



**Regional Development Australia**  
BRISBANE

# Brisbane Linkages

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## Committee members reappointed

RDA Brisbane Members Linda Carroli and Don Whitehouse (OAM) have been reappointed to the Committee for further three year terms.



Appointments to RDA Committees in Queensland are made jointly by the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, The Hon Simon Crean MP, and the Queensland Minister for Agriculture, Food and Regional Economies, The Hon Tim Mulherin MP.

Linda, the RDA's Deputy Chair, is a consultant and award-winning writer with significant experience working in community, communications and cultural contexts, addressing community development, placemaking and social innovation. With expertise in stakeholder engagement and strategic planning, she has worked on major social and cultural planning and urban development projects for clients in the public and private sectors.

Don has had a long and distinguished career in the education sector, and in 2002 led the establishment of Career Keys, a not-for-profit organisation which assists young people in the transition from school to work. He currently serves as the organisation's President and has driven the expansion of its role to include career development and employment services, and training of the long-term unemployed and women returning to the workforce. Don also serves as Secretary on the RDA Committee.

## RDA welcomes new staff member

RDA Brisbane welcomes Sha Wharton as Administration and Event Support Officer, a newly created position. She joins Executive Officer Margaret Blade and Project Officer Jacinta Wallenhoffer on the RDA team.

Sha, who previously worked at RDA Logan Et Redlands, has over 20 years' experience in administration and finance in both the private and public sectors. She is currently completing a Diploma of Counselling and Bachelor of Human Services.



## RDA Brisbane to host sustainability reporting workshop

RDA Brisbane will be hosting a half day introductory workshop on a process which helps organisations manage and report on their social, economic and environmental impacts.

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) is an international not-for-profit organisation which works towards a sustainable global economy by providing sustainability reporting guidance. Its **Sustainability Reporting Framework**, widely used around the world, enables organisations to measure and report their social, economic, environmental and governance performance – the four key areas of sustainability.

The workshop, to be held on 23 April 2012 in Brisbane, will be facilitated by GRI's Australian regional office, GRI Focal Point Australia.



RDA Committee Members and staff will be participating in the workshop, and remaining places will be made available to interested not-for-profit organisations.

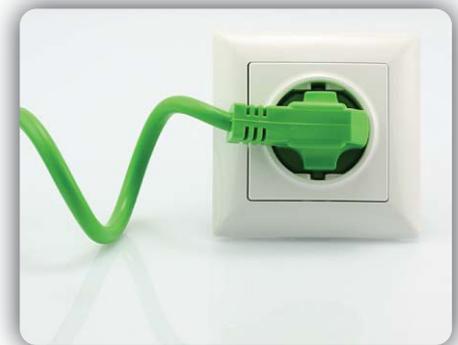
To express your interest in attending, please contact Margaret Blade on (07) 3235 4874 or [margaret.blade@rdabrisbane.org.au](mailto:margaret.blade@rdabrisbane.org.au) For more info on GRI, go to [www.globalreporting.org](http://www.globalreporting.org)

## Clean technology info session March 15

AusIndustry will be holding a public information session on the Australian Government's new Clean Technology Programs on Thursday 15 March 2012 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The programs will provide \$1 billion in funding to help Australian manufacturers transition to a clean energy future, with grants available to invest in energy efficient capital equipment and low pollution technologies, processes and products.

To register for the public information session, [CLICK HERE](#). For more information on the Clean Technology Programs, or to register for email updates, [CLICK HERE](#).



[www.myregion.gov.au](http://www.myregion.gov.au)

## Know your region

The [myregion.gov.au](http://myregion.gov.au) website is an Australian Government initiative which provides information based on the nation's 55 Regional Development Australia regions. Site visitors can explore data on their community, including regional services and projects, and social, economic and population trends.

It also provides opportunities to participate in online forums on regional topics, to help inform regional policies and national solutions. Suggestions for the site are welcome.

## Australian Apprenticeships Mentoring Package opens

Applications for funding under the Australian Apprenticeships Mentoring Package are now open.

The \$101 million Mentoring Package is an Australian Government initiative to improve retention and completion rates of Australian Apprentices, and includes two programs:

### AUSTRALIAN APPRENTICESHIPS MENTORING PROGRAM

The Mentoring Program seeks to improve Australian Apprenticeship retention rates through the provision of targeted mentoring and assistance, with a particular focus on industries and occupations with current or emerging skills needs, and apprentices who may face barriers to participation (e.g. Indigenous apprentices). [CLICK HERE](#) for funding guidelines and application forms.

### AUSTRALIAN APPRENTICESHIPS ADVISERS PROGRAM

The Advisers Program will help potential Australian Apprenticeship candidates by providing occupation and industry specific information to assist them to make an informed decision. Funding will support a range of services such as telephone hotlines, online chat rooms linking candidates to industry experts, web-based information resources and targeted face-to-face information sessions. [CLICK HERE](#) for funding guidelines and application forms.



## New Urban Policy Forum announced

The Australian Government has established a new expert panel to help advise on the implementation of the National Urban Policy, which aims to make the nation's biggest cities and regional centres more productive, sustainable and liveable.

The Urban Policy Forum brings together experts from across all levels of government as well as industry, academia and the community, and its role is to:

- advise the Commonwealth and Minister on the implementation of the National Urban Policy
- identify innovative approaches to achieving the policy's goals and objectives
- facilitate cross-sector consultation, collaboration and partnerships
- serve as a stakeholder forum to effectively support and complement other government work requiring a coherent and integrated approach within cities.

Brisbane members of the Forum are Adrian Pisarski, Chairperson of National Shelter, a non-government organisation working to improve housing access for the disadvantaged, and Gary White, a Government Planner with the Department of Local Government and Planning and member of the Planning Institute of Australia.

The Urban Policy Forum complements other Australian Government urban policy initiatives including the creation of the Major Cities Unit, establishment of the \$20 million Liveable Cities Program and the development of an urban design protocol for Australian cities to improve the quality and useability of public spaces and city buildings. Information on the National Urban Policy and related initiatives can be found at [www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure/mcu](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure/mcu)

## New Smartphone App to mobilise volunteers

Volunteering Queensland has developed a free smartphone App, **Ready Qld**, to help mobilise volunteers and equip them to work together in situations of natural disaster.

The App provides resources, checklists and advice in emergencies, as well as real-time updates and information about volunteering opportunities in the user's local area.

Ready Qld was developed with the research assistance of the University of Queensland, and was jointly funded by the State and Federal Governments through the Natural Disaster Resilience Program.

For more information on the App or to download [CLICK HERE](#)



## \$249 million for new university-business R&D partnerships

The Australian Government has announced a new \$249 million package designed to help Australian industries become more competitive and create new job opportunities. The **Industrial Transformation Research Program and cadetship package** includes:

- more than 1,000 engineering cadetships over the next four years to provide on-the-job experience for students and help kickstart their careers in manufacturing and other Australian industries
- new research training centres which will provide quality industrial doctoral and postdoctoral training for up to 600 PhD students each year
- new research hubs bringing researchers and industry representatives together to design and engineer commercially and technically viable solutions for industrial problems.

For more information on the Industrial Transformation Research Program, [CLICK HERE](#). For more information on the engineering cadetships, visit [www.innovation.gov.au](http://www.innovation.gov.au)

