



Chapter 2

Departmental Overview

THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING PORTFOLIO

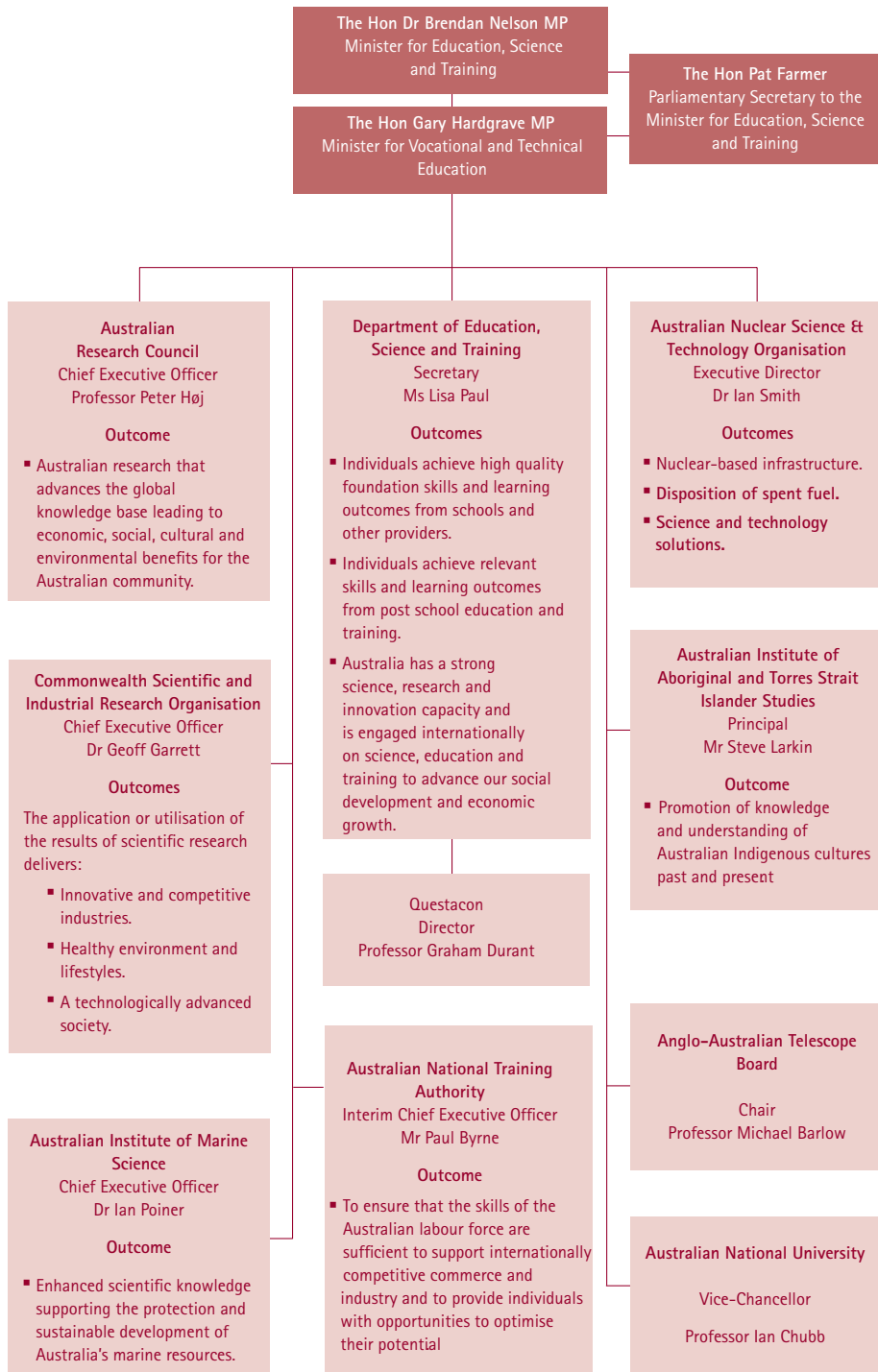
The portfolio takes a national leadership role in education, science and training.

The Education, Science and Training portfolio (see Figure 2.1) is made up of:

- the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST), including Questacon (the National Science and Technology Centre)
- the Anglo–Australian Telescope Board (AATB)
- the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)
- the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) (ceased operations on 30 June 2005)
- the Australian National University (ANU)
- The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)
- the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)
- the Australian Research Council (ARC)
- the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

The department and agencies provide high quality policy advice and services for the benefit of Australia. They work with a range of stakeholders to deliver these outcomes, including the Australian Government and state and territory governments; the education, science and training sectors; industry; communities; and a range of contracted service providers.

