

ARC GOVERNANCE RESEARCH NETWORK (GOVNET) ANNUAL REPORT

March 31st 2006

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

On behalf of the Executive Committee of GovNet, I take pleasure in providing the first annual report of the Australian Research Council's Governance Research Network. Like many networks, we had a slow start in some areas while enjoying a rapid start in others. Although a great deal of thought had gone into the Special Research Initiatives that preceded the GovNet bid and the planning for the bid itself, getting the network established has been a major effort.

The value of such networks is that they bring together researchers from different disciplines, different universities and different cities. However, this involves building bridges across intellectual and physical barriers and that will not happen overnight. An added delay was created by the novelty and complication of the network contract between the university parties. Finally, when the Deputy Convenor took three years leave, it took five months before the (excellent) replacement could come on board.

Many of the achievements lie in what has been planned for commencement in 2006. Nonetheless, some highlights have been recorded which in retrospect indicate that 2005 was, indeed, a very successful year.

1. Two annual conferences have been held, the first within 3 months of the announcement of the bid's success.
2. Establishment of a \$3.7m governance research fund for joint work between Indonesian and Australian scholars by AusAID.
3. The World Bank and other donors (USAID, DFID and AusAID) have agreed to provide US\$500,000 for the inaugural 'World Ethics Forum' to be held in Oxford from 9th-12th April 2006. This is intended to shape an agenda and institutional means for providing assistance to leaders in developing countries to lead with integrity.
4. In principle agreement to establish a joint research program with the United Nations Environment Program, Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI) with a likely extension to the UN Global Compact.
5. Corporate governance research links with leading UK researchers.
6. Enhanced cross stream activity through the planning of a conference jointly hosted by the public governance and regional governance streams.
7. The enhancement of research bids to improve the quality, interdisciplinarity and geographical spread of the teams and the scope of the ideas researched with increased collaboration between lawyers and ethicists.
8. Movement towards more substantial research projects in the future – including a planned ESRC-ARC project on negotiated prosecutions.

Professor Charles Sampford
Convenor, ARC Governance Research Network
On behalf of the Executive Committee

ORIGINAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In putting together the network proposal, we addressed the question put by the ARC's network program: how do we add value to the excellent research currently being done by individuals, centres and existing formal and informal networks? We thought that we could add such value through the following networking activities to be carried out in the following five years.

1. Encouraging the foment (and ferment) of ideas across the disciplines and subjects of governance involving end-users in planning research directions.
2. Establishing research streams for developing and funding innovative, higher quality (and generally interdisciplinary) projects and programs, researching the governance of particular institutions and sets of institutions. The five streams cover: global governance, Asia-Pacific regional governance mechanisms, public sector governance, corporate governance and regulation, and the many and varied institutions of 'civil society'.
3. Exploring cross-cutting research themes, based on national priorities and emerging governance issues that cross the traditional institutional boundaries of governance research. For example, issues concerning corruption in Australia and elsewhere cross over corporate and public sector institutions and the solutions generally involve civil society and the professions.
4. Asia-Pacific governance capacity building. (This diversifies funding sources, reduces reliance on the ARC and exposes researchers to significant governance problems in a range of different contexts.)
5. Improving the techniques of research design and management. Once won, grants need to be used as efficiently as possible.
6. Improving communication of results to various audiences and end-users.
7. Strengthening the Network and enhancing future viability.
8. Improving the experiences and employability of RHD students.

NO VARIATION

As the original plan was based on \$500,000pa rather than the \$300,000 received, it is difficult to achieve all the outlined objectives to the same extent. All objectives have been retained but priorities had to be set. We have concentrated on Objectives 2-4 in the first year. Objective 6 was naturally limited in advance of the results but will be a major focus of 2006 onwards (through our website rather than face-to-face communication) and Objective 5 will begin in late 2006. The extent to which GovNet can achieve Objective 8 is limited to sharing of best practice under Objective 5.

EXTENT TO WHICH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH NETWORK AND APPROVED PROPOSAL HAVE BEEN MET

The originally stated GovNet objectives are set out below with comment on activities to 31st December 2005 in italics.

