

New web database for Aussie expats

O V E R S E A S Australians, as well as Australians who have recently returned to live in Australia, are being invited to participate in a new national expatriate database.

Businesses, entrepreneurs, researchers and others in Australia wanting to commercialise their innovative ideas and enter foreign markets will be able to be "matched" with relevant expats and repats who can lend a helping hand in a multitude of ways.

They can register at www.expatriateconnect.com

Nobel Laureate and former Australian of the Year, Professor Peter C. Doherty, launched the project at a special event at Australia House in London, which some 450 expatriate Australians attended in the presence of Mr Michael L'Estrange, the Australian High Commissioner.

Professor Doherty, who has spent 25 years abroad during his career, said: "It's foolish to think that we should or can prevent our skilled and talented professionals from going abroad in this era of globalisation.

"The real challenge is to tap into the resource that our hundreds of thousands of over-

seas Australians represent even while they remain abroad.

"By networking our expats back into Australia and giving them a concrete way to contribute to the country, we can start to build bridges home that should soften the landing if and when they do decide to return home.

"Those in Australia who use ExpatriateConnect will be expanding their horizons internationally through our

expats."

ExpatriateConnect is an initiative of the Australian Institute for Commercialisation (AIC, www.ausicom.com), an independent not-for-profit company established in 2002 as a \$10 million Queensland Smart State initiative to improve the commercialisation of Australian research.

ExpatriateConnect has been funded principally by the Queensland Government,

with generous financial and in-kind support from a number of other Australian State Governments.

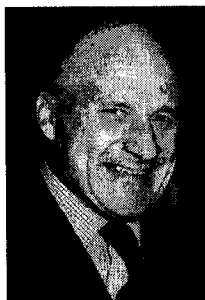
• The Southern Cross Group (SCG, www.southern-cross-group.org) is ExpatriateConnect's founding partner. The SCG is an international non-profit volunteer-run advocacy and support organisation for the Australian diaspora.

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