Figure 2.1: Our Ministers and the portfolio (as at 30 June 2005)



THE DEPARTMENT'S ROLE

The department's vision is *a better future for all Australians through learning, science and innovation*.

To support this vision, we work towards achieving three outcomes:

- Individuals achieve high quality foundation skills and learning outcomes from schools and other providers.
- Individuals achieve relevant skills and learning outcomes from post school education and training.
- Australia has a strong science, research and innovation capacity and is engaged internationally on science, education and training to advance our social development and economic growth.

We work professionally to achieve these outcomes by:

- advising on and implementing policies to ensure the continuing relevance of education, science and training to current and future needs and to meet the growing requirement for lifelong learning
- carrying out timely policy-relevant research, analysis and evaluation which address the information needs of our clients
- working in collaboration with the states and territories, industry, other agencies and the community in support of the government's objectives
- working with each other and our stakeholders to identify and address Australia's current and future skill needs
- encouraging international cooperation and the exchange of ideas, students and expertise with other countries
- implementing people and business initiatives to enhance individual, team and organisational performance
- ensuring high quality, strong accountability and value for money in delivering government-funded programmes.

THE DEPARTMENT'S EXECUTIVE AND STRUCTURE

The department's Groups are responsible for the business deliverables outlined in the Portfolio Budget Statements. Some Groups enable the business of others, and other Groups' work demands a cross-department perspective. Each Deputy Secretary has responsibility for areas as set out below and in Figure 2.2. For further information about the department's senior management committees, see Chapter 7.

Ms Lisa Paul – Department Secretary

As Secretary for the Department of Education, Science and Training, Ms Paul has responsibility and oversight of the administration and corporate and strategic directions of the department and portfolio.

She provides senior policy counsel on major and sensitive policy issues to Portfolio Ministers and represents the department at various Australian Government, industry and business sector forums.

Ms Paul is responsible, as Secretary for the lead agency, for the Murdi Paaki Council of Australia Governments' trial site in north western New South Wales. Ms Paul also sits on the Boards of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, the Australian Research Council and the Cape York Institute.

Mr Grahame Cook – Deputy Secretary

Mr Cook has responsibility for issues relating to science and sustainability, innovation and research and higher education.

Science Group, Innovation and Research Systems Group, Higher Education Group and Qwestacon report to him.

Mr Cook chaired the Corporate IT Committee, sits on the ANSTO Board, chaired the DiREct Steering Committee and leads the Business Continuity Management Team.

The Chief Scientist works alongside and independently of the department.

Dr Wendy Jarvie – Deputy Secretary

Dr Jarvie has responsibility for the International Education Group, including the Offshore Network of 15 offices. Two branches of the Indigenous and Transitions Group (Indigenous Education Policy and Indigenous Business Management Branch) work to her. Dr Jarvie also oversees two enabling areas: Strategic Analysis and Evaluation Group and Procurement, Assurance and Legal Group. The Chief Audit Officer reports directly to her and she chairs the Audit and Business Assurance Committee.

Dr Jarvie's responsibility extends to overseeing the development of a consistent approach to education and training quality assurance across the department.

Mr Jim Davidson – Deputy Secretary

Mr Davidson has responsibility for policy advice and management of national vocational and technical education programmes. The National Training Directions Group and the Industry Skills Development Group report directly to him. Mr Davidson also oversees the Information Services Group.

Mr Bill Burmester – Deputy Secretary

Mr Burmester has responsibility for issues relating to the Australian Government's policies and programmes for schools and transitions. He oversees the work of the Schools Resourcing Group and the Schools Outcomes Group, as well as the Corporate Strategy Group, whose functions include ministerial support and communication.

The department has offices in each state and territory, and these fall within his area of responsibility. Mr Burmester chairs the People and Leadership Committee and the Network Management Committee.