1. Encouraging the foment (and ferment) of ideas across the disciplines and subjects of governance involving end-users in planning research directions.
This is achieved through the other measures listed below and amounts to the overall goal of GovNet.
2. Establishing research streams for developing and funding innovative, higher quality (and generally interdisciplinary) projects and programs, researching the governance of particular institutions and sets of institutions. The five streams cover: global governance, Asia-Pacific regional governance mechanisms, public sector governance, corporate governance and regulation, and the many and varied institutions of 'civil society'.
All five streams have been operative with considerable activity – extending and strengthening existing national and international networks. The numbers in each stream are set out in the analysis of the register below.
3. Exploring cross-cutting research themes, based on national priorities and emerging governance issues that cross the traditional institutional boundaries of governance research. For example, issues concerning corruption in Australia and elsewhere cross over corporate and public sector institutions and the solutions generally involve civil society and the professions.
This has commenced with some workshops in 2005.
4. Asia-Pacific governance capacity building. (This diversifies funding sources, reduces reliance on the ARC and exposes researchers to significant governance problems in a range of different contexts.)
During 2005, planning took place that delivered a dedicated staff member to develop international governance consultancies and, most significantly of all, a \$3.7m facility to support Indonesian-Australian governance research.
5. Improving the techniques of research design and management. Once won, grants need to be used as efficiently as possible.
This will commence in 2006 with the new Deputy Convenor particularly adept at such work.
6. Improving communication of results to various audiences and end-users.
Emailing networks and an elementary website were developed. Planning for a new full service website and face to face Socratic Forums was completed during the year.
7. Strengthening the Network and enhancing future viability.
This is a resultant of the other activities but the foundations were laid with the development of a strong committed, co-operative executive committee.
8. Improving the experiences and employability of RHD students.
This will have to follow on from 5.

MANAGEMENT

GovNet is managed by an Executive Committee comprising the Convenor, the Deputy Convenor and the Stream Leaders. Two of the stream leaders have other responsibilities (Asia Pacific Governance stream also manages capacity building and Public Governance also manages the cross-cutting themes). Objectives 5 and 6 are managed by the Deputy Convenor except that the organisation of the conference moves from one node to another. Objectives 7 and 8 are shared.

ACHIEVEMENTS

STREAM 1 GLOBAL, INTERNATIONAL AND TRANS-NATIONAL GOVERNANCE

1. For most of 2005, the convenor also acted as stream leader for this stream. However, with the arrival of Professor Howard Adelman as Deputy Convenor, he was able to take over stream leadership.
2. An Assistant Secretary General to the United Nations, Professor Ramesh Thakur, spent August in Australia, delivering three public lectures, meeting with GovNet members in Brisbane, Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne to discuss projects and suggesting new directions for research. With the Convenor, he also visited senior DFAT officials, several ambassadors and the Minister of Education to help build support for GovNet.
3. The Convenor visited New York to pursue some of the ideas developed and we are looking to establish two very large projects – one to do an integrity systems assessment of the United Nations system, the other to look at ways in which the rule of law might be globalised.
4. The network helped improve the quality of two major cross institutional grants – on bringing refugees home safely and on reconceiving sovereignty.
5. On his arrival, Howard Adelman started planning for more, and larger, cross-university projects including one on medical governance that are listed in plans below.

STREAM 2 ASIA-PACIFIC INSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

This stream has devoted all of 2005 to planning for and working towards some major initiatives starting in 2006 – especially in securing extra funding made all the more necessary by the fact that funding to all streams was cut by 40% to match the allocation of funding by the ARC. As the inter university contract was not signed until the end of the year, this was a very sensible approach. Following open discussion across the Network at the initial Annual Conference in December 2004, two major stream initiatives were agreed and will now occur in 2006 (see below for plans). The extra funding now won from AusAID constitutes a contribution of particular significance.

STREAM 3 PUBLIC SECTOR GOVERNANCE.

The Public Sector Governance stream is led by Professor John Wanna, Sir John Bunting Chair of Public Administration. It is centred on the Australian and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) research program and derives very significant support from the Australian Public Service Commission. During 2005, the stream was active in publishing and produced four books published by the University of NSW Press. A further five are in preparation. A series of research monographs is to be published by the Australian National University (ANU) E-press and drafts of the first three are in final preparation. During the year, Professor Wanna represented ANZSOG and GovNet in presenting papers at ten national/international conferences, including New Zealand and China.

Senior stream participants worked with the Departments of Employment and Workplace Relations, Veterans Affairs, Finance and Administration, Family and Community Services and Human Services Victoria to secure an ARC Linkage grant to undertake a project on 'Improving decision making in government using third party providers'. This project commenced in December 2005.

Workshops and lectures

A series of workshops and research meetings was held during the year including a Cabinet workshop attended by 18 agency heads in late March. On 5 August, a meeting of key researchers from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Hong Kong and the UK explored the possibility of lodging applications for grants for integrated research comparative projects and resolved to seek collaborative opportunities where possible and appropriate.

