



WHITEHORSE and CIER NEWS –May 2009

Measuring ICT

Numerous submissions to the Federal Government Innovation Review have called for improved measurement of innovation and economic outcomes, and many other commentators have pointed to the difficulty of accessing usable and reliable statistics on ICT, and the problem of reconciling differing classifications and interpretations.

The Australian Computer Society, after discussions on ICT statistics with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, relevant Government Departments, and other ICT stakeholders, has recently engaged CIER and Whitehorse to develop the **Australian ICT Statistical Compendium** to address some of these concerns.

The Australian ICT Statistical Compendium aim is to provide a comprehensive statistical snap shot of the Australian ICT sector incorporating statistics on the Australian ICT sector, ICT higher and vocational education, ICT trade, ICT employment and skills, ICT immigration, with breakdowns of the statistical data on a national and state/territory basis where it is available.

The Project Objectives include:

- ✓ To provide to government, industry, employers, educators and all those involved in the ICT sector a snapshot of what ICT statistical data is available
- ✓ To ensure that the publication will be able to be updated annually
- ✓ To assist policy makers involved in the ICT sectors by providing the latest available data
- ✓ To provide a tool for businesses that deal with the ICT sector

Whitehorse and CIER have extensive experience in this field and are very pleased to be associated with this important Australian Computer Society initiative.

Tasmanian Broadband

Whitehorse and CIER chairman, Ian Dennis, was pleased to be in Tasmania as the Government announced the National Broadband Network.



(Ian with Minister Conroy, former chair of the Intelligent Island Board, Neville Roach, and Innovation Review leader Terry Cutler)

Minister Conroy's press release stated:

"This new National Broadband Network will begin rolling out in Tasmania as early as July 2009, before a full national roll-out in early 2010....

This announcement means Tasmanians will begin benefiting from broadband speeds up to 100 times faster than currently available within a matter of months...Tasmanians will also be the first beneficiaries of hundreds of local jobs that will be created during the 5-year life of the project".

Ian met with TasICT and Tasmanian Government officers about Tasmanian ICT Industry development and growth, and the potential implications for this of the NBN roll-out.

CIER (Centre for Innovative Industry Economic Research Inc) is a not-for-profit incorporated association, which Whitehorse and the Victorian Government helped to establish and fund. CIER undertakes research projects which Whitehorse assists with, and Whitehorse provides CIER with no-cost office and administrative support.

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