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AIIA Welcomes R&D Review

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) welcomes today's announcement by The Hon. Ed Husic MP on the *Strategic Examination of R&D to Build a Future Made in Australia: Discussion Paper*¹, recognising the critical role of Research and Development (R&D) in Australia's future productivity and innovation. This recognition closely aligns with the AIIA's [strong call](#) in our recent Pre-Budget submission, underscoring the urgent need for increased R&D investment.

While we acknowledge the need for a comprehensive review, it is essential to ensure policy certainty to support R&D. A balanced and clear regulatory approach will encourage contributions from both universities and businesses of all sizes to invest in innovation.

The AIIA has consistently advocated for increased support for technology-driven innovation, including AI research and commercialisation. We have outlined practical recommendations in our Pre-Budget submission to strengthen R&D investment, including:

- **Establishing a National AI Centre of Excellence** to support AI research and commercialisation.
- **Unlocking public datasets** to drive AI innovation across critical sectors such as healthcare, disability services, transport, and climate adaptation.
- **Providing structured support for digital skills and workforce transition programs** to help businesses and workers adapt to the evolving digital economy.

AIIA CEO, Mr Simon Bush, emphasised the need for a forward-looking approach:

"We welcome this review as an opportunity to ensure that Australia's R&D investment is structured to support both foundational research and commercialisation. AI and emerging technologies require targeted support to maximise their potential benefits for the economy and society."

The AIIA looks forward to engaging with the Government to ensure that R&D policy settings encourage investment, innovation, and global competitiveness.

The AIIA 2025-2026 Pre-budget submission can be accessed [here](#).

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For further information, please contact:

¹ [Strategic Examination of Research and Development: discussion paper](#)

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About the AIIA

The AIIA is Australia's peak representative body and advocacy group for those in the digital ecosystem. Since 1978, the AIIA has pursued activities to stimulate and grow the digital ecosystem, to create a favourable business environment for our members and to contribute to Australia's economic prosperity. We are a not-for-profit organisation to benefit members, which represents around 90% of the over one million employed in the technology sector in Australia. We are unique in that we represent the diversity of the technology ecosystem from small and medium businesses, start-ups, universities, and digital incubators through to large Australian companies, multinational software and hardware companies, data centres, telecommunications companies and technology consulting companies