The stream co-hosted a workshop on Whistleblowing in the public sector which attracted over 100 participants and a number of prominent speakers from the federal and State government sectors and Professor Janet Near, Dale Coleman Professor of Management, Kelley School of Business Indiana University. The project is an ARC funded linkage project headed by Griffith University with participation by Charles Sturt University, University of Sydney, University of Queensland, Edith Cowan University and Monash University. The activity attracted extensive media coverage and provided an excellent model for cooperation between a number of academic and public sector agencies to explore an important issue in some depth.

Research workshops were held at the ANU, Griffith University, University of Victoria (Wellington), University of Victoria (British Columbia), Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) (Brisbane). These presented research proposals and research agendas to a wide group of collaborating scholars and practitioners. IPAA has adopted the ANZSOG research agendas as its own priorities to be funded by the Institute.

ANZSOG has held an International Research Collaboration (August 2005) Workshop to establish collaborative working relations with scholars overseas and to extend our research interests into comparative public policy and public management. The scholars involved came from the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, and Hong Kong.

ANZSOG has also been active in organising a 1-2 day conference on Deliberative Democracy to be held at the ANU in November 2005 (hosted by Prof John Dryzek).

In conjunction with ANZSOG, the stream conducted six public lectures featuring:

- Professor Rod Rhodes, head of the Political Science Program, ANU's Research School of Social Science – RSSH),
- Bob McMullan MP,
- Lynelle Briggs, Australian Public Service Commissioner
- Jon Stanhope, ACT Chief Minister
- Mark Prebble, State Services Commissioner, New Zealand
- Senator Amanda Vanstone, Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

The lectures averaged attendance of 100 people and received significant media coverage which ensured that they contributed to debate on issues of importance in public administration and government. A further series is planned for 2006.

Staffing

Dedicated ANZSOG research staff have been appointed at University of Sydney (Prof Ian Marsh), Griffith University (Prof Pat Weller, Dr Anne Tiernan), Monash University (Prof Owen Hughes), Melbourne University (Prof John Alford), ANU (Prof John Wanna, Dr Clair Donovan, Dr Alex Gash) who are active in promoting the research network. An additional number of ANZSOG PhD students have been enrolled in 2005 (5 at the ANU).

STREAM 4 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND REGULATION.

The highlight of the first year and the most exciting prospects for the next year revolve around international collaborative opportunities. The major events of 2005 was a conference held by Monash in its Prato centre and the joining of the GovNet annual conference with a Corporate Governance conference planned by Monash. The former helped to bring in more international members to the Network. The latter explored the links between Corporate Governance and Civil Society streams.

STREAM 5 CIVIL SOCIETY GOVERNANCE: PROFESSIONS, RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND NGOS.

Three workshops were supported by the Civil Society Stream in 2005. The workshops were advertised to all members of the stream *via* email and announcements on the GovNet website. Places were offered at all workshops to members of the stream from outside CAPPE with travel subsidies on offer for out of state attendance. GovNet was named as host or sponsor in all publicity.

The Future of Welfare workshop was held at CAPPE Melbourne in July 2005. Civil Society funds assisted with the airfare of the keynote speaker.

The Regulation and the Professions Workshop was held at CAPPE Canberra in August. Civil Society funds were used for the airfares and accommodation of interstate participants.

Mental Illness and the Self: Ethical Issues for Practitioners workshop was held in Canberra in October 2005. Civil Society funds were used for airfares and accommodation for practitioner participants. Several papers from this workshop are being published in a special issue of Res Publica.

CAPPE co-organised the GovNet 2005 conference held at Monash University in November, taking responsibility for the Ethics and the Professions and the Professions at War streams. A stream meeting was held during the conference. Members expressed the desire for more sharing of information about projects underway.

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

This was not a priority while we established the streams. The annual conference is being organized across streams to aid them to develop cross cutting interests and themes.

ASIA-PACIFIC CAPACITY BUILDING

This was a planning year. The stream leader has found extra resources to allow the appointment of a full time staff member to seek capacity building grants for multi-university capacity building bids. The Convenor did work for the World Bank in East Timor and for the Open Society Institute in Georgia, helping to create new networking opportunities. He built and extended existing links with the World Bank Institute and the World Bank's Public Governance program. Dr Shacklock examined the range of opportunities available.

COMMUNICATION

The basic website was established and updated. Email lists were established and all events were sent through these email lists. However, major website development was postponed until the arrival of the new Deputy Convenor.

