

Examples of GAP 'Second Track' Process outcomes

A report on genetic screening for a breast cancer drug which changed Victoria's health policy (2007)

In 2007, Global Access Partners (GAP) brought together the National Pharmacogenomics Consulting Group, in partnership with the Australian Centre for Health Research and Deloitte, to examine the medical and economic benefits of genetic testing in diagnostics and drug therapy.

The Group forecast significant savings in healthcare costs and avoided adverse drug reactions and wastage which could be achieved if pharmacogenomics were widely adopted in Australia. In particular, they saw the potential of testing for cytochrome P450 (CYP450) variations to predict treatment outcomes in women with breast cancer who are prescribed Tamoxifen.

The final report by Deloitte Economics, *Improving the Quality Use of Medicines in Australia*¹, based on GAP stakeholder consultations, was used to inform the 2010 Pharmacogenomic Decision Support System, funded by the Victorian Government and developed by Melbourne Health and GenesFX, now known as *myDNA*.

MyDNA tests for CYP2C19, CYP2C9 and CYP2D genotypes (the latter associated with the efficacy of Tamoxifen treatment) and is available across Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the UK.²

Establishment of the Centre for Social Impact (2008), a national centre for philanthropy and social investment

Following an approach by Baillieu Myer AC and Peter Fritz AM to Prime Minister John Howard, the Hon. Mal Brough MP (then the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs) commissioned a working party in 2006 to research the development of philanthropy in the higher education sector.

The Working Group on Education and Training in Philanthropy and Social Investment comprised a number of senior executives from business, academia, government and non-profit organisations and was jointly chaired by Peter Fritz, Managing Director of GAP, and Prof Ian Young, Vice-Chancellor and President of Swinburne University. The results of the Working Group's extensive research into opportunities for grantmaker education in Australia formed the basis of two major reports to the Australian Government, with the key recommendation being to create a national center for philanthropy and social investment.

Following the Group's recommendation, the Australian Government has provided an endowment of \$12.4 million (matched by industry funds) for the establishment of the Centre for Social Impact (CSI)³.

CSI is a collaboration of three universities – the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Swinburne University of Technology, and The University of Western Australia. It provides managerial education, executive support and research for the not-for-profit sector.

The value of and support for CSI was recognised by a public lecture delivered by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Julia Gillard MP, hosted by the Centre on 28 February 2008, and the official launch of the Centre at the UNSW by the Governor-General, Major General Michael Jeffery, on 16 July 2008.

One of the most significant initiatives of CSI was the launch of the NSW Social Impact Grants.

Public consultation on NSW strata law reform (2012), the first major strata reform in New South Wales since 1961

In 2012, Global Access Partners used its digital platform, *Open Forum*, to run an online public consultation for the NSW Government on proposed changes to strata and community title laws⁴. The consultation generated 1,230 individual comments and almost 600 suggestions for procedural change or law reform. As a result, over 90 legislative changes⁵ were passed by the NSW Parliament in 2015 and came into force on 30 November 2016. This was the most significant social reform in strata since 1961.

Development of Australia's first National Cloud Computing Strategy (2013)

In 2010, Global Access Partners brought together and co-funded a GAP taskforce of senior representatives from major businesses and leading technology experts to discuss cloud computing with government, with a focus on industry development opportunities, security and privacy.

The GAP taskforce, a one-day executive workshop and a national conference facilitated by GAP led to the establishment of the National Standing Committee on Cloud Computing in 2011 – a body which helped develop the strategy outlining the government's vision for cloud computing in Australia.

These consultations between government and business led to the development of Australia's first national cloud computing strategy⁶. It was launched in May 2013 at CeBIT by the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy. Since then, the strategy has been built upon and further developed by subsequent administrations.

Establishment of the International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP) to build stronger relationships between Australia and the Pacific (2017)

The idea for a non-government Australian organisation to help strengthen civil society throughout the South Pacific and enhance Australian influence in the region arose from a meeting of the GAP Institute for Active Policy Advisory Board, held in Sydney on 12 February 2015. The meeting discussed the success of the USA's National Democratic Institute in helping emerging democracies around the world, and saw the opportunity for a new institution to support and complement the work of the Australian Government in the South Pacific. The Board envisioned a strategic, region-wide, integrated approach to strengthen relationships with the South Pacific and deliver better political and commercial outcomes.

Following that recommendation, GAP formed a small working group to develop a business case for the proposed International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP). The working group was chaired by Dr Ian Watt AC and involved representatives from the Australian National University, University of Technology, Sydney and the University of Adelaide.

The ICDP business case was presented to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in January 2016, and in December the same year, DFAT released a tender for *Pacific Connect*—a new pilot programme to forge stronger and enduring strategic relationships between Pacific and Australian current and future leaders. GAP and its partner Strategic Development Group, guided by Dr Watt AC and Peter Fritz AM, bid for the tender with success.

