Australian Information Industry Association

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Submission on

the Strategic Examination of Research and Development

Introduction

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources' Strategic Examination of Research and Development (R&D). Australia possesses world-class research strengths, particularly in basic science. However, our frameworks for R&D funding, collaboration, translation, and workforce development require modernisation to meet the scale, speed, and coordination needed for global leadership in emerging technologies and innovation-led industries.

Our recommendations are grounded in engagement with firms at the forefront of digital innovation and reflect the urgent need for policy settings that foster long-term investment, coordination, and talent development.

Executive Summary

Our recommendations are as follows:

1. **Policy and Regulatory Environment**: Establish a clear, stable, and predictable legislative and regulatory environment to build investor confidence. This includes timely implementation of AI mandatory guardrails and Privacy Act reforms to reduce uncertainty and encourage investment.

2. **Strategic Priorities**: Focus on translating research excellence into tangible economic and social benefits. Prioritise transformative areas like AI, quantum computing, cyber security, and health technology by directing targeted funding to these high-impact domains.

3. **Dedicated AI Funding**: Establish a dedicated AI Centre of Excellence with significant initial funding to focus on fundamental research, commercialisation, and industry collaboration. Address the talent drain in AI by ensuring competitive salaries, fellowships, and career pathways.

4. **Commercialisation and Collaboration**: Develop structured translational infrastructure similar to Germany's Fraunhofer Institutes or the UK's Catapult Centres to bridge the gap between research and commercial application. Encourage industry-research collaboration through enhanced offsets and support for employing new STEM PhD graduates.

5. **Public Awareness and Literacy**: Launch a national campaign to highlight the benefits of R&D, particularly in high-impact fields like AI and health technology. Promote upskilling resources and address public anxiety to foster a national culture of innovation.

6. **Education and Workforce Development**: Embed innovation in education by encouraging inquiry-driven learning and offering robust STEM programs. Invest in

digital skills training and flexible pathways like micro-credentials to rapidly upskill the workforce.

7. **Funding and Infrastructure**: Provide a balanced mix of direct grants, incentives, and public-private partnerships to support R&D. Ensure robust digital infrastructure and secure access to public datasets to facilitate AI-driven R&D and innovation.

8. **R&D Tax Incentive (RDTI)**: Improve the clarity and consistency of the RDTI to make it more accessible, especially for SMEs. Introduce a collaboration premium within the RDTI to encourage partnerships between businesses and research organisations.

9. **Support for SMEs and Startups**: Simplify grant access, reduce administrative burdens, and provide mentorship or technology extension services. Expand programs like the Business Research and Innovation Initiative (BRII) to incentivise SMEs to collaborate with research institutions.

10. **First Nations Knowledge and Leadership**: Formally acknowledge the value of Indigenous knowledge systems and ensure First Nations communities are genuine partners in R&D projects. Establish clear protocols for the ethical use and protection of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP).

By adopting these recommendations, Australia can build a dynamic and impactful R&D system that drives economic growth, fosters innovation, and addresses national priorities.

Responses to Questions

1. What should an integrated, sustainable, dynamic and impactful Australian R&D system look like?

An integrated and impactful R&D system requires:

- **Timeliness and Certainty**: Policy levers must respond swiftly to capitalise on commercial opportunities in the fast-moving technology sector. A clear, stable, and predictable legislative and regulatory environment is crucial for building investor confidence. Delays in critical areas, such as establishing Mandatory Guardrails for high-risk AI use (AI guardrails) and finalising Privacy Act reforms, create uncertainty and have a dampening effect on the willingness of both local and international companies to invest in Australian R&D, driving innovation offshore.

- **Clear Strategic Priorities**: Our focus should be on translating research excellence into tangible economic and social benefits, including national capability, productivity growth, high-quality jobs, and solutions to national priorities (e.g., health, climate, security). It should ensure economic resilience, industrial diversification, and increased national Intellectual Property (IP) for ongoing national revenue. Priority-setting should recognise transformative areas like AI, quantum computing, cyber security, health technology, and other emerging digital solutions. Directing targeted funding to these high-impact domains is essential. Currently, Australia's broad-based R&D incentives fail to adequately prioritise such enabling and emerging technologies.

