



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Immigration and Citizenship**

Closing remarks  
Professor Ian Young  
Vice-Chancellor Australian National University

Annual address on immigration and citizenship  
Old Parliament House  
Museum of Australian Democracy  
Canberra  
6.30pm 16 June 2011

It falls to me to deliver the vote of thanks to all involved in organising tonight's event, but especially to our key note speaker, Mr Hieu Van Le, Lieutenant Governor of South Australia.

Thankyou Hieu for sharing your story with us.

I think all here will agree we are the richer for hearing your story tonight, just as the nation is richer for the enormous contribution you and millions of other immigrants have made to our economy, society and culture.

I would also like to thank everyone here for coming along this evening, especially I'd like to acknowledge the presence of:

- The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship the Honourable Chris Bowen MP;
- Department of Immigration and Citizenship Secretary Andrew Metcalfe, senior public servants, past and present and ANU colleagues.

This annual immigration address was founded last year by Andrew Metcalfe, and my predecessor professor Ian Chubb, and grows from deep and enduring relationship between two great national institutions, the department and ANU.

Both were founded out of the post-war desire for nation building. ANU as the first serious attempt to encourage research in our universities - and to inject a research culture into the nation's development. The Department of Immigration to populate and enrich the nation, which was desperately short of labor at the time.

In the more that 60-years since there has barely been a significant development in immigration policy that has not seen ANU scholars and the Department staff working together. Australia has a long history of innovative research and policy-making in immigration and population. It is vital that this continues – and important that our universities play their role.

In 2009 then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd outlined his vision for a re-invigorated strategic relationship between the ANU and the Australian Government. It should be, he said, *a relationship that puts education and research at the centre of building robust public policy. A relationship that grows excellence in policy analysis, policy advice and public sector strategic leadership.*

We are making significant strides in fulfilling that vision, through a number of initiatives, and the ANU – Department of Immigration and Citizenship story provides us with a good example to follow. It show us how the walls between academia and public administration can be broken down in the pursuit of better public policy and better world for all our citizens.

Thankyou.