As heralded in the bid, it is planned to hold a series of 'Socratic Forums' to debate a series of controversial issues along cross-party non-partisan lines. The idea was developed by Ashley Goldsworthy and Barry Jones – former Presidents of the major opposed parties – who wanted to promote the kind of debate found in parliamentary conscience votes. The innovative format, suggested by Barry Jones, involves one speaker for the topic, one against and four on the 'cross benches'. Ashley Goldsworthy has emphasised the desirability of those 'crossing the floor' who find themselves on the opposite sides of the debate to that which their political or religious affiliation might suggest. The Executive decided to expand the scope of the forums to include three cities and two topics annually. A distinguished advisory panel provides ideas and feedback on topics and speakers. The first topic deals with the role of religion in Australian politics and the second will deal with the role of the Senate. The next Socratic Forum was to have been held in December 2005 but was postponed to May 3 2006. (It will be held in the Legislative Council Chamber of the Queensland Parliament.) The second will be hosted by Sydney University.

Res Publica, the journal of the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (CAPPE), was supported by GovNet and reached new readers and new heights of quality. It also provided an excellent vehicle for reporting GovNet work to a wider audience. For example, the Welfare Workshop mentioned above.

Dr David Solomon gave advice on ways academics could more effectively engage the media.

BUILDING THE NETWORK

This was a priority during 2005. The Executive Committee started holding regular meetings and built a strong rapport between the core membership of the Convenor (Professor Sampford as Convenor, Professors Head and Adelman as Deputy Convenors), and three other stream leaders (Professors Wanna, Macintyre and Kennett). Nine face-to-face Executive Committee meetings have been held. The website was developed, launched and maintained, email lists were widely used to publish all upcoming activities.

The development of the network was limited during 2005 by Brian Head's mid-year departure for a three year leave of absence to work as CEO of the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth. It took some time to secure an appropriate replacement but we have managed to secure the services of Professor Howard Adelman, a long standing researcher who had led the Refugee Studies Centre, a Canadian centre of excellence. He arrived in late November, in time for the second annual conference.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE

While it is very early to claim major completed contributions, a few are well on their way.

1. Establishment of a \$3.7m governance research fund for joint work between Indonesian and Australian scholars by AusAID. Given the importance of the Australian-Indonesian relationship, this may be particularly important in understanding the different governance structure and approaches and allowing those from each country (and particularly Indonesia) to improve their governance systems to help reduce poverty, conflict and terrorism.
2. The World Bank and other donors have agreed to provide US\$500,000 for the inaugural 'World Ethics Forum' to be held in Oxford from 9th-12th April 2006. This is intended to shape an agenda and institutional means for providing assistance to leaders in developing countries to lead with integrity and transform corrupt national institutions and agencies into effective bodies that support their peoples.
3. In principle agreement to establish a joint research program with the United Nations Environment Program, Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI) with a likely extension to the UN Global Compact. This has the potential to put Australia at the centre of discussions about the responsibility of corporations.
4. Corporate governance research links with leading UK researchers. This may bring Australia into major corporate governance research developments, including a possible ESRC-ARC project that would bring us into the forefront of what is now a transatlantic network. This project would involve corporate governance researchers from at least six universities in Australia with at least three in the UK and eventually a significant number in the USA.
5. The enhancement of research bids to improve the quality, interdisciplinarity and geographical spread of the teams and the scope of the ideas researched. One example is the Linkage won and reported in the Public Governance Stream. Another is the 'Reconceiving Sovereignty' project that started as an international linkage which brings the UNU and many other international universities to the project.
6. The Civil Society Stream has planned a workshop on Sports Ethics to coincide with the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

REGISTER OF PARTICIPANTS

<u>Title</u>	<u>Firstname</u>	<u>Lastname</u>	<u>Company</u>
Prof	Howard	Adelman	Griffith University
Dr	Geoffrey	Airo-Farulla	Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman
Dr	Shahram	Akbarzadeh	Monash University
Professor	Christoph	Antons	University of Wollongong
Professor	Anona	Armstrong	Victoria University
Professor	Christopher	Arup	Victoria University
Professor	Gabriele	Bammer	Australian National University
Mr	Ian	Baxter	University of Tasmania
Dr	Mark	Beeson	University of Queensland
Professor	Stephen	Bottomley	Australian National University
Dr	Peter	Bowden	University of Sydney
Professor	John	Braithwaite	Australian National University
Dr	Annette	Braunack-Mayer	University of Adelaide
Professor	David	Brereton	University of Queensland
Dr	Kaye	Broadbent	Griffith University
Professor	Simon	Bronitt	Australian National University
Dr	A J	Brown	Griffith University
Dr	Andy	Butfoy	Monash University
Ms	Anne	Caddy	University of Canberra
Professor	Tom	Campbell	Australian National University
Professor	Ann	Capling	University of Melbourne
Dr	Wendy	Carlin	University College London
Professor	Terry	Carney	University of Sydney
Professor	Peter	Carroll	University of Tasmania
Prof	Hilary	Charlesworth	Australian National University
Dr	Stephen	Clarke	Australian National University
Professor	Kevin	Clements	The University of Queensland
Professor	Tony	Coady	University of Melbourne
Ms	Susan	Cochrane	Commonwealth Public Service
Dr	Ken	Coghill	Monash University
Professor	Mark	Considine	Melbourne University
Dr	Jenny	Corbett	Oxford University
Dr	Neil	Cranston	Queensland University of Technology
Dr	George	Crowder	Flinders University
Dr	Jennifer	Curtin	Monash University
Professor	Alastair	Davidson	Wollongong University