- **Balanced Risk and Reward**: While ensuring safety and ethics, regulatory interventions (e.g. AI guardrails) must facilitate, rather than stifle, innovation and commercialisation. Overly restrictive or ambiguous rules undercut investment.

- **Cross-Sector Collaboration and Scale**: A well-functioning R&D system elevates partnerships among universities, businesses (startups, SMEs, large organisations), and government. Larger-scale, mission-driven platforms —similar to Germany's Fraunhofer Institutes or the UK's Catapult Centres—can smooth the path from research discovery to commercial application. Coordination across government departments and agencies is essential, potentially spearheaded by a dedicated Digital Economy Minister to drive a whole-of-government approach.[1]

- **Clear Funding Pathways**: A balanced blend of direct grants, incentives, and public–private partnerships accelerates development. The system should offer both early-stage support for discovery research and mid-to-late-stage mechanisms for prototyping, scale-up, and deployment in global markets.

[1] AIIA, 2025 Pre-Election Statement, 10 March 2025.

2. What government, university, and business policy settings inhibit R&D and innovation and why?

- **Underfunding of Emerging Fields**: Australia's R&D funding is spread across numerous, often disconnected programs, creating a complex landscape for researchers and businesses. Predominant mechanisms like the RDTI are broad and sector-agnostic, lacking directional focus on priority areas - like the use of AI or quantum - for defence, climate change and disease reduction, unlike targeted approaches in competitor nations[2]. Recent Australian Research Council (ARC) funding rounds notably omitted dedicated AI research, highlighting a systemic gap.[3]

- **Regulatory Uncertainty**: Ongoing deliberations on AI guardrails, privacy reforms, and other emerging tech regulations cause a 'wait-and-see' effect. Businesses are reluctant to commit significant funds to R&D projects if the regulatory regime may later shift in ways that reduce commercial viability.

- **Fragmented R&D Tax Administration**: Australia's largest support mechanism—the R&D Tax Incentive (RDTI)—has suffered from "a lack of clarity and consistency" in eligibility and administration. Unclear guidelines and split-agency oversight between the Department and the ATO create unpredictable outcomes. The administrative complexity and risk of withheld post-R&D incentives forces firms (especially SMEs) to rely on consultants and deter them from investing in local innovation, as noted by reviews and the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman (ASBFEO).[4]

- **Weak Translational Links**: Despite excellent research outputs, Australia's commercial translation pipeline remains fragmented. Initiatives like Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) or CRC Projects (CRC-Ps) often lack bridging mechanisms for late-stage commercialisation.

- **Commercialisation 'Valley of Death':** A significant gap exists between the completion of publicly funded research and its commercial application. There's often a lack of follow-on funding or support mechanisms to help innovations progress through piloting, scaling, and market entry – the so-called "valley of death". This discourages firms from engaging in early-stage R&D due to the uncertain path to returns.

- **Exodus of Key Talent**: The AIIA is specially alarmed by the comments of NSW Chief Scientist Hugh Durrant-Whyte in a recent Mandarin article, noting that the lack of support for AI beyond regulation has caused critical researchers to relocate overseas. *"I ran a government-funded organisation about a decade ago now and we had 200 of the top*

[2] Group of Eight (Go8), Australia's Research and Development (R&D) Intensity: A Decadal Roadmap to 3% of GDP, July 2024 page 66.
[3] AIIA, 2025-2026 Pre-Budget Submission, 31 January 2025.
[4] Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman (ASBFEO), Review of the R&D Tax Incentive, December 2019.

researchers in AI in that organisation. Every single one of them is overseas now."[5] The AIIA can verify from its recently completed 2025 Digital State of the Nation survey that AI is indeed the most sought after and unavailable technology skill in Australia. The talent drain amplifies gaps in Australia's innovation capacity.

3. What do we need to do to build a national culture of innovation excellence, and engage the public focus on success in R&D and innovation as a key national priority?

- **Public Awareness and Literacy**: A national campaign highlighting the benefits of R&D—particularly in high-impact fields like AI, health technology, and quantum—would help dispel myths, counter misinformation, and cultivate public support. This campaign should highlight existing legal safeguards, promote upskilling resources (digital literacy, micro-credentials), and address public anxiety, countering misinformation and fostering social inclusivity, particularly for vulnerable groups. Clear communication from leadership, potentially via a Digital Economy Minister, is needed to dispel undue sensationalism or anxiety over emerging technologies.[6]

- **Celebrate and Scale Success**: Government can lead by example through transparent reporting on R&D investments, acknowledging commercialised breakthroughs, and awarding high-visibility innovation prizes. Encourage experimentation and recognise achievements in AI-enabled productivity tools.

