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AUSTRALIAN SERVICES ROUNDTABLE WELCOMES SENATOR KIM CARR'S POLICY STATEMENT "AN INNOVATION FUTURE FOR AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY"

Jane Drake-Brockman, Executive Director of the Australian Services Roundtable welcomed the release on 21 November, by Senator Kim Carr, of the ALP policy on Industry, Innovation, Science and Research.

Ms Drake-Brockman said that the ALP vision for Australian industry, set out in Senator Carr's statement, gives recognition to the critical role of both basic research and an innovation culture in driving productivity, competitiveness and economic growth in advanced services-oriented economies such as Australia.

Ms Drake-Brockman said the policy statement shifts the traditional emphasis from R&D to the need to build a national innovation system, a system in which the R&D community becomes much more closely interconnected with the business community.

She said that this kind of approach, if implemented following the election, would augur well for the competitiveness of Australia's small and medium sized services industries, which together constitute the vast bulk of Australian GDP.

The Australian Services Roundtable has called for and supports the proposed review of the role of the public sector in innovation, especially to study the services industries in greater depth.

Ms Drake-Brockman noted that the statement properly recognises the role, within the innovation system, of the humanities, arts, creative arts and social sciences as well as mathematical, scientific and technological disciplines such as ICT.

ASR is the peak industry body and voice of the Australian services sector.

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