Dr	G J	De brouwer	Australian National University
Professor	Brian	Dollery	University of New England
Dr	Rick	Doner	Emroy University
Dr	Stephen	Dovers	Australian National University
Emeritus Professor	Peter	Drysdale	Australian National University
Dr	Kathryn	Dwan	Australian National University
Professor	Meredith	Edwards	University of Canberra
Dr	Lisa	Ehrich	Queensland University of Technology
Assoc Professor	Adrian	Evans	Monash University
Dr	Mary	Farquhar	Griffith University
Professor	Christopher	Findlay	Australian National University
Professor	Brian	Fitzgerald	Queensland University of Technology
Dr	Jenny	Fleming	Australian National University
Professor	Ronald	Francis	Victoria University
Professor	Brian	Galligan	University of Melbourne
Assoc Professor	Aurelia	George-Mulgan	University of New South Wales (ADFA)
Dr	George	Gilligan	Monash University
Professor	Andrew	Goldsmith	Flinders University
Professor	Murray	Goot	Macquarie University
Professor	Peter	Gourevitch	University of California, San Diego
Professor	Peter	Grabosky	Australian National University
Professor	Neil	Gunningham	Australian National University
Ms	Huong	Ha	Monash University
Rev Prof	James	Haire	Australian Centre for Christianity
Professor	John	Halligan	University of Canberra
Professor	Brian	Head	
Dr	Judith	Healey	Australian National University
Ms	Victoria	Heathcote	Monash University
Prof	Barry	Hindess	Australian National University
Professor	Leslie	Holmes	University of Melbourne
Professor	Ross	Homel	Griffith University
Professor	Bryan	Horrigan	Univeristy of Canberra
Dr	Julia	Howell	Griffith University
Prof	Wayne	Hudson	Griffith University
Professor	Helen	Irving	University of Sydney
Professor	Iyanatul	Islam	Griffith University
Mr	Graham	Jackson	

Professor	Jim	Jackson	Southern Cross University
Professor	Purnendra	Jain	University of Adelaide
Professor	Richard	Johnstone	Griffith University
Dr	Jeff	Keddie	University of Melbourne
Professor	Aynsley	Kellow	University of Tasmania
Dr	Jeanette	Kennett	Australian National University
Ms	Mary	Keyes	Griffith University
Dr	Byung-Kook	Kim	Korea University
Assoc. Prof.	David	Kimber	RMIT University Melbourne
Dr	Megan	Kimber	
Dr	John	Kleinig	City University of New York
Mr	Eric	Kong	
Dr	Peter	Larmour	Australian National University
Prof The Hon	Michael	Lavarch	Queensland University of Technology
Professor	Geoffrey	Lawrence	University of Queensland
Mr	John	Lenarcic	RMIT University
Assoc Professor	Leong	Liew	Griffith University
Dr	Tim	Lindsey	University of Melbourne
Dr	Simon	Longstaff	St James Ethics Centre
Professor	Andrew	MacIntyre	Australian National University
Professor	Stuart	MacIntyre	University of Melbourne
Professor	Colin	Mackerras	Griffith University
Emeritus Professor	Graham	Maddox	University of New England
Dr	Ian	Marsh	Australian National University
Professor	Jennifer	McKay	University of South Australia
Assoc Professor	Michael	Meadows	Griffith University
Assoc Professor	David	Merrett	University of Melbourne
Professor	Seumas	Miller	Australian National University
Dr	Richard	Mochelle	
Mr	Jeremy	Moss	University of Melbourne
Professor	Richard	Mulgan	Australian National University
Dr	Luke	Nottage	University of Sydney
Dr	Justin	Oakley	Monash University
Dr	John	O'Brien	University of New South Wales
Professor	Ciaran	O'Faircheallaigh	Griffith University
Mr	Graeme	Orr	Griffith University
Dr	Mari	Pangestu	Centre for Strategic and International Studies

