

South Australian Economic Priorities: 'The Knowledge State'

October 2014

On Friday 5 December 2014, South Australian Premier the Hon Jay Weatherill MP and Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills and Minister for Science and Information Economy the Hon Gail Gago MP announced the details of one of the South Australian Government's economic priorities: *The Knowledge State – attracting a diverse student body and commercialising our research.*

The South Australian government believes that universities and research institutes have the potential to provide an ongoing source of talent, ideas and expertise to support and sustain South Australian businesses. As a result, the Government is seeking to improve support for applied research and innovation to connect knowledge and research to commercial opportunities.

To achieve this, the Government is seeking to improve collaboration between industry and research institutes, increase investment in research infrastructure and strengthen research precincts and clusters to focus on applied research, commercialisation and attract international expertise.

The Government will also seek to grow the numbers of local and international students, particularly those studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Finally the Government will be seeking to establish partnerships with global technology companies with the ambition that Adelaide become one of the world's 'Smart Digital Cities'.

Objectives

The South Australian Government has created a list of priorities over both the short and medium term to achieve this economic policy priority.

Over the next 12 months, the Government plans to:

- prioritise state government research to support the state's economic priorities;
- promote entrepreneurship opportunities and South Australia's science, technology, engineering and maths strengths to prospective international students;
- encourage better coordination of services to meet the needs of an increasing student population, including accommodation, employment opportunities and support services;
- make it easier for local and international businesses to identify opportunities for collaboration with South Australia's research sector;
- increase cumulative industry funding to publicly funded research sector from \$270m in 2012 to \$450m in 2015;
- establish a measure of collaboration between industry and researchers;



- develop, alongside the private sector, new sources of venture capital to support the growth of our innovative, early-stage high value technology companies; and
- work with South Australia’s universities and publicly-funded research sector to increase links with industry and commercialisation of research.

The Government anticipates that by 2017 South Australia will:

- partner with global digital technology companies, leveraging their network infrastructure, product testing and production expertise, to benefit local start-ups and entrepreneurs and further build Adelaide as the ‘Smart Digital City’;
- ensure SA businesses bring new products and services to market that result from collaboration with our publicly funded research sector;
- increase cumulative industry funding to publicly-funded research sector from \$270m in 2012 to \$570m by 2017;
- establish an accommodation offer guarantee to new international students studying at SA’s public universities;
- increase the number of international students studying in SA from 28,300 in 2013 (baseline) to 34,400 in 2017; and
- increase the number of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) students commencing undergraduate and postgraduate studies each year from 11,200 in 2013 (baseline) to 13,100 by 2017.

Further information

The South Australian Government’s Economic Priorities website is available [here](#).