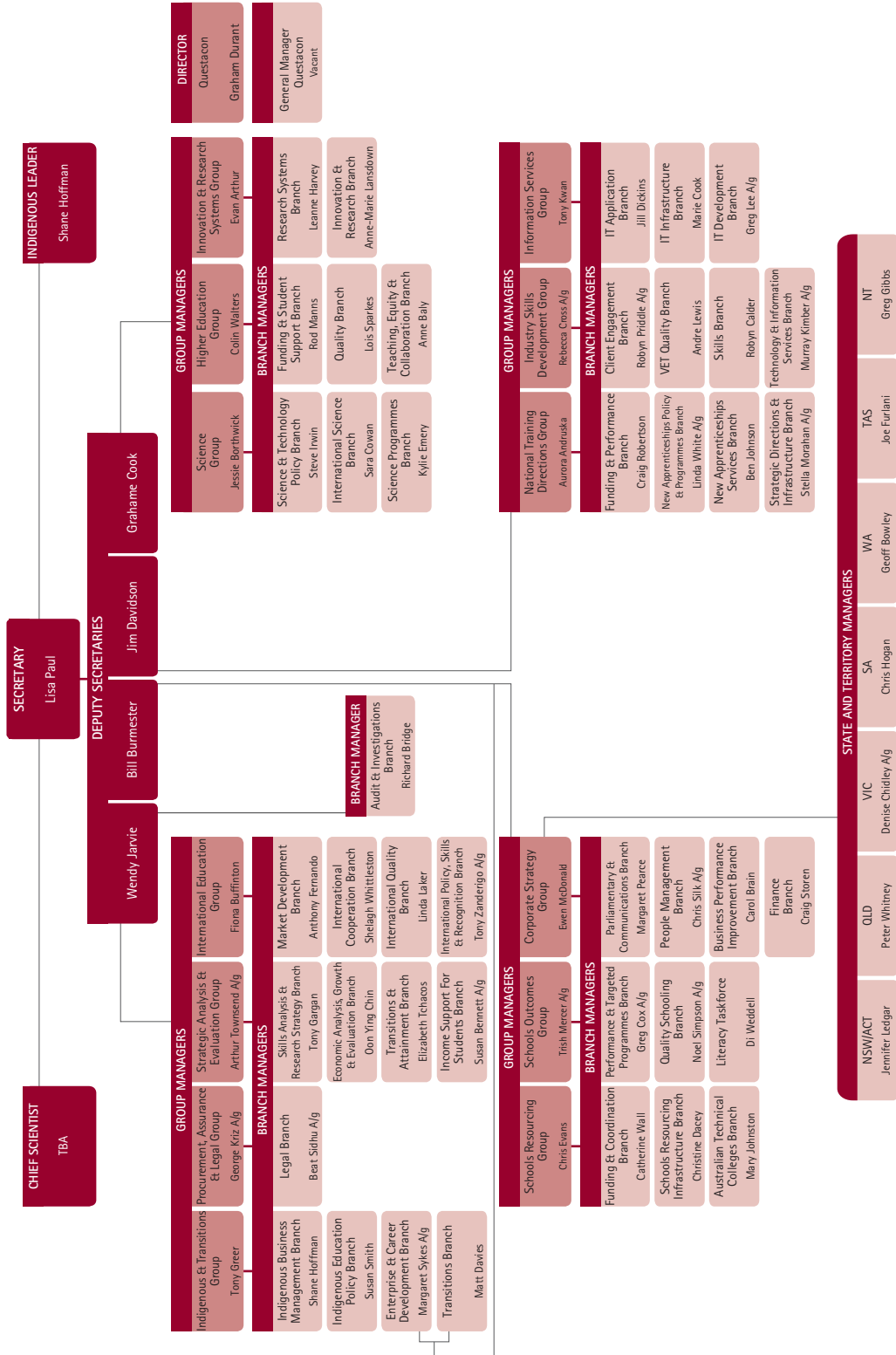
Changes to DEST's structure

The department's structure is reviewed regularly to enable it to deliver its outcomes in the most efficient and effective way. In 2004–05, the following changes took place:

- A new Group was created in the vocational and technical education area in response to the additional work associated with the transfer of functions from the Australian National Training Authority and in response to government priorities, including skill shortages and development of the national training system. The new National Training Directions Group and the Industry Skills Development Group now incorporate and expand on the functions of the former Vocational Education and Training Group.
- A new Deputy Secretary position was created with responsibility for the National Training Directions Group, the Industry Skills Development Group and the Information Services Group.
- A new Group was created in the schools area in response to a significant expansion in workload and breadth of responsibilities. The Schools Resourcing Group and the Schools Outcomes Group now incorporate the functions of the former Schools Group.
- The Finance Branch is now part of the Corporate Strategy Group.
- A new Branch, the Income Support for Students Branch, was established in the Strategic Analysis and Evaluation Group in response to the October 2004 machinery of government changes. The Branch is responsible for student income support policy and programmes, transferred from the Department of Family and Community Services, and ABSTUDY.
- A new position of General Manager, Questacon was created to support the work of the Director.
- The Chief Lawyer and Group Manager, Procurement, Assurance and Legal Group was upgraded to an SES band 2 position and a new position of Branch Manager, Legal Branch, was created in response to the growing complexity and demand on legal services in DEST.

The department is structured as shown in Figure 2.2.

Figure 2.2: The department's structure (as at 30 June 2005)



THE DEPARTMENT'S OUTCOME AND OUTPUT STRUCTURE

The department's outcome and output structure, and the departmental Groups that contribute to achieving the outcomes and outputs, are set out in Figure 2.3. The outcomes are those published in the Portfolio Budget Statements.

Figure 2.3: Outcomes and outputs framework 2004–2005