Dr	Christine	Parker	University of Melbourne
Professor	Andrew	Parkin	Flinders University
Dr	Haig	Patapan	Griffith University
Dr	Mahomed	Patel	Australian National University
Mr	Shams T.	Pathan	
Dr	T.J.	Pempel	University of California, Berkeley
Mr	Andrew	Podger	Australian Public Service Commission
Dr	Noel	Preston AM	
Professor	John	Quiggin	University of Queensland
Dr	Gaby	Ramia	Monash University
Professor	Ian	Ramsay	University of Melbourne
Professor	John	Ravenhill	Australian National University
Dr	Christian	Reus-Smit	Australian National University
Professor	Rod	Rhodes	Australian National University
Mr	Roland	Rich	Australian National University
Professor	Gary	Rodan	Murdoch University
Dr	Emma	Rooksby	Australian National University
Prof	Charles	Sampford	Griffith University
Professor	Cheryl	Saunders	University of Melbourne
Professor	Peter	Saunders	University of New South Wales
Professor	David	Saunders	Griffith University
Professor	Marian	Sawer	Australian National University
Assoc Prof	David	Schak	Griffith University
Dr	Arthur	Shacklock	Griffith University
Professor	Clifford	Shearing	Australian National University
Professor	Loanne	Skene	University of Melbourne
Dr	Rodney	Smith	University of Sydney
Dr	David	Soskice	Duke University
Mr	Edward	Spence	Charles Sturt University
Professor	Geoffrey	Stokes	Deakin University
Mr	James	Swansson	University of Canberra
Ms	Michelle	Taylor-Sands	University of Melbourne
Professor	Janna	Thomson	University of Melbourne
Professor	Margaret	Thornton	La Trobe University
Assoc Professor	Rod	Tiffen	University of Sydney
Prof	Swee-hin	Toh	Griffith University
Professor	James	Walter	Monash University
Professor	John	Wanna	Australian National University
Professor	John	Weckert	Australian National University

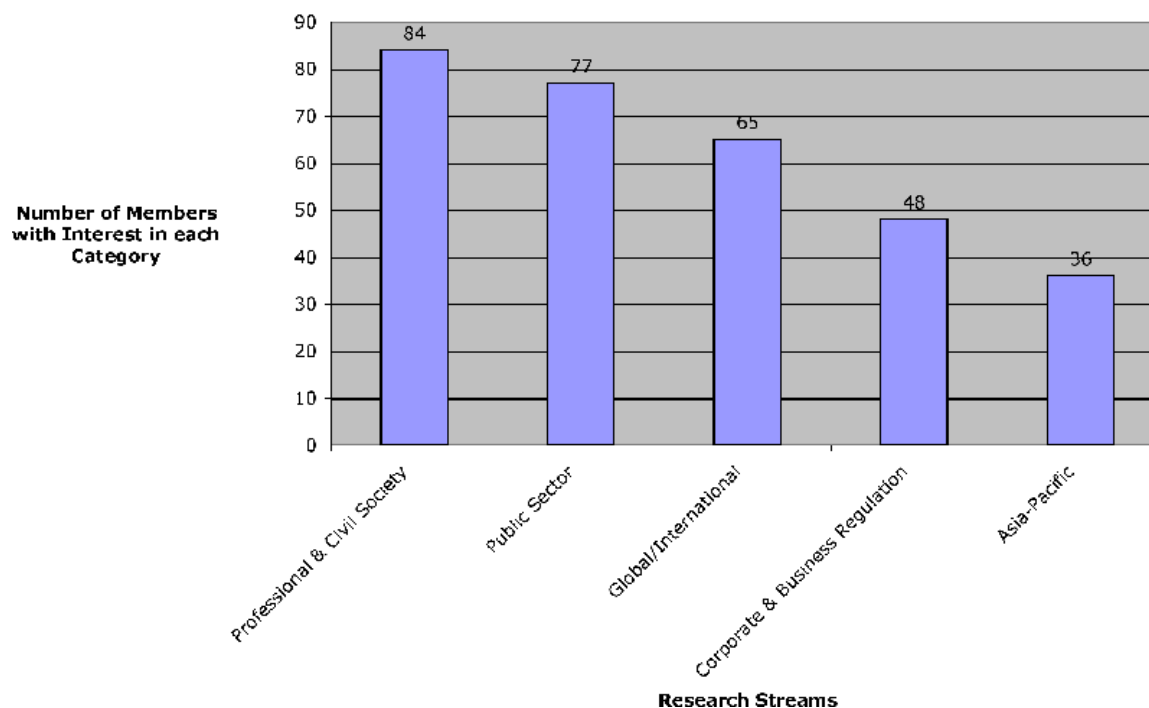
Professor	Patrick	Weller AO	Griffith University
Dr	Caroline	West	University of Sydney
Professor	George	Williams	University of New South Wales
Mr	David	Wishart	La Trobe University
Assoc Professor	David	Wood	University of Melbourne
Dr	Jennifer	Wood	Australian National University
Dr	Stephen	Wood	Australian National University
A/Professor	Spencer	Zifcak	La Trobe University

