ideally independent element in Australian society, which is based on representative democracy.

In my view, this has particularly confused the traditional Left of politics and aborigines. A common problem is unwillingness to honestly look for and address economic interests.

The NSW Auditor-General's Report to Parliament in May 2009 focused on the corporate governance of universities and large government agencies (p. 13). It identified a number of issues of concern relating to universities, including:

- A combined operating loss of \$66 million in 2008 compared to a surplus of \$388 million in 2007, largely as a result of the global financial crisis and volatility in financial markets.
- An increase in unfunded superannuation liabilities to \$3.1 billion
- Increased reliance on overseas students as a source of income, with overseas students now contributing nearly half of total student revenue. *(Why is this considered a problem for Australia? The primary aim should be to increase income through open education and research and development partnerships locally and in other countries. See attached discussion on carbon pollution reduction and sustainable development in Singapore, China and elsewhere. Suggestions are made to deal with related financial problems.)*
- Financial exposure due to excessive annual leave balances of academic staff
- Significant maintenance backlogs of nearly \$1 billion (p.13-14)

University governance aims or objectives and related support to attain them must also be designed to solve the above problems and achieve sustainable development. It would be highly desirable if the financial systems of the university were primarily designed to achieve social, environmental and supporting economic aims, rather than linked to supporting professional and related financial interests, as is the situation now.

UniSuper certainly appears to be developing in better investment directions since the global financial crisis. It has \$27.6 billion in funds under management and \$4.7 billion in pension funds. Its new top ten Australian and International Shareholdings now include Apple, Microsoft, Google; four Australian banks (not Macquarie thank God); Telstra, Westfield Group, Woolworths, BHP Billiton Ltd, Rio Tinto Ltd, Exxon Mobile Corporation etc. This seems a good group of investment interests to assist the stable, open and innovative regional investment directions required to assist greener production.

Universities should invest in broader communication, in company with other broadly educational media, to meet the general need for greener and fairer development. As a result of narrow collegiate interests, Australian universities usually appear most powerfully aligned with professional associations. Approval of collegiate peers is traditionally put above the approval of all others and this has produced management structures composed of a multiplicity of theoretically driven academic silos, where little notice may be taken of those outside the academic discipline. Many increasingly withdraw from debate for fear of stepping on each other's patch. Others help professionals often much like themselves in other bureaucracies, to multiply jargon and proliferate stifling red tape. The nation bears the costs when it should be able to lead.

The VET sector requires consideration in related light of developments in universities, where students also seek careers in health, construction, education, environment protection and other areas vital for social, environmental and economic improvement. At Sydney and other universities, for example, the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) policy of seeking a fixed ratio between insecure and secure academic jobs hinders the growth of quality education. This union policy compares unfavorably with the struggle of NSW nurses calling for more clearly defined ratios of nurses to patients, to promote higher quality of care. An earlier submission which is attached made the following recommendations, among others, which ideally apply nationally:

1. Maximize student choice in regard to subjects they are allowed to undertake across the organization
2. Categorize all student subject choice as being principally related to either Governance or Health or Built and Natural Environments
3. Allocate staff rationally in terms of their teaching, research or related work contributions to one or more of the above areas so student choice and administrative efficiencies are maximized
4. Attack the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) policy of a fixed ratio between insecure and secure academic jobs and all related policies which hinder cheaper, better education, organizational growth and sustainable development
5. Make managers manage rationally to grow the business and to cheapen and improve the quality of education and research for more sustainable development
6. Put subject content on-line and administer subjects to maximize economies of teaching and related administrative scale and jobs for PG students and others

Open education and maximising student choice are vital to encourage more students to enter more easily into all areas where there are skill shortages, as well as being necessary to produce greener development effectively, rather than reproducing past assumptions and practices, plus the invention of newer buzz words. The alternative direction is consistent with the current PC recommendation that technical and further education institutes should be able to select the mix of employment arrangements, supported by the contemporary human resource management practices that best suit their business goals. Open them up.

The NTEU is the enemy of students, communities and better institutions, as it fights economies of management and teaching scale which would provide cheaper, more open and better educations. The most obvious and best way to organize work is often for a single lecturer to define and control subject content, which is on-line as well as delivered in lectures. She should undertake quality control in relation to post-graduate tutors who also do the work of marking projects devised for consultative undertaking in work and related community situations. The post-graduate student tutor will generally be expected

to have passed the related UG subject, but is naturally free to take clear issue with the views of the lecturer. This assists debate and learning by all.

The NTEU policy of a ratio between insecure and secure jobs prevents management flexibility and the capacity to grow the business. For example, I would have liked to be in a position to attract as many as possible overseas students to do my subjects because they wanted or needed to, instead of having students with little interest in the area forced to pay for them as part of a required course. However, if lecturers have to do all their own marking this always increases the pressure for multiple choice exams, which are often very inadequate forms of evaluation. In the traditional academic model lecturers like to have as few students as possible, or else multiple choice tests, with more time for research. The organization of on-line education may be multi-skilled in the sense that the lecturer contacts all students herself, but is often intellectually and administratively crazy.

An Open University (OU) approach to education seems a good way forward. An OU meeting I attended in Milton Keynes in England (29.5.08) first stressed the importance of *quality, access and scale* in OU curriculum production and dissemination. The reason for the establishment of the OU was to make higher education available to many more people through TV, videos, the internet and books. All registered OU students have access to an approved tutor – local or online. All education provision should aim to be in line with commitment to open, affordable, accessible, flexible, high quality, greener, fairer services.

Nevertheless, when all else fails, take a leaf from Alan Stokes, in ‘Adrift on a sea of gloom and loving it’, who gives himself cognitive behaviour therapy for depression and is thus able to say:

I’m looking forward to tomorrow’s job figures revealing 94.7 percent employment – much better than global average. We’re all very capable of pulling through, we’ve done it before. The sky’s blue, the water’s beautiful and the roos are jumping. And I can just remember how great it was on the dole –surfing every day and partying every night. (AFR, 12.10.11, p.59)

I’ve never been on the dole but find I can certainly identify strongly with the sentiments. On the other hand, I guess quite a few European Jews and others said that kind of thing before WW2. Can anyone in the US still remember that? Jesus, I hope so. I’m sick of the Hitler repeats. Have a go at doing something about it. Help a lot more make movies. I will address death and entertainment next, although not necessarily in that order.

Cheers

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