- **Embed Innovation in Education**: Encouraging inquiry-driven learning and offering robust STEM programs from primary levels onward sets a foundation for innovation. Expansion of digital cadetships and micro-credentials fosters agile upskilling and technology literacy. Integrate innovation, digital literacy, and emerging technology concepts (including ethical considerations) throughout the education system.

- **National Prioritisation, Leadership and Vision**: A cross-portfolio ministerial leadership—such as a dedicated Digital Economy or Innovation Minister—can unify disparate agendas and position innovation as a bedrock for Australia's competitiveness. Government needs to clearly articulate a national vision where R&D and innovation are central to future prosperity, security, and well-being. Formally adopting ambitious national targets, such as lifting R&D intensity to 3% of GDP by 2035 and including such targets in frameworks like 'Measuring What Matters', signals commitment.[7]

  Elevating critical technologies like AI and quantum as national R&D priorities reinforces this message. The government should consider further initiatives such as the following:

[5] The Mandarin, Australia 'nowhere in the AI race,' says top scientist, calling innovation scene 'dire', 27 Feb 2025.
[6] Western Sydney University, Queensland University of Technology and University of Canberra, 'Most Australians are worried about artificial intelligence, new survey shows. Improved media literacy is vital' 19 August 2024
[7] Go8 (n2) page 69.

- **Policy Alignment:** Ensure policy settings across government (education, industry, migration, regulation) consistently support and incentivise innovation and R&D activities. A coordinated, whole-of-government approach is key.

- **Government as Exemplar:** Government itself should become an exemplar in adopting modern technology (like AI) to improve services and productivity, demonstrating the value of innovation and building public trust in emerging technologies.

4. What types of funding sources, models and/or infrastructure are currently missing or should be expanded for Australian R&D?

- **Mission-Focused Programs**: Beyond broad-based incentives, dedicated grants for AI, quantum, robotics, advanced materials, and key emerging areas could expedite breakthroughs. On this, the AIIA would like to highlight that while the government has made an effort to do so through its National Reconstruction Fund to facilitate increased flows of finance into government identified priority areas,[8] the AIIA has received multiple reports on continuing confusion over whether the ICT sector is within the scope of 'Enabling Capabilities' area. Principally, they have had funding applications rejected because of a layman interpretation of 'manufacturing' as traditional production rather than the legal definition which includes 'developing products'[9] – noting that products include "softwares"[10] – in priority areas of "AI, quantum technologies and robotics technologies."[11]

  We recommend clear communication and training of the programme officers/consultants to ensure the NRF are implemented as designed.

- **Dedicated AI Funding:** Specific funding for fundamental AI research and commercialisation is lacking. The AIIA notes with concern that no AI-focused projects received ARC Centre of Excellence funding in the 2026 round. We recommend establishing a dedicated AI Centre of Excellence (AI CoE) with significant initial funding (e.g., $150 million minimum) separate from the standard ARC process, focused on fundamental research, commercialisation, and industry collaboration. This CoE could potentially provide shared AI computational infrastructure.

- **Translational/Bridging Infrastructure:** Mechanisms to bridge the "valley of death" between research and commercialisation are underdeveloped. Develop or adapt a national network of applied research centres (similar to Germany's Fraunhofer or UK's

[8] National Reconstruction Fund Corporation, Our priority areas, 30 October 2023.
[9] National Reconstruction Fund Corporation (Priority Areas) Declaration 2023 s4 Definition.
[10] Ibid.
[11] Ibid s 5(7).

Catapults) providing long-term platforms for late-stage R&D, prototyping, and demonstration in partnership with industry.

- **Funding Mix:** A balanced mix of funding mechanisms is needed. This includes:
  - **Direct Funding:** Grants for specific projects, mission-oriented programs, and infrastructure (like the proposed AI CoE and translational centres).
  - **Indirect Funding:** Incentives like the RDTI, but its effectiveness needs improvement (see Q2 & Q9). The current RDTI model, being claimed *after* R&D is conducted and potentially subject to clawback, is not the preferred vehicle for *driving* new R&D investment compared to more direct or upfront support mechanisms.
  - **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Models that encourage joint investment and collaboration between government, research institutions, and industry are crucial.
  - **Regulatory Sandboxes:** Facilitating experimentation and testing of new technologies in controlled environments.