ANALYSIS OF PARTICIPANTS

These 157 individuals not only represent a diverse group of research interests, but also a group that is comprised of individuals with cross-disciplinary interests. To wit, in GovNet membership records, the 157 members expressed interest in a total of 312 research streams, averaging just less than two interests (1.98) per individual. Chart 1 shows the distribution of GovNet members among research streams (some are involved in two or three).

CHART 1:

GovNet Membership Research Interests



CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL BENEFIT

While it is a little early in the history of the Network to claim any significant contributions to the national benefit, the contributions of particular significance are all in the process of contributing to the national benefit.

As we emphasised in our application, the importance of good and effective governance cannot be overstated. Our research is linking into global and international networks on Leadership and Integrity in Public Agencies and on Social Responsibility in the Corporate Sector while GovNet is establishing a regional networks (most notably the Indonesian Australian collaboration).

ACTIVITIES AND STRATEGIES FOR THE COMING YEAR

STREAM 1 GLOBAL, INTERNATIONAL AND TRANS-NATIONAL GOVERNANCE.

Through the international program, we propose development of projects involving members of the network from several universities. Some of these will be new. Many of them will extend existing projects to broaden their scope and develop transnational comparative research projects.

During 2006, this stream will concentrate on developing the global network of researchers and practitioners in international law, international relations and ethics with a particular emphasis on UN bodies. It will use that network to develop projects involving at least three Australian universities. The Stream will also continue its practice of offering a subsidy to PhD students wishing to attend the annual GovNet conference.

The projects to be developed include:

a. Medical Regulation Research Proposal

We are seeking to develop a large international comparative project on comparative studies of regulatory mechanisms with respect to intake, maintenance and ejection of members from the profession under examination – in this case, physicians.

b. Peacemaking and Peacebuilding Proposal

Profs Adelman and Braithwaite have begun discussions on developing a large scale international comparative project on the process of peacemaking as the precondition for peacebuilding and the connection between that process and developing practices of good governance.

c. National Security and Unwanted Aliens

The program has begun discussions on an international comparative project dealing with the treatment of unwanted aliens (some for suspected links with terrorism and others simply because they have been rejected as immigrants or refugees but whom states cannot deport for a variety of reasons – the place where they are to be deported practices torture or the “home” country for various reasons refuses to accept them back). These people are usually interned “indefinitely”, a process that runs contrary to our general principles of due process and the rule of law that assumes that people cannot be interned without being put before a court of law.

STREAM 2 ASIA-PACIFIC INSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND REGIONAL COOPERATION.

The first of the two stream initiatives developed through 2005 is a workshop on the political economy of East Asia 10 years after the Asian economic crisis, which will bring together a range of international and domestic stream members and permit a broad-ranging review of what is happening in the region and differing approaches for interpreting these developments. Supplementary funding for this initiative is coming from the new East Asia Forum and the Institute for East Asian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. The second is a grant-raising

capacity initiative, focused on capacity building projects in the Asia Pacific region, to be made available across the Stream and the Network as a whole. A very experienced grant-specialist has been located and contracted on a part-time basis for 2006.

Apart from these two dedicated stream development initiatives, the Asia Pacific stream of GovNet spawned one other ancillary initiative in 2005 — the development of a cluster of researchers around Australia and Indonesia coming together to focus on fundamental governance problems in Indonesia. This initiative, under sustained development in 2005 will come to life in 2006 and will link a number of GovNet members plus others outside the GovNet framework.

STREAM 3 PUBLIC SECTOR GOVERNANCE.

