



Australian Future Directions Forum

Patron The Hon. John Howard MP, Prime Minister of Australia

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Australian Future Directions Forum

Ninety emerging Australian leaders will attend the Australian Future Directions Forum (AFDF) in the Yarra Valley this weekend. The Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard MP, is Patron of the Forum.

AFDF Chairman, Mr Graham Kraehe, said the Forum is a unique platform to help develop the next generation of Australian leaders and to elicit their thoughts about the challenges they see facing Australia and their aspirations for the nation.

“The Forum provides participants with the opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue about the future and build networks that will last for the next 25 years,” Mr Kraehe said.

Three MPs from the Liberal Party and three MPs from the Labor Party have been granted leave from the first sitting of Federal Parliament in 2006 to attend the Forum at the Sebel Heritage next week.

The three Liberal Party members are the Hon Peter Dutton MP, Member for Dickson in Queensland and Minister for Revenue & Assistant Treasurer, the Hon Greg Hunt, MP, Member for Flinders in Victoria and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment & Heritage, and Mr Tony Smith MP, Member for Casey in Victoria where the Forum will be held and Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters.

The three Labor Party members are Mr Tony Burke MP, Member for Watson in New South Wales and Shadow Minister for Immigration, Ms Tanya Plibersek MP, Member for Sydney in New South Wales and Shadow Minister for Childcare, Youth and Women, and Ms Nicola Roxon MP, Member for Gellibrand in Victoria and Shadow Attorney General.

A full list of participants at the Forum, which will be released this weekend, includes emerging leaders from all sectors of the Australian community including business, the union movement, Federal and State public service, community groups, environmental groups, indigenous groups, rural organisations, legal organisations, religious organisations, international aid organisations, sporting organisations, ethnic groups, academia, science, medicine, the arts, the armed services, think tanks and the media.



However, each participant has been invited to attend the Forum in their own right as individuals rather than as representatives of their sector or organisation, and each has prepared a 500 word statement on the challenges they see facing Australia and their aspirations for the future. A copy of all the statements will be available on the Forum web site, www.afdf.net.au/ this weekend.

The Victorian Treasurer, the Hon John Brumby MP will open the Forum on behalf of the Victorian Government. The key note address will be given by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria, the Hon Marilyn Warren AC.

Other presentations at the Forum will be made on Australia and the world by Mr Allan Gyngell, Executive Director of the Lowy Institute, shaping a sustainable future by Professor Ian Lowe, the Chairman of the Australian Conservation Foundation, and demographic change in Australia by Mr Bernard Salt from KPMG.

Professional facilitators will help the participants examine future scenarios and produce an outlook statement by emerging leaders on the national issues they see to be important over the next 25 years.

The opening and closing sessions of the Forum and presentations by external speakers will be open to the media. However, working sessions will operate on Chatham House rules and will be closed to the media to facilitate open discussion amongst participants. Copies of all presentations and Forum materials will be available on the AFDF web site.

The National Australia Bank took the lead in establishing the AFDF but has been joined by four of Australia's leading blue-chip companies as sponsors of the Forum including Australia Post, BHP Billiton, Qantas and Telstra. The Allen Consulting Group and the Strategy Shop have also supported the development of the Forum.

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