- **ARC Funding Concerns:** The AIIA expresses concern over the perceived lack of support for critical technology areas like AI within traditional ARC funding structures. This reinforces the need for dedicated alternative funding pathways for strategic technologies.

- **Modern Digital Infrastructure:** Robust digital infrastructure, including data centres with adequate power (especially renewable energy) and advanced computing capabilities (AI, quantum), is essential foundational infrastructure for modern R&D. Streamline planning/approvals for data centres and invest in grid modernisation to support this infrastructure.

- **Access to Public Data:** Secure and ethical access to de-identified public datasets is critical infrastructure for AI-driven R&D and innovation, particularly in sectors like health, transport, and climate adaptation**.** Unlock public datasets via a dedicated task force and appropriate investment, accelerating initiatives like the National Disability Data Set.

5. What changes are needed to enhance the role of research institutions and businesses (including startups, small businesses, medium businesses and large organisations) in Australia's R&D system?

- **Strengthening Industry-Research Collaboration:**
  - Introduce a collaboration premium within the RDTI, offering an enhanced offset for eligible R&D conducted in partnership with registered public research organisations.
  - Extend this collaboration premium to the cost of employing new STEM PhD (or equivalent) graduates in their first three years, fostering talent mobility and knowledge transfer.
  - Establish structured translational infrastructure (e.g., Fraunhofer/Catapult models) as

mentioned in Q4. These centres provide physical spaces and platforms for co-location and joint work on late-stage R&D. They demonstrate how such models bridge the gap from lab to market. They conduct applied contract research, focus on specific technology areas aligned with university strengths, involve industry from the outset, and have the scale to take innovations through prototyping and pilot production, retaining IP for national benefit and feeding skilled talent into industry. Similar centres of excellence in the US and Singapore also play crucial roles in accelerating commercialisation and building sovereign capability in strategic areas.

- **Improving RDTI Accessibility for SMEs:** Simplify the RDTI application and compliance process, potentially through a unified portal and clearer service standards, making it more accessible for SMEs with limited resources.

- **Targeted Support for SMEs and Startups:**
  - Expand programs like the Business Research and Innovation Initiative (BRII) by introducing mechanisms (e.g., similar to the US Small Business Technology Transfer - STTR program) to incentivise SMEs to collaborate with research institutions.
  - Leverage the National Reconstruction Fund to offer additional finance incentives (equity/debt) for businesses qualifying for the RDTI that also engage in formal R&D collaboration with research institutions
  - Ensure programs like the Industry Growth Program effectively support SMEs and startups in commercialising innovative ideas, particularly in NRF priority areas.

- **Integrated Talent Pipelines**: Embed PhD students and early-career researchers within industry-partnered R&D projects, providing real-world exposure and pathways to commercial roles. This also breaks down cultural barriers between academia and business.
- **Clear IP Arrangements**: Standardised guidelines on IP ownership, licensing, and revenue-sharing can streamline negotiations. For example, Fraunhofer's approach ensures that IP from co-developed research benefits both academia (through licensing revenues) and industry (through well-defined use rights).
- **Support for SMEs and Startups**: Simplify grant access, reduce administrative burdens, and provide mentorship or technology extension services—particularly for digital adoption and scale-up.

6. How should Australia support basic or 'discovery' research?

- **Sustained Public Funding:** Maintain strong, consistent public funding for basic research through primary mechanisms like the ARC and National Health and Medical Research Council, recognising its long-term value even if immediate commercial applications aren't apparent. University block funding also plays a critical role.

- **Investigator-Led Research:** Continue supporting investigator-led, curiosity-driven research across a broad range of disciplines, as this fosters unexpected breakthroughs.

- **World-Class Infrastructure:** Provide access to cutting-edge research infrastructure (e.g.,

synchrotrons, supercomputers, specialised labs) necessary for discovery science.

- **Attracting and Retaining Talent:** Ensure competitive salaries, fellowships, and career pathways to attract and retain top research talent in universities and public research organisations (see Q7).

- **International Collaboration:** Foster and fund international research collaborations to leverage global expertise and networks.

