

Mel's Study

Conceptually: "Working with Government Mirrors" Policy Development in Australian Government. A case study of education and industry policy development.

Department here and there undertake work in isolation.

Treasury and PM&C then have structures that combine this work for example

Treasury has **Output 2.1.3 Industry, environment and social policy advice**

http://www.treasury.gov.au/annualreport/content/02_outcome_213.asp But the

question is, Is it the same people working on the materials or is it just a mirror image?

Should the education system really have the focus on business end of the game? Have universities become TAFEs and therefore are making on irrelevant.

The scary thing I think is that we are making policy in isolation. I mean, does everyone know this kind of material is out there? Am I being naive in thinking that just because I don't know that it exists everyone is in the same boat? Are the policy makers aware? Who are the policy makers? Given the way we make policy in this country do we actually utilise all the knowledge we have to hand to make our decisions?

Key Does the separation of powers work in regard to policy development and implementation? Can education and industry policy be developed separately and then implemented jointly? Where does the flaw lie? Is there a flaw? Or does the current system work?

Process:

- Research (Annual Reports of) relevant departments for information on their business. This is looking at the structure of PM&C, Treasury and Finance as well as Education and Industry.
 - Research texts on policy development in Australia.
 - Analysis of statistics in relation to trends in the VET system and related industry sectors focusing on employment rates
 - Conduct interviews of officers in these Departments on their perception of the status quo.
 - Draw conclusions
- using "see other" "see other"*
- data research could do this*

Chapters

1. Introduction
2. Policy process
3. Education Policy development
4. Industry Policy development
5. Changes over the years
6. Ways to improve

Sources:

<http://www.apo.org.au/> This is Australian Policy Online. It too divides policy development by topic. This is a collaborative effort led by Swinburne University.

<http://cpd.org.au/> Centre for Policy Development this is a think tank web site and is interesting. It was some education policy paper on it which would be interesting. Seems reputable – there are some good names on there but I can't see how it's funded.

<http://www.australianreview.net/digest/2006/02/jones.html>

This is a look at industry policy by the Howard Govt over 10 years. The summary states the education funding is a problem

<http://www.minister.defence.gov.au/NelsonMinSpeechnpl.cfm?CurrentId=6173>

This is a speech that states how funding will be given to Aust firms in defence building.

<http://repp.anu.edu.au/confer.htm> This was a conference with a listing of R&D papers in relation to policy development.

<http://www.google.com.au/search?hl=en&q=%22Reshaping+Australian+Institutions%22+policy+development&meta=cr%3DcountryAU> This is a google search I need to explore more thoroughly

<http://www.dest.gov.au/archive/highered/hereview/submissions/submissions/B/BusHedRoundTable.html> Interesting points about the role of business in education and topics for discussion.

http://www.anao.gov.au/download.cfm?item_id=1ECDA444E8E91DC5BFDCD4EB238A14B4&binary_id=ECCB2D791560A6E8AAAACBF198F6D7DF ANAO better practice guide to policy development.

VET Policy

http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/training_skills/publications_resources/agreement/default.htm outlines the VET policy standings between the Commonwealth and State Governments. All these would need to be read in order to ascertain the state of play as well as the background information on how it was got there.

BHERT

And then there's actually the official collaboration between the education and industry sectors <http://www.bhert.com/> so are we as policy makers using this forum? Should we be using them or are they a lobby group? Would it matter? Is the outsourcing of policy ideas and expertise a good idea? They have a primary focus on universities – who is advocating for the VET system?

The Commonwealth government should examine how policy might be employed to encourage planned giving through the trust structures and tax incentives it provides.

This is from <http://www.bhert.com/documents/B-HERTPositionPaperNo.14.pdf> and is the first reference to policy direction. Most government references are about funding strategies.

The CRCs have had many reviews of their effectiveness and contribution to Australia's economy, business collaboration and development of intellectual property, all positive. B-HERT supports the conduct of regular reviews

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and recommends long term funding certainty. B-HERT believes that the CRCs should have rigorous commercial assessment processes, but believes there should be a place for some CRCs to have all or some of their mission to be directed at the public good.

Drawbacks/Opportunities

There's a lot of research already in this area. John Uhr at the Crawford school has done a lot of analysis of government processes.

The "Reshaping Australian Institutions" project would have covered many of the aspects I'd like to look at. <http://rsss.anu.edu.au/AnnualReport00/RAI.pdf>

Janine O'Flynn at the Crawford school is examining privatisation and those governance related issues but I think that's more specific than what I have in mind.

Don Aitkin has done work in the area of both R&D policy development and education policy development

<http://www.newmatilda.com/policytoolkit/policydetail.asp?PolicyID=328&CategoryID=9> it may be possible to leverage off this material. Or has his expertise already sufficiently covered this field?