The ANZSOG network in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific network will host the GovNet annual conference at the ANU from 29 November to 1 December. The themes are: policy capacity; policy transfer and learning; distributional politics; the future of legislative studies in the Asia-Pacific region; and anti-corruption policies. The conference will also bring the International Comparative Policy Analysis Forum to Canberra and they will hold a one-day forum as part of the broader conference on 28 November. ANZSOG has been invited to co-edit a special issue of their journal as a result of the papers to be delivered to the forum. We also intend to issue a conference proceedings of the main conference of the best papers from the streams. This is the biggest expenditure project we are organizing for 2006. We are bringing to Australia around 10 top overseas scholars to present keynote addresses and lecture presentations at the conference.

We are negotiating with the Institute (IPAA) over the sponsorship of research projects in line with our joint research agendas – a component of the GovNet agendas.

Planned workshops and lectures

- Two-day international conference on Project Management and Organisational Change, held 21 and 22 February in Canberra (400 conference delegates).
- Two-day workshop on Deliberative Democracy to be held in November 2006.
- We are appointing an overseas research coordinator (Professor Evert Lindquist) to extend ANZSOG and GovNet's interactions with scholars in North America. This appointment is funded by special funds from ANZSOG.
- The ANZSOG public lecture series will continue in 2006 with invitations to high-profile speakers with innovative ideas and contributions.
- We will hold a special workshop on policy advisers (with Don Russell and Anne Tiernan).
- We intend holding a series of research workshops on service delivery, implementation, policy advice and regional governance.

Publications

Five to ten research monographs will be published in 2006, covering topics from performance management, using consultants, political biography, arts and cultural policy, caretaker conventions, project management, to e-government.

Three books will appear in the ANZSOG series on national security, the Australian cabinet, and public value.

STREAM 4 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND REGULATION.

The main activities planned at this stage are:

1. A visit by Professor Mel Dubnik of the University of New Hampshire.
2. Development of a joint program with UNEP-FI and the UN Global Compact.
3. Development of a joint project with Queen's University Belfast and Oxford University on negotiated prosecutions.

STREAM 5 CIVIL SOCIETY GOVERNANCE: PROFESSIONS, RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND NGOS.

A general email was sent to all members of the stream asking for proposals for activities in 2006 that would qualify for support. So far, there has been no response to this email. We will continue to advertise all stream activities *via* email and on the website and offer support for attendance at GovNet funded stream activities.

Proposals received from within CAPPE are for a workshop on governance in science and for a workshop on governance in sport.

We also have received a proposal for support for a bigger international conference next year on integrity and governance issues in non-government aid organisations with perhaps some preparatory workshop for locals later this year.

The governance in sport workshop was held on March 13 2006 in Melbourne to coincide with the Commonwealth Games. It was a preliminary to a much bigger project on sports governance issues. There is significant enthusiasm from within the Australian Sports Commission and we will be seeking to prepare an ARC Linkage Grant application for the project. It has been advertised through the Civil Society stream and on the website. Once again, subsidies have been offered to interstate participants.

The governance in science workshop would include representatives from UNESCO in South East Asia and would have a focus on nanotechnology. It would assist in capacity building in the region.

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

During 2006, we are continuing to concentrate on the development of the streams and are looking for opportunities to further the cross cutting themes identified in the application. Those cross cutting themes will play an increasing role in GovNet over the next three years.

ASIA-PACIFIC CAPACITY BUILDING

At ANU, a staffer has been appointed that has been partly funded by GovNet and partly funded by ANU to pursue capacity building projects involving GovNet members from two or more universities. At Griffith, Dr Shacklock continues to work on developing capacity building projects in the region – concentrating on work in the Philippines and Indonesia. The Oxford World Ethics Forum on *Leadership, Ethics and Integrity in Public Life* may well identify capacity building opportunities and at least eight GovNet members will be present.

COMMUNICATION

We will develop mechanisms for better communication and exposure of the work of the members of GovNet by enhancing their exposure and activities on the website and, more actively, by doing a feasibility study to develop the e-journal.

The main activity will be the establishment and trialling of a world class governance website. It is hoped that extra funds and links will be provided by bilateral and multilateral donors.

The first forum to be held under the auspices of GovNet will be 'That there is too much religion in Australian Politics' on 3 May in Brisbane. This will be followed by 're-matches' in Melbourne and Sydney.

BUILDING THE NETWORK

Now that the agreement has been signed and bedded down, the Convenor and Deputy Convenor can spend more time visiting the centres and individuals who make up GovNet. They can also spend more time in Canberra where space has been provided both at ANU and at the Centre for Christianity and Culture located in the parliamentary triangle.

Video conferencing facilities have been located and will be used on a regular basis for meetings and discussions.

Some time in 2007, new offices for GovNet in Canberra will be completed

URL

<http://www.griffith.edu.au/govnet/>