- **Balance with Strategic Priorities:** While maintaining broad support for discovery research, ensure mechanisms exist to link promising basic research findings to more applied research streams and national priority areas where appropriate, facilitating potential translation pathways without unduly distorting the core mission of discovery science. The establishment of dedicated centres (like the proposed AI CoE) can help bridge this for specific strategic fields.

7. What should we do to attract, develop and retain an R&D workforce suitable for Australia's future needs?

According to the AIIA 2025 Digital State of the Nation, 95% of respondents said VET and higher education systems are not producing job-ready candidates, forcing companies to invest in re-skilling and upskilling workers themselves. There is a strong emphasis on the importance of broad capabilities, soft skills, leadership capabilities, and hands-on experience.

Quotes from our survey respondents:
"Mixture of soft and technical skills is the best combination."
"Transformation and leadership development skills are critical."

For this reason, the AIIA stresses the importance of well-rounded curriculum and funded work placements to build talent pipeline and translate and commercialise their research.

- **Skills Development Pipeline:**
  - Invest significantly in digital skills training, including AI and cyber security, through TAFEs, universities, and work-integrated learning programs.
  - Realise the ambition for 100,000 digital cadetships by 2030, incorporating wage subsidies for SMEs to boost participation and job readiness.
  - Ensure digital traineeships is included on the Australian Apprenticeships Priority List to access higher employer incentives.
  - Support flexible pathways like micro-credentials and short courses for rapid upskilling, especially in fast-evolving fields like AI.

- **Improving Academia-Industry Mobility:** Facilitate easier movement of personnel

between sectors through joint appointments, industry fellowships, and secondments.

- **Diversity and Inclusion:** Actively promote diversity (gender, cultural background) in the R&D workforce, recognising that diverse teams drive better innovation. Ensure AI development includes diverse perspectives and prioritises equity.

In addition, a recurring theme in our survey respondents' comments was the need to hire staff from overseas for specific expertise, experience and cost-efficiency. Several noted local barriers like citizenship requirements and visa bottlenecks.

- **Attracting Global Talent:**
  - Utilise skilled migration pathways effectively. Provide direct and expedited permanent residency pathways for international students obtaining PhDs in relevant fields at Australian universities. Ensure visa settings (like the Skills in Demand visa) facilitate the attraction of top global R&D talent.

- **Retaining Talent:**
  - Create attractive career pathways within Australia for researchers in both academia and industry. This includes stable funding, opportunities for impactful work, competitive remuneration, and clear progression routes.
  - Incentivise industry hiring of PhD graduates, for example, through the proposed RDTI collaboration premium.

8. How can First Nations knowledge and leadership be elevated throughout Australia's R&D system?

- **Recognition and Respect:** Formally acknowledge the value of Indigenous knowledge systems alongside Western science in relevant research areas (e.g., environmental management, health, agriculture).

- **Partnership and Co-design:** Ensure First Nations communities are genuine partners in R&D projects that affect their lands, communities, or utilise their knowledge. This requires co-design approaches from the outset. Examples exist where Indigenous rangers partner with researchers using technology like drones and AI for ecosystem management, guided by Indigenous knowledge. Establish First Nations-led R&D advisory groups to inform priorities, create designated funding lines for Indigenous research programs, and embed robust data sovereignty protocols across government-funded projects.

- **Intellectual Property Rights:** Establish clear protocols for the ethical use and protection of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) within the R&D system.

- **Leadership Roles:** Create pathways and provide support for First Nations people to take on leadership roles within research institutions, funding bodies, and policy development

related to R&D.

- **Funding:** Dedicate specific funding streams or criteria within existing programs to support Indigenous-led research and the integration of Indigenous knowledge.

- **Capacity Building:** Support initiatives that build research capacity within First Nations communities.

9. What incentives do business leaders need to recognise the value of R&D investment, and to build R&D activities in Australia?

In addition to the pro-innovation and stable regulatory frameworks or clarity and access to key infrastructure and talents, the AIIA highlights key financial incentives below:

- **Direct Support and Co-investment:** Offer direct grants, co-investment funds (like the NRF), and targeted programs (like the Industry Growth Program) for strategic R&D projects, particularly for SMEs and in priority areas. This provides more upfront certainty than post-expenditure tax incentives.