In July 2017, GAP incorporated ICDP as a non-profit company and, over the last year, ICDP has been implementing *Pacific Connect* through a series of regional 'Second Track' dialogues and practical projects in the Pacific.

The Australian Space Initiative: a private/public partnership model for a national space agency (2017)

On 16 September 2016, Andrea Boyd, an Australian working at the International Space Station in Cologne, delivered a stirring address⁷ at the GAP Annual Economic Summit.⁸ She urged Australia to grasp the commercial opportunities of the new space market and protect its national sovereignty by establishing a national space agency.

Inspired by her address, GAP assembled a 'space tiger team' to build on the momentum for change. The team included Ms Boyd, former astronauts Dr Andrew Thomas AO and Prof Gregory Chamitoff, as well as Australian and international scientists, entrepreneurs, innovators, financial analysts and legal experts. Chaired by Dr Jason Held and co-funded by GAP, the team delivered three policy submissions to the Australian Government.

Following Global Access Partners' successful advocacy and promotion of the team's ideas at the federal level, GAP launched its *Australian Space Initiative* in April 2017 and established a new Taskforce on Space Industry to build on the team's recommendations. The Taskforce, co-funded by GAP and the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, advocated the creation of a commercially focused Australian space agency and delivered its report to government in August 2017.

The government announced its plans for a federal space agency at the 68th International Astronautical Congress in Adelaide in September 2017 and pledged \$41 million for the Australian space sector in the 2018 Budget. Australia now joins every other developed nation in the world in having a dedicated space entity, opening new opportunities for Australian businesses in one of the most promising global markets of today.

Australia's first soil carbon credit units (ACCUs) to mitigate carbon emissions (2019)

In November 2009, a GAP taskforce of scientists, public policy experts and business leaders, chaired by Dr John Hewson AM, released a report '*Low-Carbon Economy: Business Opportunities for Australia*'⁹. In particular, the document highlighted the potential for biological sequestration to fix large quantities of legacy CO₂ from the atmosphere and advocated the urgent implementation of a soil carbon sequestration policy by the federal government. The group suggested the introduction of 'soil carbon credits' as an incentive for farmers to change their farming practices.

Over the following decade, the proposition was further developed, discussed and promoted through the 'Second Track' process, relentless efforts of regenerative agriculture advocates such as Dr John White, Major General Michael Jeffery AC and Dr John Hewson AM, and several public policy forums and advisories facilitated by GAP, including '*A Vision for Australia*' Annual Economic Summit on Food Sustainability (2013), the Taskforce on the North, Agriculture and the Environment¹⁰, the National Standing Committee on Energy and the Environment (NSCEE), and *Open Forum*.

These efforts culminated in the release of the first Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs) to a soil carbon project under the Emissions Reduction Fund in March 2019.¹¹ The credits were the first to count towards Australia's national targets under the Paris Agreement. They were also the first soil credits worldwide to be eligible under the Paris accord, according to Corporate Carbon which oversaw the project.

Soil carbon sequestration complements transitioning away from fossil fuels, enabling a faster trajectory to negative net-emissions.

Endnotes

- ¹ www.globalaccesspartners.org/Improving_the_Quality_Use_of_Medicines_in_Australia.pdf
- ² <https://www.clinicallabs.com.au/functional-pathology/practitioners/mydna/>
<http://www.business.vic.gov.au/case-studies/a-safer-and-more-effective-prescribing>
- ³ <https://www.csi.edu.au/about-csi/>
- ⁴ http://www.globalaccesspartners.org/Strata_Laws_Online_Consultation_Final_Report_Apr2012.pdf
- ⁵ http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/ftw/About_us/Have_your_say/Reform_of_strata_laws.page
- ⁶ https://www.communications.gov.au/sites/g/files/net301/f/National_Cloud_Computing_Strategy.PDF
- ⁷ Speech by Andrea Boyd at the 2016 GAP Annual Economic Summit;
<http://www.openforum.com.au/innovation-outer-space-and-opportunities-australia>
- ⁸ Global Access Partners (2016), Final report of *A Vision for Australia – Spaces of Australian Innovation: GAP 7th Annual Economic Summit*;
http://www.globalaccesspartners.org/A_Vision_for_Australia_2016_Summit_Report.pdf
- ⁹ <http://www.globalaccesspartners.org/Low%20Carbon%20Economy%20Task%20Force%202009%20Report.pdf>
- ¹⁰ <http://www.globalaccesspartners.org/North-Report.pdf>
- ¹¹ <https://reneweconomy.com.au/issuance-of-the-first-australian-carbon-credit-units-to-a-soil-carbon-project-37846/>