



The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

Dear Prime Minister

### **Failing the nation in science**

The Australian Council of Deans of Science wishes to express its deep disappointment at the exclusion of science from the new Federal Government senior Ministry. It is a decision that seriously disadvantages the Australian people, who need a strong sustainable innovations system to power Australia's economic development.

The absence of senior advocacy for science betrays an absence of the kind of long term strategic thinking that other governments apply to their innovations systems. It is doubly sad because the National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA), announced only two years ago, seemed to promise so much in that more positive direction. It has now been seriously undermined.

We need not rehearse the role of science in innovation, or the need for it to have a place at the table in national policy decisions. The reports of the previous Chief Scientist, and the eloquent advocacy of the current one, have made that case abundantly. We hope that Government might, in the future, recognise once again the importance of an innovation and science agenda, and ensure appropriate senior advocacy for science in its cabinet.

Professor Brian Yates  
President, ACDS

Professor John Rice  
Executive Director, ACDS

CC:

Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash,  
Senator the Hon Sed Seselja,  
Senator the Hon Kim Carr,

The Hon Nick Champion MP,

The Hon Adam Bandt MP,  
Professor Emma Johnston,  
Professor Andrew Holmes

Minister for Jobs and Innovation  
Assist. Minister for Science, Jobs & Innovation  
Shadow Minister for Innovation, Industry,  
Science and Research  
Asst. Shadow Minister for Manufacturing &  
Science  
Greens Science Spokesperson  
President, Science Technology Australia  
President, Australian Academy of Science