- **Clear Pathways to Commercialisation**: Evidence of robust bridging support (e.g. mission-driven applied research centres or Catapult-style models) assures business leaders that innovations will not stall after proof-of-concept.

- **Reliable, Predictable R&D Tax Incentives**: The current RDTI's unpredictability, including delayed or withheld offsets post-R&D, discourages new investments. Clear, consistent eligibility guidelines, faster assessments, and unified administration through a single portal are critical.

- **Market Access:** Government procurement policies that favour innovative local solutions can provide a crucial first market for R&D-intensive businesses.

- **Demonstrating ROI:** Highlighting the significant economic returns from R&D (e.g., CSIRO's estimate of $3.50 return for every $1 invested and showcasing successful Australian commercialisation stories can help convince leaders of the value proposition. AI alone could add $115-$600 billion annually to the economy by 2030 while quantum is projected to be a $6 billion domestic industry by 2045.[12]

[12] CSIRO, State of Australian quantum report 2024

10. What should be measured to assess the value and impact of R&D investments?

Assessing R&D value requires a mix of quantitative and qualitative measures beyond just expenditure:

- **Economic Impacts:**
  - Contribution to GDP growth.
  - Productivity growth (at firm, sector, and national levels).
  - Creation of new businesses, industries, and high-value jobs.
  - Export growth in R&D-intensive goods and services.
  - Levels of private sector investment leveraged by public funding.
  - Commercialisation rates (licenses, patents, spin-offs).

- **Innovation Activity:**
  - Business expenditure on R&D (BERD) as a percentage of GDP (tracking progress towards targets like 3%).
  - Patent filings and citations.
  - Rates of industry-research collaboration.
  - Adoption rates of new technologies (e.g., AI) by businesses.

- **Workforce Development:**
  - Number of skilled R&D personnel (e.g., PhD graduates, technicians) employed.
  - Success in attracting and retaining global talent.
  - Growth in digital skills across the workforce.

- **Social and Environmental Impacts:**
  - Contribution to solving national challenges (e.g., health outcomes, emissions reduction, resource management).
  - Improvements in public service delivery through innovation.
  - Development of technologies supporting sustainability and the circular economy.

- **System Efficiency:**
  - Timeliness and efficiency of grant processing and RDTI administration.
  - User satisfaction with R&D support programs.

- **Measuring New Measures:** Crucially, the effectiveness of any new measures introduced to boost R&D must also be measured. This requires establishing clear baselines before implementation and tracking progress against specific objectives and key performance indicators (KPIs) for each new initiative.

- **National Framework:** Incorporate key R&D and innovation metrics into national progress frameworks like the 'Measuring What Matters' framework.

Conclusion

Reforming Australia's R&D system is critical for future prosperity, productivity, and resilience. This submission highlights the need for enhanced clarity and predictability in incentives like the RDTI, targeted support for strategic technologies like AI, stronger bridges between research and industry through collaboration incentives and translational infrastructure (learning from international models like Fraunhofer and Catapult), and a concerted effort to build a national culture of innovation supported by a skilled workforce.

Addressing the fragmentation of funding, closing the commercialisation gap, providing regulatory certainty, and actively fostering talent are essential steps. By adopting a coordinated, mission-driven national strategy that aligns policy, funding, and infrastructure, Australia can better translate its research strengths into tangible economic and social outcomes.

The AIIA stands ready to collaborate with the government and stakeholders to advance this agenda, ensuring Australia's R&D ecosystem is fit for purpose in a competitive and rapidly evolving global landscape.

Should you require further information, please contact Ms Siew Lee Seow, General Manager, Policy and Media, at siewlee@aiia.com.au or 0435 620 406, or Mr David Makaryan, Advisor, Policy and Media, at david@aiia.com.au.

Yours sincerely
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About the AIIA

The AIIA is Australia's peak representative body and advocacy group for those in the digital ecosystem. Since 1978, the AIIA has pursued activities to stimulate and grow the digital ecosystem, to create a favourable business environment for our members and to contribute to Australia's economic prosperity. We are a not-for-profit organisation to benefit members, which represents around 90% of the over one million employed in the technology sector in Australia. We are unique in that we represent the diversity of the technology ecosystem from small and medium businesses, start-ups, universities, and digital incubators through to large Australian companies, multinational software and hardware companies, data centres, telecommunications companies and technology consulting companies.